



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

January 4, 2017

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

NEWS

Advocating for Homestead Air Reserve Base—On December 9, Senator Nelson wrote to Secretary of the Air Force, Deborah James, in support of the Air Force selecting the 482nd Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Reserve Base for transition to the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. Senator Nelson praised the Homestead Air Reserve Base's access to land and maritime training ranges that can support the full spectrum of F-35 training operations, as well as Florida's excellent weather—preventing lost training days to inclement conditions—as reasons to select the 482nd for transition. Currently, the 482nd is one of four finalists in the running for selection. A final decision is expected in 2017.

Florida Legislative Committees Meet in January—The Florida Legislature gets to work quickly in 2017. The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee will meet on 10 January 2017 from 10:00AM-12:00PM. The House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee will meet for the first time on 11 January 2017 from 9:00AM-11:00AM.

Budget -- Continuing Resolution—The 114th Congress adjourned on December 9 with a Continuing Resolution (CR), avoiding a government shutdown by less than an hour, which funds the government through April 28, 2017. President Obama signed the bill in the early morning hours of December 10th. The CR, which covers 11 of the 12 annual appropriations bills, will maintain government operations at a rate of \$1.070 trillion. The continuing resolution freezes most spending at the FY 2016 level, except for the following anomalies:

- \$773 million more for the Ohio Replacement submarine advance procurement.
- Authorizes AH-64E Apache and UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter multiyear procurements to avoid delays that would increase costs.
- Funds the Air Force KC-46A tanker, which the Pentagon sought to avoid contract penalties on the program.
- \$650 million more for the European Reassurance Initiative, included in a \$8 billion plus-up for Overseas Contingency Operations.
- Streamlines the confirmation process for President-elect Donald Trump's pick for defense secretary, retired Marine Corps Gen. James Mattis.

The bill includes the FY2017 Security Assistance Appropriations Act, which provides an additional \$10.1 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funding for the Department of Defense (\$5.8 billion) and Department of State (\$4.3 billion) to pay for costs related to counterterrorism operations. The emergency supplemental appropriations Bill will add funding for the wars in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan (separate and additional to the FY17 OCO request of \$ 58.8 Billion, which has been proposed by Congress to be increased as much as \$18 billion to address funding shortfalls in the base defense budget).

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2017 Passed – The Senate passed the final FY2017 Defense Authorization bill with broad bipartisan support, 92-7 and the President signed it into law on December 23rd. The bill, which had been worked out by House and Senate committee negotiators, overwhelmingly passed the House (375-34). 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. **This bill specifically zeroed out the authorization for 2 Navy projects – the wastewater treatment plant at NS Mayport and the dormitory at NAS Pensacola. The two projects were not authorized in the final NDAA conference report as funding for the two were not included in the final MILCON/VA Approps Bill signed into law in September 2016.** The bill added an authorization for a dormitory at Eglin AFB. Additionally, the NDAA included a statement that Panama City has long played an important role in the development and support of the US Armed Forces.



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As we kick-off 2017, it's time to get focused and keep tabs on the new leadership in Washington DC. There is no shortage of speculations on what direction the nominee for Secretary of Defense will take our military. The Florida Defense Alliance is an excellent networking opportunity to share your thoughts as well as share best practices and information to keep your community and installation as well as the state in the forefront for partnerships and cost savings. Continue to stay engaged and participate to maximize successful opportunities as well as developing stronger partnerships.

As we prepare for the January conference call and the March meeting, please let me know if there are topics you would like to cover. The conference calls and meetings are for you and we want to make sure we add value and resources for you and your communities as you enhance your partnerships with the installations in your area.

May all of you have a Happy New Year!!

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

January 31 – FDA Conference Call

MARCH 15 – FDA Meeting in Tallahassee

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

FDA WEB SITE UPDATE

Michelle has been updating the FDA web site!! If you have any suggestions or recommendations for improvement, please send them in!



QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.”

— George Orwell

News from the Bases

Tyndall AFB –

Active duty, Guard, Reserve integrate during Checkered Flag 17-1

By Staff Sgt. Alex Fox Echols III, 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs / Published December 19, 2016

At Checkered Flag 17-1, legacy and fifth-generation fighter jet integration created aggressive and advanced training opportunities; but another integration happened just below the surface, which ensured multiple Air Force components received the same vital learning opportunities.

Active-duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Airmen from around the country worked together through total force integration at Checkered Flag from Dec. 5-16. They prepared to rapidly respond to any current, real-world conflict, and trained for the future of air dominance.

“The Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard components bring the same capabilities to Checkered Flag that they do to the entire Air Force each and every day,” said Col. Randy Cason, the 44th Fighter Group commander and Checkered Flag 17-1 Air Expeditionary Wing commander. “They bring experience, continuity, and a high degree of technical and tactical expertise.”

During the exercise, numerous pilots and Tyndall’s maintenance team – which about 25 percent are reservists -- brought their knowledge, experience and proficiency to the fight.

“A lot of times these Airmen don’t even know whether someone working around them is a reservist or active duty. We are all just in the fight together,” said Capt. Matthew Goldey, the 44th Fighter Group maintenance operations officer and Checkered Flag 17-1 Air Expeditionary Maintenance Group commander. “We are all one team.”

With budgetary restraints being an ever-present Air Force concern, total force integration ensures that U.S. airpower is not diminished while being fiscally mindful.

“Total force integration is an existential requirement for the Air Force while in constrained budgetary environments,” Cason said. “We have a lot to do, but we also must be good stewards of the U.S. taxpayer’s money. (This strategy) allows us to ensure mission success at a reduced cost.”

Day-to-day operations and large-scale exercises like Checkered Flag ensure all components of the Air Force are ready for the fight.

“The Air Force benefits from everyone being capable of accomplishing the mission,” Cason said. “Reserve and Guard members being able to participate with the active-duty Air Force members means that we are all trained to the same standard, equally capable, performing the same mission and able to integrate and operate as a team.”

NSA Panama City –

State to buy Barefoot Palms for \$1.6M

By John Henderson

A townhouse community won't be encroaching upon the perimeter of Naval Support Activity Panama City, but the buffer zone has ended up costing taxpayers \$855,000 under an agreement approved Tuesday by the Bay County Commission. The commission, in a unanimous vote but with commissioner Tommy Hamm expressing reservations, agreed to accept the state's \$1.6 million to buy the property, which is \$1.3 million less than what the county paid for the land in 2010.

"We have kicked this can down the road long enough," commissioner Guy Tunnell said.

The Navy also has agreed to give the county a 50-foot-wide piece of land on Surf Drive valued at \$445,000 in county property tax records. The land is next to other county property, and the site

could be used for beach access and parking, county officials said. Christopher Moore, the former commander of the Navy base, said when recent comparable sales are evaluated, the actual value of the Gulf-front property the Navy is donating to the county is more in the \$800,000 range, so the county would be made whole by this deal.

In approving the deal Tuesday, the commission agreed to toss out a "buy provision" that would force the developers of the Barefoot Palms property to pay the county back the full \$2.9 million it paid for the property, plus expenses. The county bought the 8.44 acres adjacent to Naval Support Activity Panama City in May 2010. County officials said they bought the property to stop the encroachment of the Barefoot Palms development on the perimeter of the base, which could increase the odds of it being put on a base closure list. Commissioner Tommy Hamm, however, raised several questions about the deal Tuesday.

"Do we really feel that doing this (land deal) would keep the base from moving?" Hamm said.

He said his main concern is that the county taxpayers do not lose money, and that the buy-back provision ensures they don't.

"Making taxpayers whole is my goal," he said.

But in the end, Hamm voted with the majority after they argued that keeping the land as a buffer zone would send a message to Washington that the community supports the base, and thus would make the base less likely to make a closure list. Commissioner Bill Dozier said the county can't pass up this opportunity to show support for the base.

"We need to at this time to send a message with our support that we are behind this base 100 percent," he said.

For several years, the county and the Bay Defense Alliance have been working on ways to increase the compensation paid to the county for the property. The state last year offered \$1.3 million for the land, but it increased the offer to \$1.6 million after a recent appraisal. The state's most recent offer expires at the end of January.

NS Mayport—

Mayport officials get glimpse into future with first 2 littoral combat ships

Friday's ceremony came on the heels of Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus' official announcement changing the home port for the USS Milwaukee and USS Detroit. Both of the ships that now call Mayport home will be part of Littoral Combat Ship Squadron Two, which will eventually consist of all the U.S. Navy's Freedom-variant littoral ships. The Freedom class of vessels resemble traditional Navy ships, while the Independence class have trimaran hulls. The Independence-variant ships will be based in San Diego as the West Coast home for the fleet.

The Detroit has been conducting system ship qualification testing since it arrived at Mayport on Nov. 23. It was commissioned Oct. 22 in Detroit.

Cmdr. Michael Desmond of the Detroit led tours of the ship after the ceremony. He pointed out differences in the ship's bridge compared to traditional Navy ships, particularly that there isn't a wheel for steering.



USS Detroit at the pier at NS Mayport

Desmond explained the new littoral ships do not have rudders and use steerable jet propulsion instead of propellers. He also touted the speed of the new ships, saying they can top out at about 48 mph.

“We’re able to not only go places faster, but we can also get to places other ships can’t go,” Desmond said during the tour.

That’s because the new ships have a draft of about 14 feet, he said, allowing them to maneuver close to shore. The Detroit is docked at Mayport, but Desmond said the core crew of 55 sailors is set to continue testing in the new year.

Officials welcomed the crew of the Milwaukee at the ceremony, but the ship was not in the water like the Detroit.

Over the next year, USS Little Rock, USS Sioux City and USS Wichita are expected to arrive at Mayport. More ships are under construction and will follow the same path, but the ships before them have been far from flawless.

MacDill AFB –

Field of Honor Ceremony Scheduled Jan. 14

Remembering fallen heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice

Hillsborough County, Fla. (Dec. 30 2016) - The Veterans Council of Hillsborough County will conduct 2017’s first Field of Honor Ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park and Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr. Veterans Museum, 3602 U.S. Highway 301 N. in Tampa. The event, park, and museum are all free and open to the public.

The quarterly event will honor the lives of servicemen and servicewomen who made the supreme sacrifice in October, November, and December of 2016 while engaged in our nation’s current War on Terror. Several Gold Star family members will be in attendance.

The following names will be read during the ceremony:

- Six U. S. Military personnel killed in Operation Inherent Resolve (Iraq and Syria)
- Eight U.S. Military personnel killed in Operation Freedom's Sentinel (Afghanistan)
- A U.S. Marine Corps F/A 18 Fighter Pilot killed while training off the coast of Japan

The event also will feature:

- A tribute to fallen law enforcement officers of 2016
- Missing Man Formation flyover by Ye Mystic Airkrewe
- Rifle salute and taps by the Riverview Detachment of the Marine Corps League
- Gold Star Banner presentation by the Blue Star Mothers of Tampa Bay, Inc.

For more information on the **Veterans Memorial Park and Museum**, call (813) 744-5502, or **Hillsborough County's Veterans Services** at (813) 246-3170.



55th Anniversary JCSE Reunion

The Joint Communications Support Element Veterans Association celebrated the 55th Anniversary of JCSE in November 2016. JCSE, located on MacDill AFB, hosted all JCSE Alumni and their guests at the unit's compound with capability briefings and demonstrations. Also in the morning JCSE found a way to allow former members to fire a few rounds with the new M4 Carbine. Some, like JCSE-VA Life Member #072 Carol Allard and JCSE-VA Life Member #031 Don Mueller and others demonstrated that they had not lost the touch by hitting 10 for 10 in the kill zone on a 300-meter target.



At 2200 hours the troops began what may have become a tradition in JCSE. As with the 50th Birthday where the Unit observed it with a 50-mile night relay run, this year they made it with a 55 mile run, beginning at 2200 and completing it at about 0600 in the morning. The Veterans were well represented by JCSE-VA Life Members #001 Bob Yee, #115 Lamont Akins, #004 Willie Stokes, #156 Bernard McGriff. #230 Tom Owens, and #131 Bob Kilburn and his Wife Pat Kilburn.

Spotlight on Tyndall AFB:

Tyndall Air Force Base is a United States Air Force Base located 12 miles (19 km) east of Panama City, Florida. The base was named in honor of World War I pilot 1st Lt Frank Benjamin Tyndall. The base operating unit and host wing is the 325th Fighter Wing (325 FW) of the Air Combat Command (ACC).



The 325th Fighter Wing's primary mission is to provide air dominance training for F-22 Raptor pilots and maintenance personnel and air battle managers to support the combat Air Force.

Training for F-22 pilots is performed in the 43d Fighter Squadron. The 325th Air Control Squadron trains air battle managers for assignment to combat Air Force units. Additionally, wing personnel manage the southeastern air combat maneuvering instrumentation range and provide mission-ready F-22 air dominance forces in support of the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)/1st Air Force (1 AF) contingency plans. Other specialties trained under the 325th Fighter Wing include F-22 intelligence officer training, F-22 crew chief training and officer and enlisted air traffic controller training.

The 325th Fighter Wing is host to more than 30 tenant organizations located at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. The wing comprises the 325th Operations Group, 325th Maintenance Group, 325th Mission Support Group and 325th Medical Group.

From 1983 to 2010, training for F-15 pilots was performed at Tyndall by the now inactive 1st, 2d, and 95th Fighter Squadrons. During this period, the 325th FW also hosted training for F-15 Maintenance personnel, and Intelligence Officers assigned to F-15 units. The 1st Fighter Squadron was inactivated in 2006. The 2d and 95th FS's were also inactivated in May and September 2010, respectively. However, with the return to Air Combat Command, the 325th FW will gain a combat-coded F-22 squadron.

The 95th Fighter Squadron was reactivated on 11 October 2013 to begin preparing as an F-22 Raptor combat squadron.



AOC



The 601st Air Operations Center (often referred to as America's AOC) plans, directs, and assesses air and space operations for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). The AOC provides aerospace warning and control for NORAD Defensive Counter Air activities. Additionally, it directs Air Force air and space capabilities in support of USNORTHCOM homeland security and civil support missions.



**Commander – Colonel
Michael F. Hernandez**

Colonel Michael F. Hernandez is the commander, 325th Fighter Wing, Air Combat Command, Tyndall AFB, Fla. The 325th is the largest F-22 Fighter Wing in the Air Force consisting of more than 4,400 personnel and 52 fifth generation aircraft. The wing trains and prepares F-22 Raptor pilots, intelligence officers, maintainers, and other support specialties for worldwide assignment to combat Air Force units. Additionally, the wing organizes, equips, and trains a fully capable raptor squadron for the immediate worldwide rapid deployment and employment of F-22 air dominance fighters in support of Combatant Commander tasking.



DID YOU KNOW?

1. The first German serviceman killed in the war was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940), the highest ranking American killed was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps.
2. 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)
3. At the time of Pearl Harbor the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th. Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika". All three were soon changed for PR purposes.
4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions your chance of being killed was 71%.
5. Generally speaking there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese ace Hiro Yoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.
6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every fifth round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.
7. When allied armies reached the Rhine the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).
8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City but it wasn't worth the effort.
9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.
10. Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.
11. Following a massive naval bombardment 35,000 US and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska. 21 troops were killed in the firefight. It would have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.

12. While the Hiroshima atomic bomb was being built in New Mexico all applicants for menial jobs at the plant did not get a job if they could read. This was because the US authorities didn't want staff reading secret papers.
13. When the battleship USS Arizona was destroyed by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor 23 sets of brothers were killed.
14. Mohamed Ali, who once ruled Egypt, had two infantry regiments in his army that consisted solely of one eyed soldiers.
15. To conserve metal during World War II the movie Oscars were made out of wood.
16. When World War II began the neutral Republic of Ireland banned all war footage from their newsreels.
17. During World War II the Germans considered the classic film "Casablanca" starring Humphrey Bogart, to be a propaganda film and refused it's showing in German cinemas. Even after the war the film was censored in Germany in which all references to Nazis had been removed.
18. During the American Civil War all officers of the Confederate army were given copies of Victor Hugo's book "Les Miserables" to be carried at all times.
19. During World War II the very first bomb dropped on Berlin, Germany, killed the only elephant in Berlin Zoo.
20. When the Persians invaded Egypt and were besieging a fort they threw dozens of cats over the walls because the Egyptians would rather surrender than risk injury to a cat.

Top 10 List: Reasons Army Impacted Family Life

10. Last night you had a dream and everyone was using acronyms.
9. You think Ft. Polk is a resort area.
8. You have 3 sons and their names are Riley, Hood, and Stewert.
7. Your baby's first words were Hooah!!!
6. Your relatives refuse to write your phone # down in ink in their address book.
5. You have a bumper sticker that reads, I'd rather be packing out!!
4. Your spouse tells you they are going TDY and you immediately think of ways how to spend the extra money!
3. Your children ask if they can go to the PX while you are on leave.
2. Every time there is a threat of any kind in the world, your mom calls and asks if your spouse knows anything about it.

.....And the number one reason

1. When you go the PX, your 10 month old calls out daddy to anyone wearing a set of BDU'S

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Welcome to 2017! We are looking forward to another great year supporting our military installations. We sincerely appreciate all of your efforts to improve the quality of life for all our service members and their families. 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





Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

January 17, 2017

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

NEWS

Office of Public Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Report – OPPAGA Report #16-9 entitled “Agency Review – Enterprise Florida, Inc., and Department of Economic Opportunity” was released in late December 2016. Among the options that included continued streamlining and downsizing of EFI, OPPAGA recommended that since “...DEO is now responsible for administering three state military and defense grant programs, the Florida Defense Support Task Force and Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) could be transferred to DEO to completely consolidate the state’s retention activities.” As part of its response, EFI noted prior OPPAGA reports that praised EFI’s Military and Defense programs and the unique capability of the staff that has helped the Task Force to be successful. DEO did not comment on the proposal to move FDSTF and FDA. The entire report including EFI and DEO responses can be viewed by clicking this link: <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/MonitorDocs/Reports/pdf/1609rpt.pdf>.

Senate and House Committee Meetings – Both Florida Chambers held committee meetings concerning Military and Veterans Affairs last week. The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee met and discussed three main presentations from FDVA, Federal Veteran’s Administration and FDMA. Among the topics from FDMA, MG Calhoun introduced Brig Gen Eifert, ATAG Air, to lead a presentation on the F-35 program for Jacksonville (Committee Meeting Packet attached). The House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee met for the first time on 11 January 2017. Their meeting included a brief from MG Calhoun on Florida National Guard missions and capabilities that was very well-received. Bruce Grant and Terry McCaffrey attended both committee meetings.

Florida Freshman Representatives on House Armed Services Committee (HASC) – Two of Florida’s new House members will be joining the HASC: Representative Matt Gaetz (district includes NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, Corry Station, Hurlburt Field and Eglin AFB) and Representative Stephanie Murphy (district includes Team Orlando). See articles below in clips for more information on these assignments and the attached list for all FL CODEL committee assignments as of 12 January 2016.

Restoring American Power: white Paper from Senator McCain – U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, today released “Restoring American Power,” http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/25bff0ec-481e-466a-843f-68ba5619e6d8/restoring-american-power-7.pdf a white paper making recommendations for the defense budget for fiscal years 2018 through 2022. The report details how defense budget cuts under the Budget Control Act have left the military underfunded, undersized, and unready, and lays out a plan to repair, rebuild, and reimagine the military for a wide range of threats facing our nation.

“The President-elect has said he wants to ‘fully eliminate the defense sequester’ and ‘rebuild the military’. I could not agree more,” said Chairman McCain. “This white paper details what I believe will be necessary to achieve these goals: repeal of the Budget Control Act, a \$640 billion base defense budget in fiscal year 2018, innovation for the future, and an end to business as usual at the Pentagon. Rebuilding our military will not be

cheap—\$430 billion above current defense plans over the next five years. But the cost of inaction is worse: we will irreparably damage our military’s ability to deter aggression and conflict. We owe it to our men and women in uniform to chart a better course.”

Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed Last Week – There were four new bills filed last week. So far, eight bills have been filed, all focused on veterans issues.

- [HB 0179 Relating to Veteran Identification](#) (Combee)
Veteran Identification: Requires DHSMV to create veteran identification card for certain purposes; provides for design of card; provides eligibility requirements; prohibits use of card for certain purposes; authorizes use of card as proof of veteran status for obtaining waivers of license/registration fees relating to certain businesses & occupations & carrying concealed weapons/firearms. Effective Date: July 1, 2017
- [SB 0330 Relating to Local Business Taxes](#) (Steube)
Local Business Taxes; Prohibiting the governing bodies of counties and municipalities, respectively, from levying a local business tax that was not adopted before a specified date; deleting certain provisions that, for counties and municipalities, limit the rate of the tax and authorize increases of the tax; providing an exemption from the business tax, subject to certain conditions, to specified veterans, spouses of veterans and active servicemembers, and low-income individuals, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law
- [SB 0326 Relating to Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans](#) (Steube)
Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans; Providing definitions; authorizing the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to contract with certain individuals and entities to provide alternative treatment options for certain veterans; requiring direction and supervision by certain licensed providers; authorizing the department to adopt rules, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2017
- [HB 0197 Relating to Small Business Financial Assistance](#) (Baez)
Small Business Financial Assistance: Creates Veterans Employment Small Business Grant Program within DVA; directs Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to administer program; authorizes corporation to accept & administer moneys appropriated for grants; limits amount small business may receive; requires small business to apply to & enter into agreement with corporation to receive grants; requires corporation to notify appropriate regional small business development center of small business's participation; provides for termination of program; authorizes DVA to adopt rules; provides appropriation. Effective Date: October 1, 2017

Department of Defense Extends Online Military Exchange Shopping Privileges to Veterans -- The Department of Defense announced a policy change that will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military. The veterans online shopping benefit will be effective this Veterans Day, Nov. 11. While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services’ dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families. This policy change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Our next FDA conference call will be on January 31st. If you have items/issues for the agenda, please provide them to me via email. Thanks and I look forward to talking to you in a few weeks.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

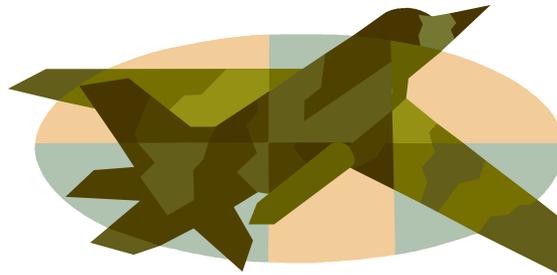
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MARCH 15 – FDA Meeting in Tallahassee

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

FDA WEB SITE UPDATE

Michelle has been updating the FDA web site!! If you have any suggestions or recommendations for improvement, please send them in!



QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office.”

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

News from the Bases

NAS Whiting Field –

Holley Field one of three future solar farm sites

Work on the large-scale solar generating facility is underway on Holley Outlying Landing Field at Whiting Field Naval Air Station. The facility is part of a joint project between Gulf Power and the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force to increase the use of renewable forms of energy.

The farms will be constructed at Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Holley Field in Navarre and Saufley Field at Pensacola Naval Air Station.

“Once operational, the solar farm will have approximately 481,000 photovoltaic panels producing 40 megawatts to power nearly 6,100 Santa Rosa County homes,” said Gulf Power spokesman Rick Delahaya in an email of the Holley Field farm.

“Combined, the facilities will be among the state’s largest solar projects approximately 1.5 million solar panels capable of generating up to 120 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power roughly 18,000 homes.”

Delahaya said the solar farms are expected to be operational by July. The Saufley Field farm is estimated to power nearly 7,400 Escambia County homes, and the farm at Eglin is estimated to power 4,500 homes in Okaloosa County.

Gulf Power said the farms will not replace the company’s other plants, but will provide supplemental energy to help diversify the power supply and to provide a cost-effective alternative during times of peak energy usage.

“With 11 percent of all DOD flight hours flown out of NAS Whiting Field, it is critical to maintain operations, regardless of the circumstances and this agreement enables us to do so with greater reliability,” said Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau in a 2015 release.

Jay Cope, Whiting Field Naval Air Station public information officer, said the properties will be on a long-term lease to Gulf Power and the first solar panels are scheduled to be installed in January.

The project has been in the works since April 2015.

Eglin AFB –

Eglin AFB to begin massive solar power project

Executives from Gulf Power and Coronal Energy will join officials from Eglin Air Force Base and NAS Pensacola's Saufley Navy Outlying Field on Wednesday, Jan. 18, for the installation of the first two solar photovoltaic panels on two large solar projects.

These projects, along with a third at NAS Whiting Field's Holley Outlying Field, will be among the state's largest solar projects. The three projects will total about 1.5 million solar panels capable of generating up to 120 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power nearly 18,000 homes for a year.

The milestone marks a significant stage in the construction of the three facilities that began in November at Naval Air Station Pensacola's Saufley Outlying Field, Naval Air Station Whiting Field's Holley Outlying Field and Eglin Air Force Base. They are expected to be operational this summer.

Gulf Power and its third-party developer, Coronal Energy, are building the facilities. The projects will support the Department of Defense's commitment to renewable energy and help further diversify Gulf Power's energy portfolio.

Energy produced will serve Gulf Power customers across Northwest Florida. The Florida Public Service Commission gave its approval in April 2015. Together, the facilities will be among the largest photovoltaic arrays in Florida and have the potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by more than 3.5 million tons over 25 years. Combined, they will be one of the largest solar projects east of the Mississippi River.

96th Test Wing Vice director retires

Brig. Gen. Christopher Azzano, 96th Test Wing commander, and Lee McGehee, 96th Test Wing vice director, read her citation during her retirement ceremony Jan. 5 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. McGehee served the Air Force for more than 30 years.



Vice Director Lee McGehee also served on the DSI in an ex-officio position and was a tremendous partner. She will be missed!

She will be replaced by Alan C. Dorward who is coming from Holloman AFB, New Mexico.

Homestead ARB—

AF announces NAS JRB Fort Worth as the preferred location for next F-35A base

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs , / Published January 12, 2017

Air Force officials announced Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, as the preferred location for the first Air Force Reserve-led F-35 base, which is expected to begin receiving its first F-35As in the mid-2020s.

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona; Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida; and Whiteman AFB, Missouri, will be considered as reasonable alternatives during the environmental analysis process which must be completed before the Air Force makes a final basing decision.

"We selected the Air Force Reserve unit in Fort Worth because it is the location that meets all of the necessary training requirements at the lowest cost," said Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James. "Additionally, the location will provide mission synergy and access to an experienced workforce for recruiting as a result of its proximity to the F-35 manufacturing plant."

According to the Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein, the F-35 is even better than advertised.

"In the hands of our Airmen, the F-35 will be the most lethal, survivable and adaptable aircraft in our inventory for decades to come," Goldfein said. "No matter how you slice it, the F-35's stealth characteristics, maneuverability, interoperability and its ability to make other aircraft better through sensor fusion make it unmatched by any adversary."

In December 2016, the Air Force released the candidate bases for the next two Air National Guard-led F-35 bases. The candidate bases included Dannelly Field Air Guard Station, Alabama; Gowen Field AGS, Idaho; Jacksonville AGS, Florida; Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan; and Truax AGS, Wisconsin.

The Air Force will be conducting on-the-ground site surveys at each candidate location assessing each location against operational requirements, potential impacts to existing missions, infrastructure and manpower, and then develop cost estimates to bed down the F-35A.

The preferred and reasonable alternatives for the ANG bases are expected to be selected in the summer of 2017.

The F-35As are expected to begin arriving at the second and third ANG locations in the early to mid-2020s.

Currently, three active-duty operational locations—Hill AFB, Utah; Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom; and Eielson AFB, Alaska— and one ANG location – Burlington AGS, Vermont – have been identified for F-35A basing.

MacDill AFB –

MacDill crew chiefs keep KC-135s flying

By Senior Airman Tori Schultz , 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs/ Published January 12, 2017



Dedicated crew chiefs (DCC) and assistant DCCs pause for a photo after an induction ceremony at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 6, 2017. The objective of the DCC program is to directly assign a lead maintainer to each aircraft for continuity and accuracy of aircraft forms, status, scheduled maintenance and improve aircraft cosmetics. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tori Schultz)

The 6th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 927th AMXS at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, held an induction ceremony to honor 48 crew chiefs selected as dedicated crew chiefs and assistant DCCs Jan. 6, 2017.

The objective of the DCC program is to directly assign a lead maintainer to each aircraft for continuity and accuracy of aircraft forms, status, scheduled maintenance and the improvement of aircraft cosmetics.

“Being a DCC is a responsibility that is met with a sense of pride, professionalism, and enthusiasm,” said Master Sgt. Jennifer Hilton, section chief assigned to the 927th AMXS. “These individuals stepped forward to accept this responsibility and the privilege of crewing the world’s finest tanker aircraft; the KC-135 Stratotanker.”

Personnel must have a minimum of six months experience on the airframe and be in the career field before being selected. They are selected on the basis of initiative, management skills, leadership ability, and technical knowledge.

During the induction ceremony, each primary DCC was issued their DCC numbers and received a certificate.

Spotlight on Eglin AFB:

Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) is located approximately 3 miles southwest of Valparaiso, Florida in Okaloosa County. Eglin AFB was established in 1935 as the Valparaiso Bombing and Gunnery Base. It is named in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Frederick I. Eglin (1891–1937), who was killed in a crash of his Northrop A-17 pursuit aircraft on a flight from Langley to Maxwell Field, Alabama.



The host unit at Eglin is the 96th Test Wing. The 96 TW is the test and evaluation center for Air Force air-delivered weapons, navigation and guidance systems, Command and Control systems, and Air Force Special Operations Command systems.

Eglin is an Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) base serving as the focal point for all Air Force armaments. Eglin is responsible for the development, acquisition, testing, deployment and sustainment of all air-delivered non-nuclear weapons.

The base plans, directs and conducts test and evaluation of U.S. and allied air armament, navigation and guidance systems, and command and control systems.

Severe weather testing of aircraft and other equipment is carried out at the McKinley Climatic Laboratory.

Major units include the 96th Test Wing, 33rd Fighter Wing (includes both 58th Fighter Squadron and VFA 101 with F-35s), 53rd Wing, Air Force Research and Testing Laboratory, the Armament Directorate and 7th Special Forces Group.

96th Test Wing Mission

The 96th TW executes developmental test and evaluation enabling the warfighter to put weapons on target in all battlespace media while also providing support for all other Team Eglin missions as the installation host wing. Eglin deploys combat ready forces while delivering full spectrum support to the DoD's largest, most dynamic Air Force Installation.



The 96th Test Wing, Eglin AFB, Fla., is the test and evaluation center for Air Force air-delivered weapons, navigation and guidance systems, Command and Control systems, and Air Force Special Operations Command systems. The wing provides expert evaluation and validation of the performance of systems throughout the design, development, acquisition, and sustainment process to ensure the warfighter has technologically superior, reliable, maintainable, sustainable and safe systems. The 96th TW performs developmental test and evaluation across the complete system life cycle for a wide variety of customers including: Air Force Systems Program Offices, the Air Force Research Laboratory, logistics and product centers; major commands; other DoD services and U.S. government agencies (Department of Transportation, NASA, etc.); foreign military sales; and private industry.

Additionally the wing commander serves as the installation commander, supporting Team Eglin with traditional military services as well as all the services of a small city, to include civil engineering, personnel, logistics, communications, computer, medical, security, and all other host services. Critical to the success of Eglin's mission, the 96th TW provides a myriad of base operating support functions like material resources, mobility requirements, and meeting the needs of Eglin personnel.



**Commander –
Brigadier General
Christopher P. Azzano**

Brig. Gen. Christopher P. Azzano is Commander, 96th Test Wing, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. He leads more than 9,800 military, civilian, and contractor personnel in accomplishing the test wing's missions of developmental testing and evaluation of conventional munitions, command and control systems, aircraft avionics and guidance systems, and radar cross section measurement. He is also responsible for providing all base operating support, infrastructure, and services support for the Department of Defense's largest installation (724 square miles). He commands eight groups and 32 squadrons. The test wing operates 38 modified test aircraft; manages 120,000 square miles of over-water test ranges, plus facilities in six different states. The 96th TW also supports seven tenant wings and wing equivalent units to include the 33rd Fighter Wing (F-35 Joint Strike Fighter), the Army's 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Center, and 37 other associate units including the Army's 6th Ranger Training Battalion and the Air Force's 20th Space Control Squadron. As commander, he interacts with local officials across a 3-county, 11-city region with a military economic impact of \$2.7 billion annually.

F-35





DID YOU KNOW?

Air Force Trivia –

1. The Air Force shares its birthday with the CIA. Both were founded on September 18, 1947.
2. A “roof stomp” is an Air Force tradition where airmen welcome new commander or celebrate a special occasion by climbing up on the commander’s roof and make noise while others bang on the windows and doors. The commander then opens the door to welcome in the group for refreshments. (In recent years, some airmen have modified the tradition to a “porch stomp.”)
3. Before the Air Force became its own branch of the military, it was a part of the Army. On Aug. 1, 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps formed the Aeronautical Division, which later evolved into the Air Force.
4. Each March, some airmen participate in a Mustache March, a tradition where airmen grow mustaches to honor Air Force legend and triple ace Brig. Gen. Robin Olds.



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

February 1, 2017

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

NEWS

New Secretary of the Air Force – Heather Wilson -- President Trump on Monday said he would nominate former Rep. Heather Wilson (R-N.M.), a graduate of the Air Force Academy, to be the next Air Force secretary. Wilson represented New Mexico in the House of Representatives from 1998 to 2009, after serving in the Air Force for seven years and on the National Security Council staff for two years. She would replace Deborah Lee James, who stepped down last week.

Hiring Freeze Exempts Military Personnel -- President Trump on Monday issued a memorandum ordering the federal government to freeze civilian hiring across the government, including DOD. The order, however, exempts military personnel. The freeze will be lifted after the Office of Management and Budget crafts and implements a long-term plan to reduce the size of the federal workforce through attrition. That plan is due within 90 days. The order also allows exceptions to the hiring freeze to fulfill national security responsibilities.

National Conference of State Legislators Pamphlet on Sustaining Military Installations – This document has just been released. It contains some great information on state support to military installations. Florida receives prominent mention throughout. This document was prepared from research done on the Internet and was not produced in conjunction with the Association of Defense Communities.

http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Military_Veterans/PreparingDut

Florida Defense Support Task Force White Paper on Oil Drilling and Military Mission Compatibility – The Florida Defense Support Task Force is preparing to release a White Paper on oil drilling and military mission compatibility. This paper captures the history of this issue to include the establishment of the Military Mission Line (MML) and strongly makes the case for extending the moratorium on drilling and exploration east of the MML. This paper also serves to support the Florida Defense Support Task Force's Strategic Plan.

BRAC Bill Introduced in HASC – According to an article in *On Base* with Dan Cohen, “Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) on Thursday said he would reintroduce legislation from last year that would authorize a new round of base closures in 2019 and incorporate a series of reforms intended to address lawmakers’ complaints about the escalating cost of implementing the 2005 round and the prolonged wait for the recommendations to generate net savings.” round. The bill can be seen at this link: <http://democrats-armedservices.house.gov/cache/files/7/4/748aa1f2-ddbf-4773-9bee-3fa45a1a4039/2D5D0D58FCF2B3F5A7ABD6D755086141.smitwa-005-xml.pdf>. In addition to this news, Sen John McCain has come out in support for a new BRAC round.

Restoring American Power by Senator John McCain – Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, released “Restoring American Power,” a white paper making recommendations for the defense budget for fiscal years 2018 through 2022. The report details how defense budget cuts under the *Budget Control Act* have left the military underfunded, undersized, and unready, and lays out a plan

to repair, rebuild, and reimagine the military for a wide range of threats facing our nation. The paper can be found at this link: http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/25bff0ec-481e-466a-843f-68ba5619e6d8/restoring-american-power-7.pdf

From ADC -- TRUMP PAVES WAY FOR 'GREAT REBUILDING' OF MILITARY: During a visit to the Pentagon Friday, President Trump signed an executive order starting the process for rebuilding the armed forces, an action he said would lead to “developing a plan for new planes, new ships, new resources and new tools for our men and women in uniform.”

The order also outlines multiple steps the Pentagon should take to improve military readiness, starting with a 30-day review of “training, equipment maintenance, munitions, modernization and infrastructure,” reported [Defense News](#). It also directs the defense secretary to develop a budget amendment for fiscal 2017 spending that addresses readiness issues and look for ways to adjust the department’s FY 2018 budget request to improve readiness conditions and deal with risks to national security.

Within 60 days, the secretary is required to send the president a plan to address the issues identified in the readiness review by Oct. 1, 2018, including insufficient maintenance, delays in acquiring parts, access to training ranges, combatant command operational demands, funding needed for consumables such as fuel and ammunition, manpower shortfalls, depot maintenance capacity, and time needed to plan, coordinate, and execute readiness and training activities.

Separately, the order directs the secretary to craft a national defense strategy “upon transmission of a new national security strategy to Congress.” The defense strategy is to provide the administration “maximum strategic flexibility and to determine the force structure necessary to meet requirements.” The ultimate significance of the executive order is unclear as any changes in force structure would require Congress’ assent.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to everyone for taking time out of your busy schedules to participate on our FDA conference call. I’m always amazed by all of the activities going on around the state at our military communities. As a follow-up to the call, Michelle and I will be coordinating a defense grant workshop with DEO and the Department of Finance in March with our FDA meeting.

If you serve on a working group and have a topic you would like to discuss or present, please let us know. If you would like to serve on either the Mission Sustainment or the Family Support Working Groups, please let us know. Mission Sustainment Chairman is Jeff Fanto: jeffrey.fanto@us.af.mil / 850-882-8036. Mission Sustainment will be having a conference call on February 14th at 8 am (cst)/9 am (est).

Family Support Chairman is Rita J. Smith: rjsmith@careersourceow.com / 850-882-1446. As they prepare for the March meeting they need your input so our time together is both productive and worth your time.

During Tom Neubauer’s report for Bay County, he discussed the different studies they have completed to have current data on their installations to be ready for additional missions or to assist with retaining missions. I ask each community to look in your installation portfolio file to see how current your information is – AICUZ, APZ-1, ICE Map, JLUS, etc. With the release of the next cycle of Defense Reinvestment Grants, is it time to update your studies?

With the start of the legislative session just around the corner, are you reaching out to your state legislators to inform them about the military and defense industries in your area and the state? Don’t assume that they know what you know or how important this sector is to the state. Take time to reach out to the elected officials at all levels: local, regional, state and federal. If we want our military and defense communities to be the best and have the resources they need to keep us safe as a nation, it is up to us to tell their story. Let us know how we can help you.

Blessed to have such a great group working to keep Florida the Most Military Friendly and the Base of the Future.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

MARCH 15 – FDA Meeting in Tallahassee

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

FDA WEB SITE UPDATE

Michelle has been updating the FDA web site!! If you have any suggestions or recommendations for improvement, please send them in!



QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

“A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader, a great leader inspires people to have confidence in themselves”

“Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't, you're right.” --- Henry Ford

News from the Bases

Eglin AFB –

\$5 daily passes, fishing permits, available for Eglin Reservation

By [Niceville](#) on January 14, 2017



PHOTO: Taylor Tidwell, 96th Civil Engineer Group, takes in the scenery of the Eglin Range and Boiling Creek April 19 during the first-ever kayak tour through the range. The five and a half mile kayak tour took 10 people down Boiling Creek and the Yellow River deep within the Eglin range. The scenic tour showed off Eglin's unique wild and plant life. It kicked off Eglin's week-long Earth Day celebration. (U.S. Air Force photo/Samuel King Jr.)

Have friends and family visiting the area and want to take them recreating on the Eglin Air Force Base reservation? The Eglin Natural Resources Management section (known as Jackson Guard) offers daily passes at a reduced price.

Jackson Guard launched a new **\$5 daily recreation and fishing pass**, making it easier for visitors to explore the base's natural resources. Of Eglin's 464,000 acres, approximately 250,000 are conditionally open to public recreation.

The daily passes are a result of an ongoing partnership between Eglin and the Tri County Community Partnership Initiative and the associated Community Partnership Program. Through this partnership, the group identified daily outdoor recreation passes as the perfect way to encourage visitors to experience the natural wonders of Northwest Florida.

"We saw the need for visitors looking for fun activities in the outdoors who wanted to hike, canoe or kayak and enjoy a different aspect of the area other than the beach can buy a \$5 permit and enjoy the day," said Chris Johansen, Eglin Natural Resources section outdoor recreation program manager.

According to Johansen, the opportunities afforded by the \$5 permits include; disk golf, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, bird watching, canoeing/kayaking, mountain biking, running, among other activities on the reservation. The permits are available online. There are maps of the range, canoe and kayak trail maps, and mountain bike trail maps on the site.

The daily passes are already popular. More than, 175 passes were purchased since the first offering Oct. 1, 2016.

MacDill AFB –

SOFWERX



SOFWERX is an unclassified facility where government, labs, industry and academia can collaborate. It serves as a forum for accelerating technologies and innovative ideas by bringing together the brightest minds and divergent thought.

SOFWERX is created under a Partnership Intermediary Agreement between Doolittle Institute and United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Located in Tampa, FL, SOFWERX is a very dynamic environment designed to create a high rate of return on collision for all participants. Through the use of our growing ecosystem, promotion of divergent thought, and neutral facilitation, our goal is to bring the right minds together to solve challenging problems.

The space is re-configurable and has a variety of collaborative materials, including smartboards, Wi-Fi, glass boards and range of media presentation options. It is located in Tampa's historic Ybor city.

MacDill Airman awarded for communication excellence

By Airman 1st Class Mariette Adams, 6th Air Mobility Public Affairs / Published January 13, 2017



Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Selonke, center, the section chief of network integration assigned to the 6th Communications Squadron, pauses for a photo with his team at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Jan. 11, 2017. Selonke won the 2016 Air Force Information Dominance Outstanding Cyber Systems NCO of the Year award during his time as the section chief of radio frequency transmissions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Mariette Adams)

A communications Airman won the 2016 Air Force Information Dominance Outstanding Cyber Systems NCO of the Year award at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, Dec. 19, 2016. Tech. Sgt. Jeffery Selonke, the section chief of radio frequency transmissions assigned to the 6th Communications Squadron at the time of the award, was selected out of more than five communications career fields and 5,100 NCOs.

Over the past year, Selonke led 37 Airmen and managed \$67 million in radio frequency assets that supported three combatant commands and 19,000 personnel. "I could not have done this without the outstanding NCOs and Airmen working with me and my flight leadership that kept me going," said Selonke. Selonke and his team completed an overhaul of the Tanker Strategic Air Regeneration Team's communications unit type code for 25 units across Air Force Global Strike Command. The overhaul updated the comprehensive and functional deployable equipment and personnel.

In addition to the overhaul, Air Mobility Command recognized the work of Selonke and his team and identified them as the lead trainers for the 25 units assigned to Tanker Strategic Air Regeneration Team operations.

Efforts made by Selonke and his team also helped with the validation of three next-generation satellite communication systems across the Department of Defense worth \$4.6 billion.

“I am proud of my team for the long hours and hard work,” said Selonke. “It feels great to validate all of our efforts through the past year.”

Global Strike Command also selected his team for a second year to travel to 27 units across the country to train and enhance nuclear-hardened communications systems supporting command post operations.

“I am thrilled for Selonke's incredibly well-deserved recognition,” said Master Sgt. Eric Leach, the superintendent of radio frequency transmissions with the 6th CS. “He has more than exceeded any of my expectations.”

Looking forward, Selonke hopes to be accepted into officer training school where he wants to become a cyber officer.

“No matter what path I take, I want to mentor and develop the next generation's teams to keep the Air Force moving in the right direction,” said Selonke.



Jacksonville –

- In FY 14-15, COJ MAVD directly served 6050 area Veterans who received more than \$23.5M in new benefits from the VA.
- In FY 15-16, COJ MAVD served 8456 area Veterans, thanks to a greatly enhanced outreach effort spearheaded by Mayor Lenny Curry. This is a 39.7% increase in Veterans served for an estimated \$27.5M in new benefits from the VA.
- Similarly, in our Social Services MAVD programs (in conjunction with the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation and the U.S. DoL), the total numbers of area Veterans served increased an average of 23% in year-over-year comparisons. This is also due to a greatly enhanced outreach effort spearheaded by Mayor Lenny Curry.
- During the past two fiscal years, we filed more than 14,500 claims for area Veterans and, as a direct result of our actions, those same Veterans received approximately \$51M in compensation. Of those 14,500, nearly 2700 (or 18.6 percent) were for mental health issues such as one of the seven anxiety conditions the VA recognizes as falling under PTSD. This administration is extremely active in assisting area Vets with all of their issues, including PTSD.

Spotlight on NSA Panama City:

Mission

Naval Support Activity Panama City's professional military and civilian personnel deliver an integrated suite of efficient, effective, and responsive shore capabilities, to enable and sustain the readiness of tenant activities.

NSA PC hosts many diverse tenant commands and other activities: Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division; Center for Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Diving; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit SIX; Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center; Navy Experimental Diving Unit; Navy Munitions Command Detachments; Naval Branch Health Clinic; Naval Criminal Investigative Service; Navy Exchange; Veterans Administration Primary Care Clinic; U.S. Coast Guard 8th District Panama City Station, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.



The Activity totals 657 acres and houses 221 buildings. The unique conditions in the Gulf of Mexico, coupled with mission synergy make NSA PC, an ideal location for fleet training and littoral warfare missions. NSA, Panama City employs approximately 3000 civilian and military personnel with an annual payroll of more than \$294 million. The Activity contracts services, buys local goods and maintains an active construction program.

Its economic impact is more than \$600 million annually. Throughout its existence, NSA Panama City and its tenants have continued to evolve to meet the demanding requirements of the U.S. Navy - to defend today and to plan for tomorrow in response to national needs.



**Commander Douglas
Huggan**

Commander Huggan is a native of Boston, Massachusetts. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Oklahoma and a Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. After earning his "Wings of Gold, he reported to the "Shadows" of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Four (VQ-4).

During this tour, he flew more than 1,500 hours in the E-6; qualified as Aircraft Commander, Mission Commander, and Instructor Pilot; and held positions as NATOPS Pilot Evaluator, Aviation Safety officer, Aircraft Division Officer and TDY Officer. Following a tour flying C-12s from RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, Commander Huggan transferred to Yokosuka, Japan in 2006, to serve as the South East Asia Exercise Officer for COMSEVENTHFLT aboard USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19). In April 2008, Commander Huggan joined the "Ironman" of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Three (VQ-3) for his Department Head tour. During this tour, he served as the NATOPS Officer, Safety Officer, and Maintenance Officer, earning the Safety and Maintenance Excellence Awards. After serving in The United States European Command (EUCOM), Commander Huggan served in Japan as the Air Operation Officer and the Installation Executive Officer.



History

Naval Support Activity, Panama City had its origin in the mine countermeasures research conducted during World War II at the U.S. Naval Mine Warfare Test Station, Solomons, Maryland. In 1945, equipment, facilities, and personnel were transferred from Solomons to Panama City, Florida, to occupy a 373-acre tract along St. Andrew Bay. This same tract was used as a Naval Section Base in 1942, the U.S. Naval Amphibious Training Base in 1944, and was inactivated in June 1945. It was established as the U.S. Navy Mine Countermeasures Station July 20, 1945.

From July 1945 to January 1992 NSA PC has undergone a myriad of name changes to include U.S. Navy Mine Defense Laboratory, Naval Ship Research and Development Laboratory Panama City, Naval Coastal Systems Laboratory and Naval Coastal Systems Center.

In January 1992, NCSC was re-designated the Coastal Systems Station (CSS), Dahlgren Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center, reporting to the Naval Sea Systems Command.

On October 1, 2003, CSS was reorganized as a part of the alignment under Commander, Navy Installations Command. During this reorganization, the base was renamed Naval Support Activity, Panama City, reporting to the Commander, Navy Region Southeast. The R&D mission workforce was renamed the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division. The primary mission and work areas of the base remained unchanged.

DID YOU KNOW?

Women in the Military Trivia (Note: March is Women's History Month)

Here are 12 pieces of trivia about the legacy of women in the United States military:

1. Although they weren't officially enlisted at first, women have served in the U.S. Army since 1775. In the 18th century, American women tended to the wounded, washed and mended clothing and cooked for male troops.
2. In 1779, Margaret Corbin became the first woman to receive a military pension. During the Revolutionary War, Corbin manned her husband's cannon after he was shot and killed in battle. Corbin was subsequently injured in the same battle and never fully recovered from her wounds.

3. After the Civil War, Dr. Mary E. Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor for her work as a contract surgeon in the Union Army. She's the only woman to receive this award. In 1917, Walker was stripped of her medal due to changes in regulations. After many appeals, her medal was reinstated in 1977.
4. In 1866, Cathay Williams was the first African American woman to enlist in the Army, doing so under the pseudonym William Cathay. She was assigned to the 38th U.S. Infantry. Despite being hospitalized for illness several times, she managed to hide her gender for almost two years before a post surgeon discovered she was a female, leading to her discharge.
5. Women were officially allowed to join the U.S. military during last two years of World War I, and 33,000 of them signed up to work as nurses and in other support roles. More than 400 nurses died serving America during the Great War.
6. In 1918, twins Genevieve and Lucille Baker became two of the first women to serve in the Coast Guard.
7. Navy Rear Adm. Grace Hopper was one of the first – and most influential – computer programmers. Hopper played an important role in the development of the COBOL programming language and helped shape how programmers code today. Also, she's often credited with popularizing the term “debugging.”
8. During World War II, 88 American women were captured and held as prisoners of war.
9. Brig. Gen. Hazel W. Johnson-Brown was the first African American woman to become an Army general. Brown enlisted in 1955 and later became the chief of the Army Nurse Corps.
10. Females weren't allowed to attend the four service academies until 1976. The USO's magazine On Patrol profiled some of these women in its Spring 2012 issue.
11. In 2004, Col. Linda McTague became the first woman commander of an Air National Guard wing and also the first woman to command an Air Force fighter squadron.
12. In 2005, Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester became the first woman since World War II to receive the Silver Star for combat actions.

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Thanks to the hard working and dedicated members of the FDA, Florida is head and shoulders above other states in supporting our military installations and personnel. Your efforts truly make a difference and are greatly appreciated.

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





Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

February 15, 2017

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

NEWS

Senate and House Committee Meetings – Both Florida Chambers held committee meetings concerning Military and Veterans Affairs during the past week. The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee meeting included a briefing from Bruce Grant on the Task Force. Specifically, the committee was interested in information on the potential of a BRAC in the coming years. The House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee also met and discussed two bills pending before the committee including a Veterans ID Bill (HB 179) which favorably passed the committee.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) – The frequency of BRAC discussion has been on a steady rise over the last two weeks. It seems more likely that a BRAC will occur during the Trump Administration, but at this point we are unsure of the timing. TPG continues to feel that 2021 is the most likely time frame due to the volume of public transparent actions required prior to execution of base closures. Of note, the Army and Air Force are most interested in BRAC while the Navy maintains they do not need to close any bases, just realign missions and equipment. There have been several news articles on the issue.

Military / Veteran Related Bills – There were nine new bills filed last week. To review or track House Bills, go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached to this email/newsletter is the current summary of all bills filed to date.

DEO Announces DIG/DRG Cycle: The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has released the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 grant funding application for the Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant (DIG) and the Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant (DRG) Programs. The request for application and associated documents are available for reference on the Florida Vendor Bid System at the following websites: For DIGs go to: http://www.myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_www.ad_r2.view_ad?advertisement_key_num=131200 and for DRGs go to: http://www.myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_www.ad_r2.view_ad?advertisement_key_num=131198. Please note that the deadline for submission is **March 2, 2017, 3:00 PM EST for both programs**. Please direct all questions to: Sonja Strickland, P: (850) 245-7472; Fax: (850) 245-7470; 107 E. Madison Street, B047 Caldwell Building Tallahassee, FL 32399; or Email: sonja.strickland@deo.myflorida.com. Electronic copies of the solicitation attachments are available for reference in Microsoft Word format on the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Procurement page at the following website: <http://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-finance-and-administration/our-offices/procurement>.

FDSTF White Paper on Oil Drilling and Military Mission Compatibility – The Task Force approved the release of the attached paper that supports the current strategic plan by making a recommendation that Florida must maintain a united front in supporting an extension of the current moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line (MML). To allow drilling east of the MML would mean loss of range areas and possible relocation of aircraft/bases to other unrestricted range areas. You can download a

copy of this paper on the FDA web site at:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-White-Paper-Oil-Drilling-and-Military-Mission-Compatability.pdf>

FDA Mission Sustainment Working Group Conference Call – Yesterday, Jeff Fanto led a conference call with members of the Mission Sustainment working group. His intent was to discuss issues and help set the stage to make the March FDA meeting more productive. There were lively and informative discussions on a number of topics including energy resiliency and security, several different areas of encroachment, and the importance of cyber security on encroachment. The group thought the call was extremely helpful and decided to have subsequent calls occur monthly in the future. Staff will be following up with requests for information on energy resiliency, top encroachment issues and JLUS implementation challenges in preparation for the March FDA meeting in Tallahassee.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Installation Innovation Forum – ADC will be holding their Installation Innovation Forum from February 27 – March 1 in San Antonio, Texas. Topics of discussion include Installation Adaptation, Military Family Readiness, Land-Use Management, Resource Efficiency, Ensuring Base and Community Security, and Building the Defense Workforce of the Future. More information on this conference can be found at: <http://www.installationinnovation.org/>



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

MARCH 15 – FDA Meeting in Tallahassee, 8 AM EST to 5 PM EST
DEO Workshop from 4 PM to 5 PM

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



QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

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

“Leadership is understanding people and involving them to help you do a job. That takes all of the good characteristics, like integrity, dedication of purpose, selflessness, knowledge, skill, implacability, as well as determination not to accept failure.”

-- Admiral Arleigh Burke

News from the Bases

MacDill AFB –

President Trump Visits MacDill Air Force Base, February 6, 2017



President Donald Trump discusses current military operations with Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of U.S. Central Command Commander, and Gen. Raymond A. "Tony" Thomas, U.S. Special Operations Commander at MacDill AFB, FL, Feb. 6, 2017.

President Donald Trump speaks to troops while visiting U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill AFB, FL, Feb. 6, 2017.



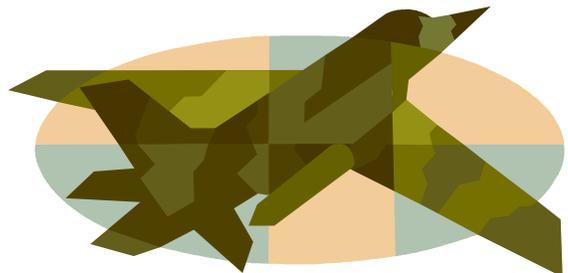
(right to left) Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Votel, commander of the U.S. Central Command Commander, and Gen. Raymond A. "Tony" Thomas, U.S. Special Operations Commander, salute the President on Air Force One upon his arrival at MacDill AFB, FL, Feb. 6, 2017.



(left to right) Former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph Votel, U.S. Central Command Commander, and Gen. Raymond A. "Tony" Thomas, U.S. Special Operations Command Commander, await the arrival of the President at MacDill AFB, FL, Feb. 6, 2017.

More from MacDill --

- The Ohio Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing deployed approximately 150 pilots, maintainers, operations support personnel and F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jets to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida to conduct a two-week training exercise Jan. 20, 2017.
- Keith Cole, a veteran of World War II and pioneer of special operations aviation, visited MacDill Air Force Base to speak at USSOCOM and tour a KC-135 static display.
- Corona is taking place at MacDill AFB the end of this month. There is a Civic Leader reception 28 February, 2017.
- The CMSgt Induction Ceremony took place 10 February, 2017. This event honors the following 2017 Team MacDill CMSgt-Selects:
 - ◇ (C)MSgt Nathaniel Bettisworth, 6 CPTS
 - ◇ (C)MSgt Sharee Chabot, HQ USSOCOM
 - ◇ (C)MSgt Elie Glover, 6 CS
 - ◇ (C)MSgt Clinton Grizzell, HQ USSOCOM
 - ◇ (C)MSgt Charles Guthrie, HQ USSOCOM
 - ◇ (C)MSgt Seth Quirk, SOCCENT
 - ◇ (C)MSgt Chad Ream, 6 MXG
 - ◇ (C)MSgt Shane Wagner, JCSE



NAS Jacksonville –

Naval Air Force Atlantic names Sailors of the Year – One from NAS Jacksonville

By Emily Satchell



VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (Feb. 9, 2017) (From left) Rear Adm. Bruce Lindsey, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (CNAL), Naval Air Crewman Operator 1st Class Marc Deskin, Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Christopher Carter and Force Master Chief Bill Smalts pose for a photo after Deskin and Carter were named as CNAL's 2016 Sea and Shore (respectively) Sailors of the Year. Deskin and Carter will now go on to compete as the U.S. Fleet Forces 2016 Sailor of the Year. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Kevin F. Johnson/Released)

Naval Air Force Atlantic announced the selections for Sailors of the Year on Thursday, Feb. 9.

Naval Air Crewman Operator First Class (AWO1)(NAC/AW/SW) Marc Deskin and Aviation Ordnanceman First Class (AO1)(AW/SW) Christopher Carter were chosen as Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year, respectively.

Deskin is a Winston-Salem, North Carolina native. He is currently attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida, where he serves as the Tactics Department leading petty officer.

Carter, a Hyattsville, Maryland native, is currently attached to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 40 at Naval Station Mayport, Florida. There, he serves as the Maintenance Department leading petty officer.

Rear Admiral Bruce Lindsey, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, praised both sailors for their accomplishments.

“We had an exceptionally talented group of sailors this year, and I couldn’t be more proud of all of them,” said Lindsey. “These two specifically have represented themselves and their command at the highest level and I am confident that they will continue to do great things.”

The two sailors were selected from 12 candidates representing more than 30,000 men and women serving in the sea and shore components within Naval Air Force Atlantic. Each represented their respective commands after being selected as that command’s Sailor of the Year.

Both sailors will advance to the next selection process to determine the Sailors of the Year for U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Spotlight on Naval Station Mayport:

Naval Station Mayport is one of three major Navy installations in the Jacksonville area. Mayport is home to a busy seaport as well as an air facility. The mission of NS Mayport is to sustain and enhance warfighter readiness. Naval Station Mayport is also home to the Navy's 4th Fleet, reactivated in 2008 after being deactivated in 1950.



Since its commissioning in December 1942, Naval Station Mayport has grown to become the third largest fleet concentration area in the United States. Mayport’s operational composition is unique, with a busy harbor capable of accommodating 34 ships and an 8,000-foot runway capable of handling any aircraft in the Department of Defense inventory.

With more than 3,400 acres, NS Mayport is host to more than 80 tenant commands including 22 naval ships and six Light Airborne Multi-purpose System (LAMPS) Mark III helicopter squadrons. NS Mayport is also the operational and training headquarters for the SH-60B Seahawk LAMPS MKIII with a primary mission of anti-submarine warfare.

The Navy at Mayport covers 3,409 acres and is the third largest Naval Facility in the continental United States. As a major Surface and Air Warfare organization, Mayport remains dedicated to providing the "Finest Service to the Finest Fleet," as it grows into the 21st century.



Captain David J. Yoder

Captain Yoder was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He graduated with merit from the United States Naval Academy in 1994. He received his wings of gold in June 1996.

Captain Yoder's first sea tour was with the HS-3 "Tridents", and he completed deployments aboard USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV-67) and USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71). His next two sea tours were with CVW-1 aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65), first as the Anti-Submarine Warfare/Combat Search and Rescue officer on the CVW-1 staff and then as a department head with the HS-11 "Dragonslayers" where he served as the Training Officer, Safety Officer, Operations Officer and Maintenance Officer. 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).

Assignments ashore include duty as a Seahawk Weapons and Tactics Instructor at the COMHSWINGLANT Weapons Training Unit, a Joint Exercise Planning Officer at Special Operations Command – Pacific, and most recently as the Deputy Director of United States Special Operations Command's International Engagement Program. He has accumulated over 2,900 hours in various models of the H60 helicopter.



Different Types of Navy Vessels

Aircraft Carriers



USS Nimitz

Aircraft carriers have the ability to put most nations within striking distance of U.S. air power which makes them the cornerstone of US forward deployment and deterrence strategy. Multiple carriers are deployed around the world to provide military presence, respond quickly to crises, and participate in joint exercises with allied forces; this has led the Navy to refer to their *Nimitz*-class carriers as "4.5 acres of sovereign and mobile American territory". The power and operational flexibility of a carrier lie in the aircraft of its carrier air wing. Made up of both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft, a carrier air wing is able to perform over 150 strike missions at once, hitting over 700 targets a day. Carrier air wings also protect friendly forces, conduct electronic warfare, assist in special operations, and carry out search and rescue missions. The carriers themselves, in addition to enabling airborne operations, serve as command platforms for large battle groups or multinational task forces.

Amphibious Assault Ships



USS Kearsarge (LHD-3)

Amphibious assault ships (also referred to as a commando carrier or an amphibious assault carrier) are a type of amphibious warfare ship employed to land and support ground forces on enemy territory by an amphibious assault. The design evolved from aircraft carriers converted for use as helicopter carriers, but includes support for amphibious landing craft, with most designs including a well deck. Coming full circle, some amphibious assault ships now have a secondary role as aircraft carriers, supporting V/STOL fixed-wing aircraft. The role of the amphibious assault ship is fundamentally different from a standard aircraft carrier: its aviation facilities have the primary role of hosting helicopters to support forces ashore rather than to support strike aircraft. However, some are capable of serving in the sea-control role, embarking aircraft like Harrier fighters for CAP and anti-submarine warfare helicopters or operating as a safe base for large numbers of STOVL fighters conducting air support for the Marine expeditionary unit once it has gone ashore. Most of these ships can also carry or support landing craft, such as air-cushioned landing craft (hovercraft) or LCUs.

Amphibious Command Ships



USS Mount Whitney

Amphibious command ships (LCC) of the United States Navy are large, special purpose ships, originally designed to command large amphibious invasions. However, as amphibious invasions have become less likely, they are now used as general command ships, and serve as floating headquarters for two, forward deployed, numbered Fleet commands. Currently, they are assigned to the 6th and 7th fleets as flagships.

Amphibious Transport Docks



USS San Antonio

Amphibious transport docks, also called "landing platform dock" (LPD), is an amphibious warfare ship, a warship that embarks, transports, and lands elements of a landing force for expeditionary warfare missions. Several navies currently operate this kind of ship. The ships are generally designed to transport troops into a war zone by sea, primarily using landing craft, although invariably they also have the capability to operate transport, utility and attack helicopters and multi-mission tilt-rotor aircraft.

Dock Landing Ships



USS Harpers Ferry

Dock landing ships (also called landing ship, dock or LSD) is an amphibious warfare ship with a well dock to transport and launch landing craft and amphibious vehicles.^[10] Some ships with well decks, such as the Soviet Ivan Rogov class, also have bow doors to enable them to deliver vehicles directly onto a beach (like a Landing Ship, Tank). Modern dock landing ships also operate helicopters. A ship with a well deck (docking well) can transfer cargo to landing craft in rougher seas than a ship that has to use cranes or a stern ramp. The US Navy hull classification symbol for a ship with a well deck depends on its facilities for aircraft - a (modern) LSD has a helicopter deck, a LPD also has a hangar, and a LHD or LHA has a full-length flight deck.

Cruisers



USS Port Royal

Cruisers and guided missile cruisers are a type of warship. The term has been in use for several hundred years, and has had different meanings throughout this period. During the Age of Sail, the term *cruising* referred to certain kinds of missions – independent scouting, raiding or commerce protection – fulfilled by a frigate or sloop, which were the *cruising warships* of a fleet.

By the early 20th century, cruisers could be placed on a consistent scale of warship size, smaller than a battleship but larger than a destroyer. In the later 20th century, the obsolescence of the battleship left the cruiser as the largest and most powerful surface combatant (excluding aircraft carriers).

Destroyers



USS Lassen

Destroyers are fast maneuverable long-endurance warships intended to escort larger vessels in a fleet, convoy or battle group and defend them against smaller powerful short-range attackers.

At the start of the 21st century, destroyers are the heaviest surface combatant ships in general use. Modern destroyers, also known as guided missile destroyers, are capable of carrying nuclear tipped cruise missiles.

Guided-missile destroyers are destroyers designed to launch guided missiles. Many are also equipped to carry out anti-submarine, anti-air, and anti-surface operations. In addition to the guns that destroyers have, a guided-missile destroyer is usually equipped with two large missile magazines, usually in vertical-launch cells.

Frigates

Frigates (according to the modern classification of U.S. navy warships) are smaller ships than destroyers. They are designed primarily to protect other ships (such as merchant convoys), and perform some Anti-Submarine Warfare duties. They are cheaper but of more limited capability than destroyers. The last active class of frigates in the US Navy was the *Oliver Hazard Perry* class, decommissioned in September 2015, leaving the navy no active frigates.

On January 15, 2015 U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced that ships of the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) classes built in the future would be re-classified as "frigates". This would apply only to the future variations of these ships. Current ships will retain the LCS classification unless and until they are upgraded to the standards of the newer ships.

Littoral Combat Ships



USS Freedom

Littoral combat ships (LCS) are a class of relatively small surface vessels intended for operations in the littoral zone (close to shore). It was "envisioned to be a networked, agile, stealthy surface combatant capable of defeating anti-access and asymmetric threats in the littorals."

The first littoral combat ship, *USS Freedom*, was commissioned on 8 November

Mine Countermeasures Ships



USS Avenger

Mine countermeasures vessels or MCMV are a type of naval ship designed for the location of and destruction of naval mines which combines the role of a minesweeper and minehunter in one hull. The term MCMV is also applied collectively to minehunters and minesweepers.

A "minesweeper" is a small naval warship designed to engage in minesweeping. Using various mechanisms intended to counter the threat posed by naval mines, waterways are maintained clear for safe shipping.

A "minehunter" is a naval vessel that actively detects and destroys individual naval mines.

Patrol Ships



USS Typhoon

Patrol ships are relatively small naval vessels generally designed for coastal defense duties. They may be operated by a nation's navy, coast guard, police force or customs and may be intended for marine (blue water) and/or estuarine or river ("brown water") environments. They are commonly found engaged in various border protection roles, including anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, fisheries patrols, and immigration law enforcement. They are also often called upon to participate in rescue operations.

Submarines



USS Virginia

Submarines are watercraft capable of independent operation underwater. There are currently two types; attack and ballistic. "Attack submarines" (SSN) have tactical missions, including controlling naval and shipping activity, serving as cruise missile-launching platforms, and intelligence-gathering. "Ballistic submarines" (SSBN) primarily have the single strategic mission of nuclear deterrence by being hidden launching-platforms for nuclear ICBMs. However, some of these boats have been converted to (SSGN) and launch standard cruise missiles.

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

With all the increasing talk about BRAC, the work FDA members do becomes even more important. Over the past 5 years, Florida has done an outstanding job in preparing for any reductions, realignments or downsizing from the Department of Defense. We have strengthened our military installations by preventing encroachment, improving transportation access in and around bases and doing all we can to improve the military value of all of our bases. But most importantly, it has been our local defense community people who have built strong relationships with the military and civilian workforce on every single base in Florida – and their families – that has made Florida the model for other states. Thanks a million for all you do to protect our bases and improve the quality of life for all our service members and their families. The work you continue to do every single day truly makes 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



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

March 1, 2017

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

NEWS

COUNTY, EGLIN AFB PARTNER TO HELP SUSTAIN NW FLORIDA'S WATER SUPPLY-- One of the first partnerships to come out of Okaloosa County's effort to take advantage of the new authority allowing installations and their host communities to enter into intergovernmental support agreements will provide Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., with reclaimed water for two of its golf courses. The partnership is less about fiscal savings but, rather, is an attempt to preserve local aquifers and sustain the region's long-term water supply. Eglin would not just be a beneficiary, though, as the Air Force has agreed to charge the county's water and sewer department less than fair market value for the utilities easement needed to construct a 10-mile pipeline across its property.

A case study of the collaboration spearheaded by the county's Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative will be featured as one of six "Innovators" at the Installation Innovation Forum 2017 in San Antonio from February 27 - March 1.

Defense officials approve expanded veterans online shopping benefit-- Honorably discharged veterans could be able to shop online at military exchange websites as early as Veterans Day, barring any objections from Congress. The change in Defense Department policy would open up online exchange shopping privileges to about 18 million more people. It won't apply to shopping at brick-and-mortar exchange stores. Officials with Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Navy Exchange Service Command expect to be able to implement the new benefit by mid-November. Retirees won't be the only beneficiaries, according to an internal DoD document: Expanding the online customer base will strengthen the exchanges' online business to better serve the customers, and the expansion is expected to "conservatively double the exchanges' online presence," thus yielding better prices for customers and more competitive merchandise.

Changes to Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Awards Program -- The awards program has undergone a couple changes from last year. First, to avoid duplicating or closely mirroring the Great American Defense Communities Program's award categories, the two entity-based awards — Installation Excellence and Community Excellence — have been eliminated. Second, the Base Redevelopment Award has been revised from an LRA award to one that salutes an LRA director. As a result, you will consider and vote on submissions in the following three award categories:

- **Community or State Leadership Award**

An individual whose outstanding leadership helps (1) drive the success of a base redevelopment project; and/or (2) build a military-community partnership to enhance the mission of an active installation. A nominee may be an elected or appointed (non-military) official at the state, regional or local level, a volunteer, or the chief executive officer of a local redevelopment authority (or equivalent organization).

- **Military Leadership Award**

An individual from any branch of the military whose outstanding leadership has been essential in building

and sustaining partnerships with defense communities that are home to active, realigning or closing installations. The nominee may be active or civilian military personnel who has played a role in defense community issues at any level and who demonstrates vision for establishing new models of partnerships across the country.

- **John Lynch Base Redevelopment Leadership Award**

An individual whose outstanding leadership has been essential in ensuring that a community or local redevelopment authority has (1) helped address the community's specific economic needs following base realignment or closure; (2) shown measurable results; (3) incorporated innovative public-private partnerships; and/or (4) served as a model for other communities across the country.

The nominee's activities must be associated with a redevelopment project that is in the construction phase or has been completed within the past two years. The nominee must be a current ADC member and may not have received an ADC Defense Community Award in the past three years. The awards process is expected to open on February 17th. The initial deadline for award nominations will be March 24th, but ADC reserves the right to extend the deadline to March 31st if need be.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I'm in San Antonio at the ADC Installation Innovation Forum. We have had several Florida communities and programs featured during the forum. We will be bringing back several best practices for our next meeting on March 15th in Tallahassee. We have a full agenda and our featured panel will be discussing Energy Assurance and Resiliency. A big topic of our installations. You don't want to miss this session.

As I write this note, HB7005 is still making its way through the legislative process. This bill would eliminate EFI. The Florida Defense Alliance exists due to the vision and innovation of EFI. In fact, our first meeting was in March of 1997 as we created the framework of our defense initiative so the State of Florida would be proactive in addressing the needs of our military communities, assist those communities which had installations close or major missions lost, and to have defense depended communities look at ways to diversify their economies. Our encroachment program exists because of you, the members of FDA in partnership with FDEP, leveraging the Florida Forever program and maximizing federal funds.

The Defense Infrastructure Grants came through the FDA as we realized we needed another tool to address the joint needs of the military communities. In addition, we joined forces across the state to look at best practices as well as like opportunities and challenges to develop programs.

In 1999, our Family Support Working Group began with the assistance of Mrs. Pace and Mrs. Franks as we worked on legislation to assist military families and spouses on employment challenges and opportunities including the transferring of licensure and certifications across state lines, the K-12 school compacts as well as working with businesses that employed members of our national guard and reserves to ensure their position would be there for them. It was through the FDA that seven of our CareerSource areas have dedicated staff to assist our military spouses in finding employment opportunities and transferring their licenses and certifications. Further, looking at legislation to assist our service men and women with tuition assistance, capping of interest on payday loans and many more successes.

This has been a bottom up approach in addressing the opportunities and challenges as well as to be proactive so Florida is the most military friendly state. You have been the foundation keeping the state of Florida moving forward addressing the needs of our military communities. You, the members of the

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR (Continued)

FDA make a difference. You stay together through different administrations and the ups and downs of a state budget. However, remember before EFI we had no vision. The communities did not work together. There was no program.

Don't be silent now! Voice your concerns and opposition to HB7005!

We need to be proactive and prepared for the next Strategic Basing, Base Realignment and Redevelopment.

Thank you for all that you do. I applaud each of you for the passionate work that you do.

YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, MARCH 15 – FDA Meeting in Tallahassee, 8 AM EST to 4 PM EST
DEO Workshop from 4 PM to 5 PM

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

Semi- Annual Meeting DRAFT Agenda Hampton Inn & Suites, Tallahassee, Florida (As of: February 22, 2017)

March 15, 2017

0800-1700 EST

0800-0815	Welcome Remarks/Introductions	Kellie Jo Kilberg
0815-0830	EFI New President/Secretary of Commerce	Chris Hart
0830-0900	Washington DC Update	General Michael Jones
0900-0915	NASJAX Best Practices Partnership Programs	Harrison Conyers
0915-0930	Break	

0930-1130	Energy Resiliency Panel	General Michael Jones
1130-1245	Lunch	
1245-1430	Working Groups Meet Mission Sustainment Family Support	Jeff Fanto Rita Smith
1430-1445	Florida Defense Support Task Force Update	Terry McCaffrey
1445- 1515	Working Groups' Report / FDA Discussion Mission Sustainment Family Support	Jeff Fanto Rita Smith
1515-1600	Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update South Florida Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties East Central Florida Brevard and Orange Counties West Central Florida Highlands, Polk, Tampa and Pinellas Counties Northeast Duval and Clay Counties Northwest Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa and Bay Counties	Local Defense Partners
1600-1700	Defense Grants Workshop	DEO
	Next Meeting Planning There will be an FDA teleconference is TBA. The Next FDA meeting is Wednesday, November 15, 2017, Orlando, Florida	Kellie Jo Kilberg
	Closing Comments/Adjourn	Kellie Jo Kilberg
1700-1800	FDA/Florida Defense Support task Force No-Host Mixer – Fridays adjacent to the Hotel	



QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

Three Good Quotes from Sir Winston Churchill:

“Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.”

“If you're going through hell, keep going.”

“You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life.”

News from the Bases

Cape Canaveral –

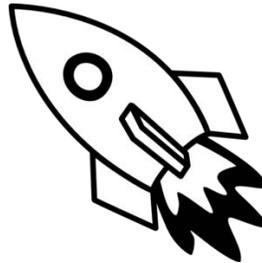
The Governor's Base Commanders Meeting will be held on March 2, 2017 at Cape Canaveral.

CAPT John Sager, Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) Commanding Officer, is hosting the Governor and leadership from all the Military Commands with Florida and the Southeast Region as well as senior leadership from 20 State agencies and organizations to address issues and receive updates on activities and projects.

Approximately four times a year, Governor Scott hosts the leadership noted above as part of his commitment to making Florida the most Military friendly state in the country.

The forum allows Base Commanders to highlight issues with base encroachment, traffic, dependent licensing and certification, veteran's issues and dependent education.

The Governor hears these issues first hand and together with the responsible agency, works to address and resolve those same issues.



Space Coast –

Autonomous Flight Safety to Cut Costs, Expand Capacity at Florida Spaceport - Used for Feb. 19 SpaceX Launch (Source: USAF)

The Air Force is breaking another barrier in spaceflight with implementation of the Autonomous Flight Safety System. AFSS provides the capability to not only reduce reliance on aging range infrastructure, but enhances the ability to support more launches by expediting range turnaround times with more stringent safety standards and fewer people on console while reducing overall launch costs.

A self-contained, independent system mounted to the launch vehicle, AFSS determines if the launch vehicle poses an unacceptable hazard to people or property by using pre-established, programmed mission rules developed by Range Safety Flight Analysts. These configurable software-based rules are reliant on redundant flight processors using data from Global Positioning System and inertial measurement unit navigation sensors. If necessary, AFSS has the ability to destroy the rocket to ensure public safety.

With more stakeholders demanding access to space, both the Eastern and the Western Ranges were faced with developing innovative solutions to launch rockets without compromising public safety while accounting for aging infrastructure and recognizing that the wing has fewer resources and personnel accomplishing comparable and greater launch rates than before. (2/24)

Space Florida Invites Proposals for Spaceport Infrastructure Projects (Source: Space Florida)

Space Florida invites proposals to continue the development of space transportation infrastructure that supports Space Florida's legislative intent and Florida's spaceport territory master plans (Cape Canaveral Spaceport, Cecil Field Spaceport). Each year, Space Florida issues this Call for Projects to allow the aerospace industry the opportunity to submit projects for consideration into the subsequent year's Work Program and Spaceport Improvement Program.

This year, Space Florida will be accepting Space Transportation Infrastructure Matching Fund applications for fiscal years 2019 to 2023. Applications for FY19-23 and updates to previously submitted FY18 projects are due Monday, April 17, 2017. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis for future fiscal years. Applications and additional information can be found at <http://www.spaceflorida.gov/STIMF/>.

Orbital Access Limited to Establish Operations Hub at Cape Canaveral Spaceport (Source: Satellite Today) Orbital Access Limited and Space Florida have signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will see the U.K. space services operator establish a principal operating base at the Cape Canaveral Spaceport. Orbital Access Limited is leading the development of a small satellite launch system with support from the U.K. Space Agency to complement a portfolio of non-launch related space services to be delivered at horizontal launch spaceports, such as the Cape Canaveral Spaceport.

Orbital Access Limited intends to base a fleet specialist aircraft at the Shuttle Landing Facility (SLF), which will provide non-scheduled passenger services, parabolic micro gravity flight services and specialist charters. Specialist providers in the U.S. will offer additional services, such as simulator training and spaceflight participant conditioning. Horizontal takeoff small payload launch services will be added once the development program, currently underway in the UK, is complete and operational permissions have been obtained. Orbital Access Limited is taking forward the development program, the Future UK Small Payload Launcher project, with an industrial team of aerospace and academic partners.

NS Mayport —

NS Mayport picked as forward operating base for drones

Naval Station Mayport has been picked as the East Coast forward operating base for MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial systems.

By Richard Tomkins | Feb. 16, 2017 at 1:47 PM



U.S. Naval Station Mayport in Florida will be the East Coast forward operating base for MQ-4C Triton reconnaissance and surveillance drones. U.S. Navy photo

Feb. 16 (UPI) -- U.S. Naval Station Mayport in Florida has been selected by the Navy as the East Coast Forward Operating Base for MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft systems.

About 400 Triton unmanned aerial system personnel are to be stationed at the base and will support rotational deployments outside the continental United States.

Facility construction will begin this year and the first Triton UAS will arrive at the facility in 2020, the Navy said.

"The MQ-4C Triton's advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities bring enhanced battlespace awareness for the fleet to achieve full spectrum superiority," said Adm. Phil Davidson, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces.

The Navy's Triton UAS fleet is part of the U.S. Navy's Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, which is headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla.

The MC-4C Triton is manufactured by Northrop Grumman.

The Navy utilizes a "remote split" operational concept -- mission crews are located at a main operating base while the aircraft and their maintenance personnel are located at a forward operating base.

NS Mayport will be the launch and recovery site for four forward-based MQ-4C Triton drones and the consolidated maintenance hub for as many as four additional aircraft.

NAS Jacksonville —

Region Southeast Holds Change of Command Ceremony

*By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (EXW/SW/AW) Stacy D. Laseter
Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs*

Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) held a change of command ceremony aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida Feb. 23.

During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Babette "Bette" Bolivar relieved Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson as the region's commander. The time-honored ceremony marked an end to Jackson's leadership of the command that she has headed since July 2014.



CNRSE supports and guides 18 installations throughout the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean.

Vice Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Installations Command, served as the guest speaker for the ceremony. He presented Jackson with the Legion of Merit for her performance of outstanding services and achievements.

“From the front line of Chattanooga to being hand picked to lead, execute and host the first ever East Coast port visit by our Chinese counterparts, the People’s Liberation Army (Navy), to being a champion for renewable energy, the list of Mary’s accomplishments during her time at the Southeast family is truly extraordinary,” said Smith.

NAS Jax runway reopens on schedule

By Julie M. Lucas

NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs

A P-8A Poseidon landed on the new NAS Jacksonville primary runway June 27, signifying the reopening of Towers Field following a major yearlong construction project that required all fixed-wing aircraft operations to move to Cecil Airport for expeditionary style operations.

In the predawn, Runway Project Manager Lt. Jamie Wallace noted that it was exciting for her to call the control tower and request the newly installed LED lights to be switched on, after the runway spent a year in symbolic darkness.

“It was significant to me and that’s what made this project feel complete,” Wallace said. “The \$52 million invested in this project will safely serve the Navy’s Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force – as well as our rotary community and Reserve squadrons.”

Dozens of guests, including military, state and local officials, civilians and retirees, mingled as they shared their experiences with the armed forces.

Patriotic music was delivered courtesy of Navy Band Southeast. Master of ceremonies NAS Jacksonville Executive Officer Capt. Sean Haley welcomed guests and introduced NAS Jacksonville Command Chaplain (Cmdr.) Dennis Andrews, who delivered the invocation, followed by a blessing the runway.

“The completion of the runway represents the collective efforts of hundreds of people, who gave the very best of their skills and abilities to see this project accomplished,” said Andrews. “As we dedicate this air field help us to be mindful that it is a symbol of freedom.”

Remarks were given by lead contractor Archer Western Project Manager Justin Cooper.

“Conversations about teamwork for this major project started long before the runway was shut down and torn up for recycling,” Cooper said. “That kind of communication is what kept everything going.”

Guest speaker was NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Howard Wanamaker who not only welcomed the distinguished visitors, but also recognized the contractors and other key personnel who worked on the project.

“Your dedication, cooperation and patience helped complete this project safely, on time and on budget – thank you,” Wanamaker said.

He also thanked the Jacksonville Aviation Authority and Cecil Airport personnel for their assistance helping to save taxpayers money, with a minimum impact to the community.

“Cecil Airport became our second home and proved to be a dynamic airport, capable of handling all our requests and requirements,” he said. “From the start, with the many facilities upgraded and strong ties to the community, we knew we were going to be successful.”

Wanamaker remarked about the P-8A Poseidon that was circling overhead of the ceremony. “That P-8 is just itching to land, isn’t it?” he joked to the audience.

NAS Jacksonville Air Operations Officer Cmdr. Stephen Polk asked Wanamaker for permission to land the circling aircraft on the primary runway. Wanamaker suggested the use of runway 10-28 and the P-8A briefly touched down and then took off again. Wanamaker finished his presentation by declaring, “Towers Field is now open for military aviation!”

After Andrews gave the benediction, a ceremonial cake was served following aircraft tour.

Today, NAS Jacksonville is home to the most advanced anti-submarine warfare aircrafts in the world –
–The P-8A Poseidon and the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter.

The P-8A Poseidon is designed for long-range anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

The MH-60R Seahawk is the world’s most advanced maritime helicopter designed for anti-submarine warfare; anti-surface warfare; surveillance; communications relay; combat search and rescue; naval gunfire support and logistical support.

New NAS Jax Commissary opens for business

By Kaylee LaRocque, NAS Jax Public Affairs Officer

A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new NAS Jacksonville Commissary was held Feb. 2 as hundreds of patrons came out to shop at the new facility.

As the crowd looked on during the short ceremony, NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Sean Haley, Defense Commissary Agency Director and CEO Joseph Jeu and Commissary Store Director Troy Collins cut the ribbon to open the new store.

“When I first arrived here two years ago, our then store manager, Larry Bentley walked me through the construction site as we began this lengthy and challenging project,” said Haley. “I admit it was hard to picture all this when all we had was a foundation. But over the next two years, the building continued to take shape and we began to realize that this store would certainly exceed all our expectations.”

The \$30 million facility offers a 64,000 sq. ft. sales floor of aisle after aisle of food products along with a large produce section, seafood station, bakery and a new Living Well Corner of organic and natural products. It is also built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver standards featuring 154 skylights and light sensors to greatly reduce energy consumption.

“The first area you see when you walk in the door is our Living Well section,” Jeu told the crowd during the ceremony. “There are more than 1,500 items from frozen and chilled to dry and fresh that make up the Living Well assortment. We call it a store within a store.”

Jeu went on to thank all those involved in the project including the NAS Jax team, general contractor Hoar Construction, vendors, manufacturers and the patrons.

“Today, and every day, it’s our goal to make your shopping experience something you look forward to,” he said. “It’s not enough just to have a new facility and low prices. Our goal is to provide you with great customer service.”

Shoppers spent nearly \$61.5 million at the NAS Jax Commissary in 2016 which includes a 5 percent surcharge. The new store was built entirely from these surcharges.

As patrons entered the new commissary for the first time, many commented on the increased size, ease of shopping and great customer service.

“I have been waiting in line since 4:30 a.m.,” said Ray Carter. “This store opening is something that we have been dreaming of and waiting for. We put our money into it and I look forward to shopping here for many years.”

“This new store is so organized and I was impressed by the organic section,” added AMAN Briena Huie. “I didn’t go to the old store much but I plan to do a lot more shopping at the new one.”

After merchandise is removed from the old store in March, it will immediately be torn down to increase parking with around 550 spots for Navy Exchange and commissary patrons.



"Mr. Joseph Jiu (left), Director and CEO of the Defense Commissary Agency, Mr. Troy Collins, the Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Fla. commissary director, and Capt. Sean Haley, commanding officer of NAS Jacksonville, cut the ribbon to signify the official opening of the commissary at a ribbon cutting ceremony on board the base.

Okaloosa County at the Association of Defense Communities Installation Innovation Forum – San Antonio, Texas





Mark Wise,
 Jeff Fanto,
 LTG Gordon
 Fornell and
 Kay Rasmussen
 at ADC.

Spotlight on: Naval Air Station Jacksonville

Naval Air Station Jacksonville is one of the Navy's finest and fastest growing installations and is the recipient of the 2012 Presidential Excellence Award and 2013 Commander, Navy Installations Command Excellence Award. They are the largest Navy base in the Southeast Region and third in the nation. As a master air and industrial base, Naval Air Station Jacksonville supports U.S. and allied forces specializing in anti-submarine warfare and training of the best aviators in the world.



History –

During World War I, the area now occupied by NAS Jacksonville, often referred to colloquially as "NAS Jax", was named *Camp Joseph E. Johnston*, and was commissioned on October 15, 1917. The United States Army trained quartermasters and the center included more than 600 buildings; by 1918 Camp Johnston was the largest of all Quartermaster mobilization and training camps. The second largest rifle range in the U.S. was constructed there, but the camp was decommissioned on May 16, 1919. The Florida National Guard began using the site in 1928 and it was renamed *Camp J. Clifford R. Foster*. In 1939 a group of 10 ex-service men traveled to Washington at their own expense to talk the Navy, who was looking for a new base, to come and look at the old National Guard base, they did and liked what they saw. Most of their names are lost to history. Only two are known: Charles Bennett and Ira Lane. On October 15, 1940, Naval Air Station Jacksonville was officially commissioned, and became the first part of the Jacksonville Navy complex that would eventually include NAS Cecil Field and Naval Station Mayport, as well as numerous naval auxiliary air stations and

outlying fields in northeast Florida. On the same date, Captain Charles P. Mason, USN, raised his command pennant as the station's first commanding officer.



**Commanding Officer
Captain Sean P. Haley**

Captain Sean Patrick Haley graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1992. He was designated a naval aviator in 1994 and reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 40 (HSL-40) in Mayport, Florida, for training in the SH-60B. Haley's first operational assignment was with HSL-48 "Vipers" in Mayport. He deployed with detachments aboard USS San Jacinto (CG 56) and USS Normandy (CG 60). In 1999, Haley reported to the "Airwolves" of HSL-40 as a SH-60B instructor pilot. He later served with the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center at NAS Fallon, Nevada and with the HSL-48 for duties as the squadron SWTI. In September 2003, Haley began a tour with the "Grandmasters" of HSL-46 on board USS Spruance (DD 963) and later completed a deployment to the Arabian Gulf with the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) Carrier Strike Group. From November 2005 until March 2008, Haley served as an action officer in the Joint Operations Division (JOD), Current Operations Directorate (J-3), of the Joint Staff, in Washington, D.C. In November 2008, he reported to HSL-44 as executive officer and assumed command of the world famous "Swamp Foxes" in March 2010. While in command, the squadron relocated to NAS Jacksonville and transitioned to the MH-60R; achieving fully operational certification six months ahead of schedule. From July 2011 until April 2013, Haley was assigned as the sensors, ASW, aviation and directed energy branch head in the Surface Warfare Directorate (N96) on the OPNAV staff. In May 2013, he transferred to the OPNAV Air Warfare Directorate (N98) where he served as the multi-mission branch head and MH-60R requirements officer until his detachment in January 2015. In February 2015, Haley reported to NAS Jacksonville, Florida, as executive officer. He became the 47th commanding officer on Aug. 18, 2016.

NAS Jacksonville has the following tenant commands:

- Commander, Navy Region Southeast
- Naval Hospital Jacksonville: Hospital and Branch Health Clinic
- Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit Jax
- Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Eleven
- Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Jacksonville
- Fleet Logistics Center Jax
- Fleet Readiness Center Southeast
- Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School (MPRWS)
- Navy Drug Screening Lab Jax
- Region Legal Service Office
- Jacksonville University Navy ROTC
- Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Jax
- Document Automation Printing Service
- Personnel Support Detachment Jax
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast
- Navy Entomology Center of Excellence
- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 14
- Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202
- Navy Band Southeast
- Navy Munition Command Det Jax
- Transient Personnel Unit Jax



Did You Know? Facts About Energy Awareness

- Last year the energy costs for the U.S. Army was about \$4 billion -- about 70 percent of that was spent on fuel.
- During World War II, supporting one Soldier on the battlefield took one gallon of fuel per day. Today, we use over 22 gallons per day, per Soldier.
- For a 72-hour mission, today's infantry platoon, consisting of 30 Soldiers, carries 400 pounds of batteries to power their equipment.
- We have 1.1 million Soldiers in our ranks and more than 400,000 civilians and contracted employees. If we were a city, we would represent the fourth largest city in the United States.
- The Army has 158 installations worldwide; more than 132,000 miles of infrastructure for electric, gas, sewer and water; and over one billion square feet of office space.
- The Army owns more than 15 million acres of land across the United States, or about 24,000 square miles which, if the Army was a state, we'd be the 42nd largest.
- The Federal Government first set aside time to raise energy awareness in 1981 with American Energy Week, which was observed from 1981 through 1985. It became a month-long observance at the U.S. Department of Energy in 1986. On September 13, 1991, President George Bush proclaimed October as Energy Awareness Month. Since then, DOE has been conducting energy awareness campaigns each year that promote the wise and efficient use of our nation's energy.
- President Barack Obama proclaimed October 2009 National Energy Awareness Month to shine new light on energy awareness activities. Within the proclamation, President Obama stated, "During National Energy Awareness Month, we recognize the contributions of individuals, organizations and companies that are committed to advancing energy innovation and efficiency and we promote the importance of clean energy economy to our Nation." President Obama signed a similar proclamation in 2010, continuing October as National Energy Awareness Month.
- October Energy Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for the Army to focus and strengthen efforts to improve the Army's energy security. This year the Army is focused on "Army Power and Energy: Enhancing Mission Effectiveness, while Preserving Future Choices."
- To accomplish their global mission the Army requires assured access to energy to meet operational needs and to power installations. The Army must aggressively improve their power and energy posture in order to reduce their reliance on a fragile electric grid and vulnerable foreign oil supplies. The Army must work collectively to change their culture, making energy a consideration in everything that we do and every Soldier a power manager.

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

With all the increasing talk about BRAC, the work FDA members do becomes even more important. Over the past 5 years, Florida has done an outstanding job in preparing for any reductions, realignments or downsizing from the Department of Defense. We have strengthened our military installations by preventing encroachment, improving transportation access in and around bases and doing all we can to improve the military value of all of our bases. But most importantly, it has been our local defense community people who have built strong relationships with the military and civilian workforce on every single base in Florida – and their families – that has made Florida the model for other states. Thanks a million for all you do to protect our bases and improve the quality of life for all our service members and their families. The work you continue do every single day truly makes 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



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

March 17, 2017

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

NEWS

Governor and Cabinet OK \$1.67M Barefoot Palms Purchase -- The Florida Cabinet on Tuesday agreed to purchase land next to the Navy base, putting the final exclamation point on a controversial land deal in Bay County that has lingered for seven years. Gov. Rick Scott and the Cabinet on Wednesday agreed to purchase 8.4 acres from Bay County for \$1.67 million to provide a larger buffer zone for the Naval Support Activity facility off Thomas Drive. The acquisition of this non-conservation land has been a top priority for a number of years.

Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) Funds at Risk – The reduction of Florida Forever funding puts Federal REPI at risk. Currently, Florida has over \$3 million of funding already provided to Florida that is set to expire by the end of FY 18. Both the Florida Defense Alliance and the Florida Defense Support Task Force plan to submit letters to the Governor and Legislature to make them aware of the connection between Florida Forever funding and military base buffering and to encourage them to provide enough funding through Florida Forever to match REPI funds provided by the Department of Defense.

President Trump's Executive Order on the Military -- On January 27, President Trump on Friday signed an executive order that will lead to what he called "a great rebuilding" of the military. The directive, signed during the commander in chief's first visit to the Pentagon, calls for reviews of readiness capabilities, as well as formal looks at the nuclear and missile defense portfolios. Trump said the "executive action" would lead to "developing a plan for new planes, new ships, new resources and new tools for our men and women in uniform, and I'm very proud to be doing that."

Defense Budget News -- DOD has delivered an FY 2017 budget supplemental to the Office of Management and Budget that would increase current-year defense spending over what the Obama administration recommended and Congress approved. This budget amendment would "address urgent warfighting readiness shortfalls across the joint force, and new requirements driven by acceleration of the campaign against ISIS. The amendment may increase force structure in critical areas where doing so would have an immediate readiness impact," according to the document, and while it will create a net increase in spending over the current FY 2017 spending plan, it may make cuts from lower priority programs as needed to offset some of the cost.

New National Defense Strategy – The President has directed the creation of a new National Security Strategy (NSS) upon which DOD can then write a new 2018 National Military Strategy (NMS). This strategy will inform how the military grows going forward and contain new business reform agendas to further revise defense acquisition processes.

Fleet Readiness Center SE – The Navy has designated Fleet Readiness Center Southeast (FRG SE) as a Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for the maintenance and repair of sea-based and maritime

aircraft and the related aeronautical systems and equipment. Systems repaired include: Helicopters (MH-60R and S), aircraft (C- 2A and E-2C and D, EA -6B, P-3), fighter aircraft (F/A-18 A-F variants), trainers (T-6, T-34, T-44), and various components. Future workload includes the unmanned aircraft MQ-4C Triton.

Recent Base Visits by The Principi Group –

125th FW -- Visited with Jacksonville community leaders and FL National Guard representatives to discuss the pending Air Force decision regarding the stationing of the F-35 with another Air National Guard unit. The 125th Fighter Wing is among the candidate finalists under consideration.

Hurlburt Field -- During a visit to Hurlburt, we noted they have developed a Welcome Center that is being modeled by the Air Force. It helps service members and their families deal with the stresses of moving, and the mission they will be engaged with. They are the most deployed base in the AF.

Eglin AFB -- In a visit to Eglin AFB, their leadership expressed appreciation for the support Florida provides the military and great relationship with the community. We discussed several topics. One of particular note was the Gulf Range Enhancement (GRE), one of the major projects the wing is engaged with. It is their effort to manage the ranges more effectively, and to get range improvements in place to be prepared for the new weapons systems being developed and delivered today and tomorrow. In order to make it affordable, they broke the GRE into 4 increments or phases. The first 2 increments are funded on the FYDP FY 19-24. Increments 3 and 4 are not in the FYDP. It will tie in Live-Virtual-Constructive functionality. The funding in the FYDP is via the AF Budget. The GRE program is key to keeping the Ranges relevant to OSD.

NAS Whiting Field -- During a NAS Whiting Field site visit, we noted Whiting Field has won the CNIC Installation Excellence Award for small bases the last two years and claims some 40 other awards during that period. This is a very impressive record. Whiting averages over a million flight operations (defined as a take-off or a landing) each year, and continues to accomplish an essential mission for the Navy.

ADC Defense Community Awards – ADC has extended their entry deadline to 31 March 2017. Go to <http://us4.campaign-archive2.com/?u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=527259df75&e=2af978a613>

Proposed Military Friendly Legislation –

HB 615/SB 1272 – Waives initial professional licensing fees for active duty and spouses.

HB 509/SB 1132 – Waives postsecondary school fees for military members on tuition assistance.

FDA Meeting Panel Presentations on Energy The energy resiliency presentation provided to the FDA on 15 March 2017 can be found: <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/fda-presentations-2017-website.pdf>

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to all of you who attended the FDA meeting last Wednesday in Tallahassee! We had wonderful and insightful discussions on Energy Resiliency, Best Practices and Cyber Security.

A HUGE thank you goes out to all of our speakers: Mike Grissom, General Mike Jones, Harrison Conyers, Shawn Bennett, Matthew Avery, Dave Robau, Matt Ridley, Kelley Smith-Burk, Tim Jones, Jeff Fanto, Rita Smith and Terry McCaffrey.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Tuesday, May 23 – FDA Teleconference Meeting,
9 AM EST



Wednesday, November 15—FDA Meeting in Orlando,
Florida



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

FDA WEB SITE

Presentations from the March 15th FDA Meeting in Tallahassee have been uploaded to the website!

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/fda-presentations-2017-website.pdf>

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.”

—General Douglas MacArthur

March FDA Meeting Pictures





News from the Bases

MacDill AFB –

6 From Tampa Bay Accepted into National Security Forum

The National Security Forum (NSF) is an annual week-long event at the U.S. Air Force Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Sponsored by the Secretary of the Air Force, NSF began in 1954 as an expansion of the Civilian Outreach Seminars held by the Air Force from 1947 through 1949. The purpose of the NSF is to expose influential civilians with limited to no military experience to senior U.S. and international military officers and civilian Department of Defense equivalents in order to engage each other's ideas and perspectives on the U.S. Air Force, other U.S. military services, and national and international security issues.

The NSF is also an opportunity for Air War College students, typically lieutenant colonels and colonels and Navy and Coast Guard commanders and captains, to interact with a broad cross-section of civilian leaders from business, industry, academia, media, law, medicine, the clergy, and state and local governments. The NSF provides a frank and candid exchange of views on national security matters among the NSF attendees, the Air War College students, and senior military and civilian leaders from across the U.S. military and the Federal government. The week-long forum is devoted to exploring the many issues that affect the current and future security of the United States and its partner allied nations. Specific objectives of the NSF are:

- To provide an extended opportunity for candid engagement of ideas on current and future national and international security issues impacting the U.S. armed forces and the forces of our Allied and Coalition partner nations.
- To provide a unique forum in which experts/guest speakers on various aspects of national and international security may discuss their views with students, faculty and the NSF attendees.
- Broaden the perspectives and garner a mutual understanding of the U.S. Air Force, the other U.S. military services, and national and international security issues between the NSF attendees and senior U.S. and international military officers and civilian Department of Defense equivalents.

NSF attendees are nominated by active or retired general officers of the U.S. Air Force or by previous NSF attendees. The Air War College forwards these nominations to the Secretary of the Air Force for review, then sends the selectees a personal invitation. Between 100 and 200 individuals are selected for and participate in the program each year.

Selectees for the 2017 NSF from the Tampa Bay area are:

- * Dave Andreychuk – Retired NHL professional hockey player and Vice President for the Tampa Bay Lightning
- * Dr. Ken Atwater – President, Hillsborough Community College
- * Allen Brinkman – Chairman, President and CEO of SunTrust Bank's Florida Division
- * Mike Meidel – Director, Pinellas County Economic Development
- * John Tilacos – Vice President, Operations & Customer Service, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority
- * Will Weatherford – Founder and Managing Partner, Weatherford Partners; former member, Florida House of Representatives and former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives

Tampa Chamber honors military personnel

[Florida Business Daily Reports](#)

The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce recently recognized several members of the military at an awards ceremony. The 2017 Military Appreciation Awards were presented by USAA, an insurance and financial firm started in the 1920s in the United States by military veterans who could not get car insurance so they banded together to insure each other.

Ret. Gen. Anne Dunwoody gave a keynote address, according to a chamber press release Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, as well as chamber leaders, recognized the service members' contributions. This was the 19th year the chamber has held the recognition event for local military personnel. The awards recognize "outstanding contributions to the greater good of the Tampa Bay community," according to the press release.

The awards and the winners included:

- ◇ Bob Cutler Volunteer Award: Edward Spenceley, Bank of America
- ◇ The University of Tampa ROTC Cadet of the Year: Cadet Nathan Bleckley
- ◇ University of South Florida ROTC Cadet of the Year: Cadet Abby Kingery
- ◇ Department of Defense Civilian Employee of The Year: Jeffery "Scott" Sasser
- ◇ U.S. Central Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Sgt. Jordan Belser
- ◇ U.S. Central Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Staff Sgt. Kyle Dalton
- ◇ U.S. Special Operations Command Central Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Staff Sgt. Carla Summers
- ◇ U.S. Special Operations Command Central Officer of the Year: Maj. Duane Stamm
- ◇ U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Sgt. Mathew Smith Jr.
- ◇ U.S. Special Operations Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Brian Barrentine
- ◇ U.S. Special Operations Command Officer of the Year: Capt. Bryan Tye
- ◇ Joint Communications Support Element Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Petty Officer Barrett Hamm
- ◇ Joint Communications Support Element Officer of the Year: Capt. William Moore
- ◇ 6th Air Mobility Wing Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Jared Jessup
- ◇ 6th Air Mobility Wing Officer of the Year: Capt. Michael McFadden
- ◇ 927th Air Refueling Wing Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Tech. Sgt. William Mitchell

Florida Refueling



An Air Force MC-130J Commando II approaches a KC-135R Stratotanker for refueling during a training sortie during Emerald Warrior 17 over Florida, March 7, 2017. The U.S. Special Operations Command exercise focuses on joint special operations forces as they train to respond to various threats across the spectrum of conflict. The Commando II is assigned to the 9th Special Operations Squadron and the Stratotanker is assigned to the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Ohio Air National Guard. (Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Ashley Williams)

Spotlight on: Camp Blanding



Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC) near Starke, is the National Guard's premier training site in North Florida. The 73,000-acre post provides resources to enhance joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational training in support of our nation, state and communities. As a key stakeholder in the region, CBJTC continues to grow new partnerships and enhance existing ones.

Quality customer service is provided to a wide range of customers spanning the Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental and Multinational (JIIM) Spectrum. This diverse customer base keeps CBJTC relevant while providing various revenue streams to sustain its capabilities. The application of state and federal funds provides continual improvements for existing services, creates opportunities for the development of new ranges, and supports construction of facilities to better meet the needs of our customers. Camp Blanding remains committed to and capable of supporting JIIM organizations desiring to train both federal and state missions.

Named after former Chief of the National Guard Bureau and Florida Guardsman, Army Lt. Gen. Albert Hazen Blanding, the post has been an important training site for our military members since World War II. In January 2015, CBJTC celebrated its 75th Anniversary recognizing its past importance as a mobilization station as well as highlighting its future relevance in the current Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) operating environment.

Camp Blanding aspires to be the premier domestic and combat training facility in the southeastern U.S with a focus on Unified Land Operations up to brigade size elements. It continually seeks opportunities to offer training for the "whole of government" approach while showcasing its capabilities as a state-of-the art, year-round training venue.

History

Camp Blanding has had an interesting history. It was originally designated as a Naval Air Station in the later part of the 1930's because it is located on Lake Kingsley. The site the Navy really wanted was on the St. James River in Jacksonville, but the land was already designated for the Florida National Guard use. The two forces engaged in talks and a land-swap was arranged. At that time the National Guard Officers Association of Florida recommended the camp be named in honor of Lieutenant General Albert H. Blanding. Blanding was a Florida native who commanded the 2nd Florida Brigade during the Mexican Border War in 1916-17.

In 1940 the regular Army leased Camp Blanding as a training center. It became an induction center for soldiers, an infantry replacement training center and for a period of time, it was also a German prisoner of war detainee camp that held 2000 Germans. During World War II Camp Blanding had grown so much it was equal in size to the fourth largest city in Florida and was one of the largest training centers in the United States. After the war, the camp downsized and land was given back to Florida for use as a guard training

site. From the end of the war until 1970 when efforts to upgrade the post began, there was little use made of Camp Blanding. In 1981 the Department of Defense designated the camp as a class A military installation and Camp Blanding has been building and growing ever since.



Col. Daniel Johnson - Commander, CBJTC

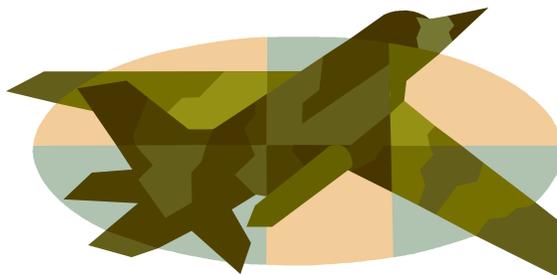




Did You Know? St. Patrick's Day Trivia

- St. Patrick's Day marks the Roman Catholic feast day for Ireland's patron saint, who died in the 5th century. St. Patrick (Patricius in Latin) was not born in Ireland, but in Britain.
- Irish brigands kidnapped St. Patrick at 16 and brought him to Ireland. He was sold as a slave in the county of Antrim and served in bondage for six years until he escaped to Gaul, in present-day France. He later returned to his parents' home in Britain, where he had a vision that he would preach to the Irish. After 14 years of study, Patrick returned to Ireland, where he built churches and spread the Christian faith for some 30 years.
- Many myths surround St. Patrick. One of the best known—and most inaccurate—is that Patrick drove all the snakes from Ireland into the Irish Sea, where the serpents drowned. (Some still say that is why the sea is so rough.) But snakes have never been native to the Emerald Isle. The serpents were likely a metaphor for druidic religions, which steadily disappeared from Ireland in the centuries after St. Patrick planted the seeds of Christianity on the island.
- In the United States, it's customary to wear green on St. Patrick's Day. But in Ireland the color was long considered to be unlucky, says Bridget Haggerty, author of *The Traditional Irish Wedding* and the Irish Culture and Customs Web site. As Haggerty explains, Irish folklore holds that green is the favorite color of the Good People (the proper name for faeries). They are likely to steal people, especially children, who wear too much of the color.
- Colonial New York City hosted the first official St. Patrick's Day parade in 1762, when Irish immigrants in the British colonial army marched down city streets. In subsequent years Irish fraternal organizations also held processions to St. Patrick's Cathedral. The various groups merged sometime around 1850 to form a single, grand parade.

- Today New York's St. Patrick's Day parade is the longest running civilian parade in the world. This year nearly three million spectators are expected to watch the spectacle and some 150,000 participants plan to march.
- Dublin's St. Patrick's Day parade is little more than 75 years old. This year festival organizers will launch 15,000 pounds (7 metric tons) of fireworks to cap their celebration, which is expected to draw 400,000 spectators.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 34 million United States residents claim Irish ancestry, or nearly ten times the entire population of Ireland today, which stands at 3.9 million. Among U.S. ethnic groups, the number of Irish-Americans in the U.S. is second only to the number of German-Americans.
- Since 1820, 4.8 million Irish have legally immigrated to the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The agency reports that only four countries—Germany, Italy, Mexico, and the United Kingdom—have sent more native-born residents to become naturalized U.S. citizens.
- Chicago is famous for dyeing the Chicago River green on St. Patrick's Day. The tradition began in 1962, when a pipe fitters union—with the permission of the mayor—poured a hundred pounds (45 kilograms) of green vegetable dye into the river. (On the job, the workers often use colored dyes to track illegal sewage dumping.) Today only 40 pounds (18 kilograms) of dye are used, enough to turn the river green for several hours. According to the Friends of the Chicago River, a local environmental group, more people are likely to view the Chicago River on St. Patrick's Day than on any other day.
- Guinness stout, first brewed by Arthur Guinness in Dublin, Ireland, in 1759, has become synonymous with Ireland and Irish bars. According to the company's Web site, 1,883,200,000 (that's 1.9 billion) pints of Guinness are consumed around the world every year.
- Robert Louis Stevenson, the 19th-century Scottish author of *Kidnapped*, *Treasure Island*, and other novels, brought a store of Guinness with him during a trip to Samoa in the South Pacific, according to the Guinness Web site.
- Ireland is about 300 miles (480 kilometers) long and 200 miles (320 kilometers) wide. Those facts, along with other features, led Swedish geographer Ulf Erlingsson to recently conclude that the Atlantic Ocean island is the same one identified by ancient Greek philosopher Plato as Atlantis in his famous dialogues *Timaeus* and *Critias*.



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

In support of the Florida Defense Alliance and the great work done by its members across Florida

In one fell swoop, the Florida House of Representatives buried a great organization dedicated, for the last 19 years, to keeping our bases strong and improving the quality of life for the 60,000 military members and their families in the Sunshine State. Last week, the House passed HB 7005 eliminating the Florida Defense Alliance along with Enterprise Florida, Inc. and put one of our strongest allies in keeping our military bases in Florida out of business.

This is a clear signal to service members and their families that Florida does not value their contributions.

Florida is blessed with 20 military bases including 3 unified commands and an immense range complex. The military brings over \$79 billion into the state and provides almost 775,000 direct and indirect jobs to Florida.

The Alliance is a grass roots consortium of Florida citizens including federal, state and local government, the defense industry, economic development organizations and other supporters who work to protect, promote and enhance the military value of Florida installation missions. Their actions are critical to enhance quality of life for Florida military families. The FDA receives absolutely no money from the Legislature.

But perhaps the most important aspect of their body of work is their ability to help protect Florida bases from elimination under federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions. Formed due to the loss of the Orlando Naval Training Center during the 1993 BRAC, the Alliance initiated a state-funded grant program to preserve and protect military installations against future BRACs. With Congress poised to announce another BRAC as soon as 2019, now is not the time to abolish this Alliance.

These dedicated civilian volunteers also work to ensure that the bases' relationship with the local community is smooth and strong. The Alliance members are key players in local economic development organizations and chambers of commerce across the state, making a natural connection with Enterprise Florida as the state's economic development agency.

Moreover, the Alliance works to preserve the test, training and maneuver areas in Florida which ensure combat readiness and keep these economic drivers in the state. Members constantly remind local and state governments that development around bases needs to be compatible with the military mission and not encroach upon the military's ability to train for combat.

The Florida Defense Alliance has promoted military-friendly legislation over the past 19 years to better the quality of life for our military members and their families. Legislation has included streamlining licensing and certifications for service members and spouses, assisting military children whose parents are deployed and protecting military families from predatory lenders.

Over the years, the Governor and the Legislature have made Florida the most military-friendly state in the nation – but now that reputation is in jeopardy. By killing the Florida Defense Alliance, the Florida House has weakened Florida's advocacy for its military bases and silenced the voices of 20 local defense communities. It helps make Florida's bases less secure in the coming BRAC. This is not the signal we want to send to brave men and women who wear the uniform of our armed forces and the communities that support them.

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS



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





Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

March 29, 2017

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

NEWS

Roundtables: In Defense of the FDA – Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg is participating in a roundtable with Governor Scott in Jacksonville today. The focus is to discuss economic development and jobs programs, specifically those that invest in Florida’s military and defense communities. Kellie Jo will be presenting remarks on the importance of the FDA to Florida. Tomorrow, Lisa Monnet, President of the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, will be with Governor Scott in a similar venue in Tampa.

Florida Congressional Delegations Support Continued Moratorium on Oil Exploration and Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico East of the Military Mission Line – Senator Nelson has submitted a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke and Congressmen Dunn and Gaetz have submitted a similar letter to Secretary of Defense James Mattis supporting maintaining the moratorium on oil and gas leasing activities in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line.

FL Congressional Delegation Calls For Carrier at Mayport – In a March 20, 2017 letter to the SecDef and SECNAV, every member of the FL CODEL requested an aircraft carrier be homeported at NS Mayport next year. The letter cited the Navy’s need to strategically separate the carrier fleet on the east coast and noted that NS Mayport had been identified in 2010 but preparations for carrier support had been deferred several times due to budget cuts. They argued that Mayport has previously maintained a carrier, making it a great choice

Senator Broxson Appointed to the Florida Defense Support Task Force – Senate President Joe Negron has appointed Senator Doug Broxson to the Task Force last week. Senator Broxson is from FL Senate District 1 which includes several important military installations including NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, Corry Station and Saufley Field. The Senator is currently the Vice Chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee and holds a seat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, among other committee assignments. Senator Broxson served as a Representative in the Florida House from 2010-2016 prior to election to the Florida Senate in 2016.

FL Sen Gibson Makes F-35 Resolution/ Passed by Senate -- The Florida Senate passed a resolution sponsored by Senator Gibson expressing support for basing Air Force F-35A Lightning II joint strike fighter aircraft at the Florida Air National Guard base at Jacksonville International Airport.

OSD Tasks GOMEX Assessment – On 27 Feb 2017, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) directed a new “**Mission Compatibility Assessment of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico**”. The goal is to document current and future test and training needs in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to sustain DoD’s ability to conduct missions in the Gulf. The tasker directs services and range users to provide inputs not later than June 10, 2017.

DoD Legacy Program Announces Application Window – The DoD Legacy Program funds high priority conservation projects that foster mission sustainment while promoting the long-term stewardship of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. The attached memo (FY2018 Legacy RFP and AOE) announces the request for pre-proposals and describes the Fiscal Year 2018 Areas of Emphasis (AOEs). The DoD Legacy Program will consider proposals that address at least one of the following AOEs:

- ◆ Mission Enhancement and Range Sustainment
- ◆ Planning to Address and Adapt to New and Emerging Threats
- ◆ Efficiencies in Cultural Resources Management
- ◆ Asset Resiliency through Historic Preservation
- ◆ Training and Communication

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit – ADC will hold its National Summit June 19-21, 2017 in Washington, DC. There will be more than 600 leaders from around the nation for an event widely recognized as the most comprehensive look at the key issues facing defense communities and installations, including:

- What our new defense strategy may look like and what it means for communities
 - The future of the defense budget, including an in-depth look at the White House's FY 2018 budget proposal
 - Prospects for a new BRAC round and what it might look like
 - Insight from new leaders in DoD and Congress on the future of growing missions such as unmanned aerial vehicles and cyber security.
 - Key issues affecting MWR, housing and quality-of-life policies
 - Briefings from top congressional leaders and staff
 - The future of defense energy policy
 - How joint land-use planning and conservation programs may evolve
- What's next for partnerships

More information available at: <http://www.adcsummit.org/>



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to Jacksonville and Tampa Bay Area for hosting a Governor's Roundtable. I believe the sessions were beneficial in sharing the importance of the role of the Florida Defense Alliance in protecting and promoting our military installations and defense industries as well as develop the collaboration needed to meet the challenges and opportunities in the future with the next possible rounds of BRACs in 2019 and 2021.

While we are working with our elected officials, let's continue to move forward on working with our installations, utilities companies and our local communities on our strategies for energy assurance and resiliency. Please let us know the contact information for your military installation's community planner and energy manager as we plan for the full-day session on

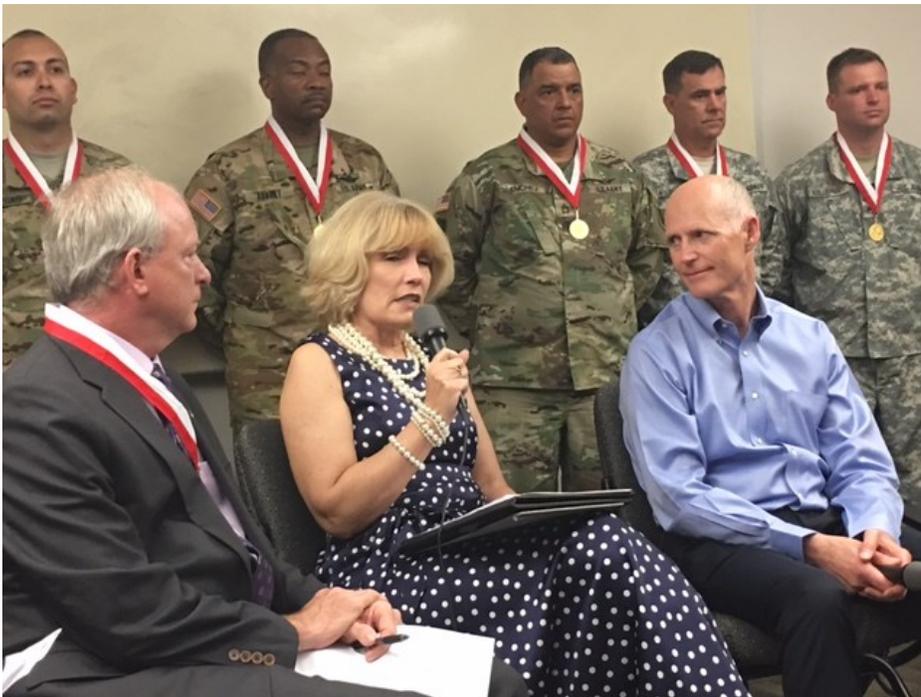
NOTES FROM THE CHAIR (Continued)

Energy resiliency later in the fall. In addition, follow-up on the encroachment list of property, development rights or easements that have been purchased.

We are reaching out to CareerSource Florida on addressing the gap in employment assistance for spouses of veterans as well as Veterans Florida and Department of Veterans Affairs on assistance with the gap for employment assistance for veterans and military retirees within the One-Stop Workforce Systems.

Each one of you makes a difference in your community assisting the military installations and our men and women in uniform. You are the eyes and ears for the FDA on issues and opportunities. Keep up this important work as we keep Florida the most friendly and innovative military state in the nation.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg



FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg at Governor Rick Scott's Roundtable in today Jacksonville discusses the importance and future of the Florida Defense Alliance in Florida's military communities.

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Tuesday, May 23 – FDA Teleconference Meeting, 9 AM EST

Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21 -- ADC National Summit, Washington, DC

Wednesday, November 15—FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida

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

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.”

--- General Douglas MacArthur

March FDA Meeting Pictures



In Defense of the Florida Defense Alliance:

Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Talking Points

HB 7005 passed by the Florida House of Representatives eliminates the FDA along with Enterprise Florida, Inc.

- FDA has a highly successful 19-year history and continues to leverage defense community resources and thousands of volunteer hours for the benefit of Florida's military installations, missions and ranges.
 - ◊ Collectively, FDA members also support more than 60,000 military members, defense civilians and their families, contributing to Florida's national reputation as one of the most defense-friendly states in the nation.
- There are FDA members supporting every military community in the state.
 - ◊ They maintain a strong relationship with military leadership and assist commanders with defense-related issues in the community.
 - ◊ They serve as the bridge between the military and each surrounding community.
 - ◊ The FDA also provides communities with a forum for sharing best practices and presenting a unified message to military leadership.
- FDA members serve as leaders in local government and Chamber military affairs committees to work with local government agencies to assist and support military members and their families.
- Since FDA currently receives no funding from the Florida Legislature, eliminating the FDA does not save money, but potentially places thousands of military and defense jobs and billions of dollars at risk.
- Florida is blessed with 20 military bases including 3 unified commands and an immense range complex.
- The military brings over \$79 billion into the state and provides almost 775,000 direct and indirect jobs to Florida.
- FDA works with local community partners and base commanders to improve the military value of the base to better protect the base from future realignment and/or closure.
- FDA has initiated public-private partnerships with military bases to reduce the operational costs to base commanders.
 - ◊ Such partnerships serve to strengthen the base against realignment or closure and establish unbreakable bonds with the local community into the foreseeable future.
 - ◊ Additionally, the FDA helps communities and installations leverage and maximize program dollars as they develop these partnerships.
- The Alliance is a grass roots consortium of Florida citizens including federal, state, and local government as well as defense industry, economic development organizations, and others that work to protect, promote, and enhance the military value of Florida installations and missions while enhancing the quality of life of Florida military families.

- FDA is the first line of defense to prevent encroachment to Florida's military installations.
 - ◊ It works to preserve the test, training, and maneuver areas in Florida that ensure combat readiness and keep bases in the state.
 - ◊ Members constantly remind local and state governments that development around bases needs to be compatible with the military mission and not encroach upon the military's ability to train for combat.
 - ◊ Encroachment and the threat of incompatible land development is the top concern for every base commander in Florida.
- The Florida Defense Alliance has promoted military-friendly legislation over the past 19 years to better the quality of life for our military members and their families.
 - ◊ Such legislation has included streamlining licensing and certifications for service members and spouses, assisting military children whose parents are deployed, and protecting military families from predatory lenders.
 - ◊ A compilation of military-friendly legislation can be found in the Florida Military Friendly Guide—
 - ◊ <http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide.pdf>
- FDA established the current defense grant program to protect Florida's military bases from realignment and closure.
- FDA has been instrumental in improving educational opportunities for military children.
 - ◊ The FDA promoted and was instrumental in getting Florida to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
 - * The goal of the compact is to replace the widely varying policies affecting transitioning military students. The compact provide a consistent policy in every school district, addresses key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility and graduation. Children of active duty members of the uniformed services, National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders, and members or veterans who are medically discharged or retired for one year are eligible for assistance under the compact.
- FDA works daily to enhance partnerships with communities near military installations and develop economic diversification in those areas along with promoting base efficiencies. Additionally, FDA assists local communities and installation partnerships to understand and implement new DOD directives.
- FDA increases public awareness of the economic and military value of Florida's military installations and defense industries.
- FDA has championed employment opportunities for military spouses.
 - ◊ This program was adopted by Career Source Florida and utilizes a Military Spouse Employment Advocate works with the local military bases, Military Spouse Employment Programs and other groups that reach out to military families. The program services include assessment and testing services, career planning and counseling, referrals to educational and training programs, résumé assistance, interviewing skills training and job search and placement assistance.
- FDA serves as a conduit to introduce local defense support issues that may have statewide impact to the FDSTF.
 - ◊ FDA provides regular reports at FDSTF meetings and carries messages and action back to the communities.

- FDA in conjunction with the Florida Defense Support Task Force and the Governor's Base Commander Meetings serves as a "best practices" model for other states. Florida has been recognized by the Association of Defense Communities, a national-level organization, as a leader in building resilient communities that support military installations and service members and families.

By eliminating the Florida Defense Alliance, the Florida House has weakened Florida's advocacy for its military bases and silenced the voices of 20 local defense communities. The loss of FDA makes Florida's bases less secure in the coming BRAC and sends the wrong signal to the brave men and women who wear the uniform of our armed forces and the communities that support them.

Florida Defense Alliance Background

Vision -- Maintain and enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation.

Purpose -- Enterprise Florida, Incorporated (EFI) 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.

Florida Defense Alliance 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 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.

Florida Statute establishing FDA – 288.980

The Florida Defense Alliance, an organization within Enterprise Florida, Inc., is designated as the organization to ensure that Florida, its resident military bases and missions, and its military host communities are in competitive positions as the United States continues its defense realignment and downsizing. The defense alliance shall serve as an overall advisory body for defense-related activity of Enterprise Florida, Inc. The Florida Defense Alliance may receive funding from appropriations made for that purpose administered by the department.

News from the Bases

NS Mayport—

Florida's congressional delegation pushes for carrier at Mayport

By [News4Jax.com Staff](#), Posted: 4:44 PM, March 20, 2017 Updated: 5:09 PM, March 20, 2017

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/military/floridas-congressional-delegation-pushes-for-carrier-at-mayport>

Florida's congressional delegation signed a letter Monday and sent it to the secretaries of defense and Navy asking that the Pentagon to fund bringing a aircraft carrier to Naval Station Mayport next year.

Sens. Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson and all 27 of the state's U.S. House members urged the U.S. Department of Defense to "fulfill its own recommendation to strategically disperse nuclear aircraft carriers throughout the nation."

Following the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review's recommendation, the U.S. Navy officially announced its decision to achieve this objective by homeporting a nuclear aircraft carriers at Mayport.

In a [letter to Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley](#), the delegation reiterated "the importance of spreading out America's most important naval asset" and highlighted Northeast Florida as the most attractive option.

Mayport is in the district of Jacksonville's newly elected congressman, John Rutherford.

"As we begin the important work of rebuilding our military, particularly our Naval fleet, we must make strategic investments in our national defense," Rutherford said. "Mayport is a critical part of the Navy's mission and future, and I am grateful that our state delegation is fully committed to Mayport's critical role in our national security."

Mayport has not had a carrier since the USS John F. Kennedy was decommissioned in 2007.

MacDill AFB—

12 more tankers with 400 personnel may be headed to MacDill

[Howard Altman, Times Staff Writer](#), Tuesday, March 21, 2017 5:00am

<http://events.tbo.com/news/military/macdill/12-more-tankers-with-400-personnel-may-be-headed-to-macdill/2317243>

The *Tampa Bay Times* has learned that MacDill is one of two bases competing to host 12 more KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling jets and the estimated 400 personnel who come with them.

That is in addition to 16 Stratotankers already there and another eight set to begin arriving this year.

The Air Force is moving the planes to make room for newer KC-46A Pegasus tankers — part of a \$50 billion program to replace the aging fleet of Stratotankers with 179 new planes by 2028.

The 12 Stratotankers will be coming from McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan., said Ann Stefanek, an Air Force spokeswoman. MacDill is competing with Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Wash., for the older jets.

Stefanek said a decision will be made soon about the jets, which first rolled off the assembly lines when Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House.

The eight Stratotankers scheduled to begin arriving this year will come with 220 active duty personnel and 75 reservists, the Air Force said. Approximately 400 personnel would be associated with 12 additional aircraft, Stefanek said.....

Eglin AFB—

State axe targeting students of military families

By Tom McLaughlin | Northwest Florida Daily News, Posted at 12:01 AM, Updated at 6:05 AM

<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20170324/state-axe-targeting-students-of-military-families>

Okaloosa County School Superintendent Mary Beth Jackson is rallying support across Northwest Florida to prevent state House leaders from killing a \$14 million appropriation that provides assistance for students from military families.

"I don't understand it. It's almost like it's an attack, like they're after us because we're a military community," Jackson said. "I'm extremely concerned and I'm going to make my voice heard."

Authors of this year's state budget have targeted the supplement, which aids military-connected students, for elimination.

The funds were originally set aside in 2015 as a way of reimbursing counties like Okaloosa who miss out annually on ad valorem taxes because so much of their taxable land space is taken up by federally and state-owned military installations.

"This money we get assures the children of our military families get equal resources to everybody else," Jackson said.

The approximately \$14 million is split between seven counties, five of which (Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Bay and Escambia) are in Northwest Florida, Jackson said. The other two counties that receive funds are Brevard and Duval.

Jackson said the \$2.3 million Okaloosa receives from the budget item is the largest allocation. The county is split in two by the massive Eglin Air Force Base reservation.....

Eglin Air Force Base Solar Field Hits Milestone

By: Peyton LoCicero, Posted: Mar 23, 2017 07:55 PM EDT, Updated: Mar 23, 2017 07:55 PM EDT

<http://www.mypanhandle.com/news/eglin-air-force-base-solar-field-hits-milestone/679447459>

Valparaiso, Fla. - Things are looking a little brighter in Okaloosa County today as the Eglin Air Force Base solar field hits an impressive milestone.

Gulf power celebrated the half way mark of the largest solar project in terms of megawatts for the U.S. Air Force in the world. This project spans over 240 acres.

"We're at the half way milestone of 1.5 million panels. So, that's a lot of panels and we hope to be live and online by the middle of the summer," said spokesman for Gulf Power, Jeff Rogers.

The project will support the Department of Defense's commitment to renewable energy and help Gulf Power's mission to provide safe, affordable and environmentally responsible energy to Northwest Florida.

"The main impact for Northwest Florida is about 18,000 homes will be able to be powered by these solar rays. And greater than that, it speaks to our philosophy of a balanced energy mix. What that is, is all of the above approach: the cleaner than ever coal, natural gas, wind and now solar. You know, some of the largest east of the Mississippi able to bring that to Northwest Florida," explained Rogers.

Not only does this project help the environment and power homes, but it has also brought jobs to the local area.....

New commander named for 96th Test Wing

Tuesday

Posted Mar 28, 2017 at 4:39 PM Updated Mar 28, 2017 at 4:39 PM

By [KELLY HUMPHREY](#)

EGLIN AFB — A familiar face will soon take command of the 96th Test Wing.

Brig. Gen. (select) Evan Dertien has been tapped to replace current test wing commander Brig. Gen. Christopher Azzano, who has been assigned to head the Air Force's newly formed Directorate of Air, Space and Cyberspace Operations at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. The two men are essentially swapping bases because Dertien now serves as the vice commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson.

"There is no specific date set yet, but we expect the change of command to occur sometime in late May," said Sharon Branick, the chief of media at the 96th Test Wing.

According to his official Air Force biography, Dertien received his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in June 1993. After attending Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, he served as an operational F-15 pilot and completed three combat deployments. He then served as an F-15 instructor pilot and was selected to attend U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School.

Dertien is no stranger to Northwest Florida. From June 2002 to August 2003, he served as an F-16/F-15 test pilot with Eglin's 40th Flight Test Squadron. He returned later to serve as that squadron's commander from July 2008 to June 2010. He also served two tours of duty at Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City.

Dertien is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours and more than 180 combat hours.

Jacksonville —

Retired admiral thinks 'Jacksonville is leader' among 5 finalists to host F-35 fighter jets

By [Ashley Mitchem](#) - Posted: 11:24 AM, March 19, 2017 Updated: 9:10 PM, March 19, 2017

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/military/retired-admiral-thinks-jacksonville-is-leader-among-5-finalists-to-host-f-35-fighter-jets>

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Jacksonville is one of the five locations that the U.S. Air Force is evaluating as finalists to host Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. Ultimately, two locations will be chosen.

News4Jax spoke to retired U.S. Navy Admiral Bob Natter, who believes Jacksonville's infrastructure makes it a prime candidate for the fighter jets.

"Jacksonville has the qualities, hands down, to win this thing," Natter said. "What we need is the politicians behind it."

If it is chosen, Jacksonville would make the transition from the F-15 fighter jets that are currently stationed there to the new F-35 as early as 2022. The F-35 program comes with an estimated cost of \$400 billion.

In addition to Jacksonville, the other four finalists considered are Montgomery, Alabama; Boise, Idaho; Selfridge, Michigan; and Dane County, Wisconsin.

"If you look at (the) strictly military value of the various sites considered for basing these F-35s, there is no doubt Jacksonville has a chance, and, in my opinion, Jacksonville is the leader," Natter said.

Lockheed Martin says the fighter would account for 14,700 jobs in Florida, with an annual economic impact just over \$3 billion.....

Cape Canaveral—

18.6 million project begins on Cape

By Heidi Hunt 45th Space Wing Public Affairs / Published March 27, 2017



(From left to right) Thomas Self, Senator Marco Rubio's regional director for the Central Florida region; Col. Burton Catledge, 45th Operations Group commander; Barbara Arthur, Senator Bill Nelson's regional director; Brig. Gen. Wayne Monteith, 45th Space Wing commander; Rob Medina, Congressman Bill Posey's director of community and military relations; and Lt. Col. Landon Raby, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District deputy commander, dig in during a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Range Communications Facility March 16, 2017, at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. The new \$18.6 million facility is slated to be a 32,314-square-foot facility, replacing the former XY building and is scheduled for completion in 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo/Matthew Jurgens)

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. --

The 45th Space Wing's communication capabilities took a giant step forward with the groundbreaking of the new Range Communications Facility March 16, 2017. A ceremony was held to signify the start of construction for the Eastern Range's \$18.6 million project, which will replace the former XY communications building, and serve as the new work center for the space launch program for decades to come. "It is an exciting time to be at the 45th Space Wing as we continue to break barriers and new ground for the next generation of range communications," said Brig. Gen. Wayne Monteith, 45th Space Wing commander. The new 32,314-square-foot communications facility will be constructed in the industrial area and will directly support range operations. In addition to replacing aging equipment and infrastructure, the upgraded building will also resolve other issues, which plagued the old facility to include problems caused by flooding. "The new facility will alleviate concerns we have every hurricane season resolving structural, mechanical and fire protection problems that the building has experienced over the years. The upgraded facility will now comply with all electrical and telecommunications requirements," said Robert Elliott, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron project manager.

"As space launch and vehicles evolve, so must the technology and facilities we use to support it," Monteith said. "This facility is crucial in advancing us toward our drive to 48 and providing 'assured access to space.'" Once completed, the new facility will house and operate state-of-art communications technology that will decrease operation and maintenance costs and increase long-term reliability, according to William Trump, 45th Range Maintenance Squadron project engineer. Demolition of the former building at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station was completed February 2017, and the new building is slated for completion in 2018. "It is our goal to deliver this project on time and on budget and well look forward to seeing everyone at the ribbon cutting," said Lt. Col. Landon Raby, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District deputy commander.

Homestead ARB—

Exercise Iniohos 17 kicks off in Greece

By Staff Sgt. Ciara Gosier, Air Force Reserve Command / Published March 28, 2017



ANDRAVIDA AIR BASE, Greece -- U.S. Air Force Airmen and twelve F-16C Fighting Falcons from the 482nd Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, began exercise Iniohos 17, here, which will last until April 6.

Iniohos 17 is a Hellenic Air Force-led, large force, flying exercise between NATO Allies and partner nations.



Spotlight on: Team Orlando

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando opened in 1988 as the home of the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD) Orlando. NAWCTSD Orlando is the Navy's principal center for modeling, simulation, and training systems technologies. The Center provides training systems development for a wide spectrum of military programs, including aircraft, surface ships, submarines, and other specialized requirements.

Today, NSA Orlando provides support to all Department of Defense activities in Central Florida, most of which support military training and simulation missions. It has added the U.S. Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation, the Army's equivalent to NAWCTSD Orlando, as a major tenant unit.

Other major supported organizations adjacent to NSA Orlando include the U.S. Marine Corps' Program Manager for Training Systems; the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's SFC Paul Ray Smith Simulation & Training Technology Center; the Orlando office of the U.S. Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation; the U.S. Navy Human Performance Center Orlando; the United States Joint Forces Command's Joint Development Integration Facility and Joint Training Integration and Evaluation Center, and the Joint Advanced Distributed Learning Co-Laboratory.



A major factor in the success of Team Orlando is not only the cooperation between all of the services, but the collaboration between the military/government agencies academia (University of Central Florida) and industry (represented on the Team Orlando Board by the National Center for Simulation). Finally, Central Florida government is represented by the Orlando Economic Partnership and the technology community provides support through the Florida High Tech Corridor Council.

Team Orlando is housed on NSA Orlando and includes all the military services and other federal partners engaged in Modeling, Simulation and Training (MS&T). Additionally, there are more than 1,000 Florida companies & organizations involved in MS&T. This sector directly employs more than 27,000 Floridians with average annual salaries of approximately \$70,000. MS&T contributes almost \$5 billion to the Florida economy and provides in excess of 60,000 jobs.

Mission

Provide consistent, effective and efficient shore installation support services to all tenant DoD agencies enabling their mission accomplishment in a joint services environment.

Base Population

Type	Command	Tenants	Total
Military (AD & Reserve)	3	113	116
Civilians (APF, NAF, FN)	26	2,062	2,088
Contractors	0	Not Avail	0
Total	29	2,175	2,204

Key Tenants

- Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWC TSD)
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast (NAVFAC SE)
- US Army Program Executive Office, for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation
- US Marine Corps' Program Manager for Training Systems
- US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command SFC Paul Ray Smith Simulation & Training Technology Center
- US Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation Orlando office
- United States Joint Forces Command Joint Development Integration
- Facility and Joint Training Integration and Evaluation Center and the Joint Advanced Distributed Learning Co-Laboratory



**NSA Orlando
Commanding Officer
Captain Erik Etz**

Captain Erik "Rock" Etz was commissioned through the Naval ROTC program in 1990 from Stanford University. Captain Etz was designated a Naval Aviator in 1993 and joined the Marauders of VFA-82 in August 1994, flying the F/A-18C Hornet. Captain Etz graduated from the US Navy Test Pilot School, Class 113, in June 1998. At Naval Strike Aircraft Test Squadron, Patuxent River, Maryland he flew test missions in all areas of flight test for F/A-18A-F and T-45A/C aircraft. Captain Etz returned to the fleet in December 2000 as senior Landing Signal Officer and Safety Officer on the staff of Commander, Carrier Air Wing Nine. He also served onboard the USS Stennis and USS Vinson. Captain Etz returned to NAS Patuxent River upon assignment to the Salty Dogs of VX-23. Captain Etz joined VFA-113 in December 2006 as the Executive Officer, again flying the F/A-18C Hornet. In May 2008, Captain Etz assumed command of VFA-113, and led the Stingers in combat operations from the USS Reagan, supporting coalition forces in Afghanistan on two deployments in 2008 and 2009. He later served as the Deputy Lead for the F-35 Mission Systems Integrated Product Team with the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office. Prior to assuming command of NAWCTSD, Captain Etz served as the Executive Officer from June 2014 until April 2016.



**Brigadier General
William E. Cole**

Brig. Gen. Cole is the Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI). PEO STRI executes a multi-billion dollar program annually, and is staffed by more than 1,200 military, government civilian, and service support contractors. The organization also manages Foreign Military Sales' programs which support more than 40 countries.



**Thomas L. Baptiste
Lt Gen, USAF (Ret)
National Center for
Simulation, President &
CEO**



**George E. Cheros
National Center for
Simulation, Chief Operating
Officer**



Did You Know? Some Common Military Acronyms

A-B

- **AAFES** – *Army and Air Force Exchange Service* (This is the tax-free department store for military members, retirees, and their dependents.)
- **ACU** – *Army Combat Uniform*
- **AD** – *Active Duty*
- **AFPFT** – *Air Force Physical Fitness Test*
- **APFT** – *Army Physical Fitness Test*
- **APO** – *Army Post Office* (Address used for overseas duty locations. Mailing to an APO costs the same as mailing to a US address.)
- **ASVAB** – *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery* (Test recruits take that helps determine what their job will be in the service.)
- **AWOL** – *Absent Without Leave*
- **BAH** – *Basic Allowance For Housing* (paid to a service member based on location and dependents.)
- **BAS** – *Basic Allowance for Subsistence* (The money a service member receives for food.)

C-D

- **CDO** – *Command Duty Officer*
- **CINC** – *Commander In Chief*
- **CO** – *Commanding Officer* (The one in charge.)
- **COLA** – *Cost of Living Allowance* (Extra pay given to service members in high cost areas, based on area and number of dependents.)
- **CONUS** – *Continental United States*
- **DEERS** – *Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System* (You must be enrolled in this to be eligible for benefits.)
- **DITY** – *Do-It-Yourself move*
- **DOD** – *Department of Defense*
- **DS** – *Drill Sergeant*

E-M

- **EFMP** – *Exceptional Family Member Program* (Program for military dependents who need have special physical and or mental needs.)
- **FPO** – *Fleet Post Office*
- **IG** – *Inspector General*
- **JAG** – *Judge Advocate General* (Military Lawyers)
- **LES** – *Leave and Earning Statement* (This form, which is available online is your pay stub.)
- **TDY** – *Temporary Duty* (Military member is temporarily assigned to a different duty station, may or may not involve travel.)
- **MAC** – *Military Airlift Command*
- **MCCS** – *Marine Corps Community Service*
- **MEPS** – *Military Entrance Processing Center* (Entrance point for your military career.)
- **MP** – *Military Police*
- **MWR** – *Morale, Welfare, and Recreation*. (Comprehensive network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of soldiers, their families, civilian employees, military retirees, and other eligible participants.)

N-T

- **NCO** – Non Commissioned Officer
- **NCIOC** – Non-commissioned Officer In Charge
- **NEX** – Navy Exchange (Same thing as AAFES, but for the Navy)
- **OCONUS** – Outside Continental United States (Used to describe duty station location)
- **OCS** – Officer Candidate School (Boot camp for officers)
- **OPR** – Officer Performance Report
- **PCS** – Permanent Change of Station (time to call the movers!)
- **PFT** – Physical Fitness Test
- **POA** – Power of Attorney (Every military family must have one of these!)
- **POV** – Personally Owned Vehicle (Your car, truck, van, bus, etc)
- **PRT** – Physical Readiness Test (Navy)
- **TAD** – Temporary Additional Duty (Marines & Navy)
- **TAP** – Transition Assistance Program (Program to help separating service members during their period of transition into civilian life by offering job-search assistance and related services)

U-X

- **USA** – United States Army
- **USAF** – United States Air Force
- **USCG** – United States Coast Guard
- **USMC** – United States Marine Corps
- **USN** – United States Navy
- **WO** – Warrant Officer
- **XO** – Executive Officer (Second in Command)



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Thanks to all members working so hard on a daily basis to help our military members and their families stationed in Florida. It is your efforts that serve to forge those close relationships with the bases and their leadership that make both the bases and communities stronger. We sincerely appreciate all you do to protect and preserve Florida's military installations. It is a privilege to work beside wonderful, dedicated FDA members throughout this state.

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



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

April 12, 2017

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

NEWS

New REPI Report Released – According to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense , “We are pleased to announce that the 2017 REPI Report to Congress is now available on the REPI Program website, http://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports_to_Congress/REPI2017RTC.pdf?ver=2017-03-31-100740-790. The Report summarizes and reviews the achievements of the Program through Fiscal Year 2016: in its 14-year lifespan, the REPI Program has protected 464,668 acres in 89 locations across 30 states.” Visit the REPI website for more useful information on upcoming programs.

State Funding as Match for REPI Funding -- The Florida Defense Support Task Force wrote letters to the Governor, Senate President and House Speaker in support of continued state funding to match committed federal REPI funding. If matching funds are not provided, Florida stands to lose over \$3 million by the end of Federal FY 2018. For copies of those letters, please contact Terry McCaffrey.

USA4 Military Families Issues Annual Assessment – The Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Child & Family Programs (MC&FP) has released its annual assessment of states against their top 10 issues. According to the website, “USA4 Military Families initiative, seeking to engage and educate state policymakers, not-for-profit associations, concerned business interests and other state leaders about the needs of military members and their families.” You can view their Florida assessment at http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil/MOS/f?p=USA4:HOME:0::::P1_STATE:FL

F-35 Community Event—The Florida National Guard will be holding a Community Event at 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville International Airport on April 21, 2017 from 1300-1600. The event is meant to showcase the 125th FW as a prime unit/location to base Air Guard F-35s in the future. This event is by invitation only, however, if you are an FDA member and interested in attending, please contact LTC James Evans at the Florida Air National Guard at 904-741-7030.

Two New Task Force Members –Governor Scott has appointed **Ms. Amy Gowder** to the FDSTF on 31 March 2017. Ms. Gowder brings a wealth of experience in aerospace and logistics in the defense aerospace industry and currently serves as the Vice President and General Manager, Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS), Training and Logistics Solutions, out of the company’s Orlando facility. Senate President Joe Negron appointed **Mr. William Dudley** on 6 April 2017. Mr. Dudley, who resides in St Augustine, is a veteran of the USAF and has extensive experience in the aerospace industry. Since his retirement, Mr. Dudley has also served as national vice president of the National Navy League, president of the Navy League for St. Augustine and Palm Coast Council and chairman of the St. Johns County Veterans Council.

Roundtables: In Defense of the FDA – Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg has participated in two roundtables with Governor Scott – one in Jacksonville and the other in Pensacola. Lisa Monnet, President of the Tampa Bay

Defense Alliance, was with Governor Scott in a similar venue in Tampa. The focus was to discuss economic development and jobs programs, specifically those that invest in Florida's military and defense communities. More about these later in the newsletter.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit – ADC will hold its National Summit June 19-21, 2017 in Washington, DC. There will be more than 600 leaders from around the nation for an event widely recognized as the most comprehensive look at the key issues facing defense communities and installations, including:

- What our new defense strategy may look like and what it means for communities
- The future of the defense budget, including an in-depth look at the White House's FY 2018 budget proposal
- Prospects for a new BRAC round and what it might look like
- Insight from new leaders in DoD and Congress on the future of growing missions such as unmanned aerial vehicles and cyber security.
- Key issues affecting MWR, housing and quality-of-life policies
- Briefings from top congressional leaders and staff
- The future of defense energy policy
- How joint land-use planning and conservation programs may evolve

What's next for partnerships

More information available at: <http://www.adcsummit.org/>



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Congratulations to NAS Whiting Field on being recognized for outstanding support to the community by the Chief of Naval Operations with an Honorable Mention for Personal Excellence Flagship Award. Almost 5,000 hours of volunteer service and 80 NAS Whiting Field team members were engaged in community service activities that promote academics, life skills and civic education for youth. Our communities are blessed by the interaction of our men and women in uniform.

Thank you to Debi Graham, Kay Rasmussen and Carrie Kyzar for attending the Governor's Roundtable discussions in Pensacola. These sessions are making a difference as we share the importance of the role of the Florida Defense Alliance in protecting and promoting our military installations and defense industries as well as develop the collaboration needed to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. I ask you to continue to contact your state representatives and senators regarding your support of FDA. We cannot sit by quietly and allow the misinformation that FDA is redundant. Our state has been successful in addressing the needs, challenges and opportunities of our military installations and their families due to the multi-level approach we have. Each level whether it is the Governor's Base Commanders meeting, Florida Defense Support Task Force or the Florida Defense Alliance serves a purpose in making

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR (Continued)

the State of Florida the most military friendly in the nation.

Make sure to mark your calendars for our next conference call on Tuesday, May 23rd. We will keep moving forward to bring you the connections, resources and best practices so you can collaborate with your communities and installations on moving the military value needle.

Thank you for your support! You make a difference in your communities.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Tuesday, May 23 – FDA Teleconference Meeting, 9 AM Eastern Time

Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21 -- ADC National Summit, Washington, DC

Wednesday, November 15—FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida

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

QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

“The deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle.”

----General John J. Pershing

“I am a soldier. I fight where I am told and I win when I fight.”

----General George S. Patton

“We should always avoid armed conflict. But if you get in it, get in with both feet and get out as soon as possible.”

---General Curtis LeMay

Governor's Roundtables

Pensacola – April 7, 2017



FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg at Governor Rick **Scott's** Roundtable in Pensacola.



Senator Doug Broxson, Debi Graham and Kay Rasmussen at the **Governor's** Roundtable in Pensacola April 7, 2017

Tampa – March 30, 2017

Lisa Monnet
and
Brigadier
General Chip
Diehl with
Governor
Scott in
Tampa.



Jacksonville – March 29, 2017



FDA Chair Kellie Jo
Kilberg at Governor
Rick **Scott's**
Roundtable in
Jacksonville discusses
the importance and
future of the Florida
Defense Alliance in
Florida's military
communities.

Clips from Governor's Roundtables

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PIT8qAdfTc&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYQwF21kPMo>

<http://www.wokv.com/news/local/florida-gov-rick-scott-jacksonville-mayor-push-save-funding-for-enterprise-florida/Sgr90Pf35U7m75YAxpFa9L/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHAOPstPW0s&feature=youtu.be>



Kellie Jo Kilberg pictured with Don Salter and Pete Gandy at the Santa Rosa MAC on Wednesday. Kellie Jo Kilberg was the featured speaker.

News from the Bases

NS Mayport—

NAS Whiting Field recognized for community service

<http://www.srpressgazette.com/news/20170410/nas-whiting-field-recognized-for-community-service>

By Press Gazette contributor

MILTON — The Chief of Naval Operations recognized Naval Air Station Whiting Field’s outstanding support to the community with an Honorable Mention for the Personal Excellence Flagship Award. The award recognizes commands who engage in outstanding community service activities that promote academics, life skills and civic education for youth.

“Congratulations ...This award recognizes our outstanding community service ... but, most importantly, it acknowledges that our actions have truly made a difference,” NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau said. “Well done, Shipmates!”

Almost 80 NAS Whiting Field team members participated in programs designed to help youths in the local community. These included: Celebrate Literacy Week, Sea Cadets, Men in Action of Milton Florida, Civil Air Patrol and Big Brother Big Sister, among others. The team supported these organizations with almost 5,000 hours of volunteer service. Ultimately, their efforts benefited more than 3,200 children.

The award, which is managed by Commander Navy Installations Command, is presented to commands in six categories. NAS Whiting Field was recognized in the Medium Ashore category.

MacDill AFB—

Tampa Airfest 2017



SOFIC—



Please join USSOCOM and NDIA for the 2017 Special Operations Forces Industry Conference (SOFIC) and Exhibition, which will be held May 15–18 at the Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL

This year's conference theme, "Win-Transform-People" reflects the USSOCOM Commander's vision to win the current fight, transform current capabilities and equipment for future threats, and focus on our greatest asset: operators and their families. 2017 SOFIC will provide a forum for the SOF community to come together to network, strategize, and discuss how we can collectively support this vision now and for years to come.

The conference will open with USSOCOM's Marketplace, a resource room of Command experts who will be available to answer attendee questions as they relate to doing business with USSOCOM, an event especially helpful for first-time SOFIC attendees or those who have never done business with the Command. There will also be a variety of SOF-centric panel discussions and workshops throughout the conference. Additionally,

attendees will have the opportunity to hear remarks from the USSOCOM Commander and Acquisition Executive, both of whom will provide their perspectives on SOF challenges, trends, and capability gaps and their thoughts on how USSOCOM and other government agencies, industry partners, and academia can work together to find shared solutions. Throughout the week, attendees will have an opportunity to engage in discussions and Q&A sessions with USSOCOM's Component Commanders, TSOC Commanders, Program Executive Officers, and various acquisition experts across the Command.

New in 2017, in lieu of the gala, NDIA will be hosting a networking reception Wednesday evening from 6:00pm – 8:30pm at the historic Ritz in Ybor City. This event is a great opportunity for attendees to engage with USSOCOM in an informal environment. This includes access to some of USSOCOM's senior leaders and acquisition, technology, and logistics experts to further discussions outside the conference. The evening will also include not to miss live entertainment to make for a one of a kind event. Hors d'oeuvres and a beer/wine bar will be included in the purchase of your ticket. Casual attire is encouraged!

More on Governor Scott's Roundtables

Scott's EFI Defense Gets More Militant

<http://news.wfsu.org/post/scotts-efi-defense-gets-more-militant>

By Jim Ash • Apr 7, 2017

Governor Rick Scott is getting more militant as he defends Enterprise Florida, the business recruitment arm House Speaker Richard Corcoran is targeting for elimination.

Gov. Rick Scott is stumping to save Enterprise Florida from the legislative chopping block. Lately, he's been pointing out the role the business recruiter plays in promoting military infrastructure.

What Corcoran calls corporate welfare Scott calls job creation. Now the governor is stressing the importance of an Enterprise Florida sister group, the Florida Defense Alliance, which protects and defends military infrastructure.

"And we've got 20 military bases and three unified commands. Why wouldn't we want to continue to help make sure we keep all the jobs, you know, help them meet their mission, but on top of that, keep all the jobs here?".....

Gov. Scott calls out Ponder during visit

<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20170408/gov-scott-calls-out-ponder-during-visit>

By TOM McLAUGHLIN

Gov. Rick Scott received an enthusiastic greeting from the local tourism industry Friday when he brought his "Fighting For Florida Jobs" cortege to the World's Luckiest Fishing Village.

As several in the audience at Brotula's Seafood House & Steamer waved signs bearing "Save Tourism" sentiments, Scott did what he's done all over the state by calling out local lawmakers he claims are working to

dismantle Florida's tourism and business marketing agencies.

Former Destin Mayor and recently elected state Rep. Mel Ponder was among those Scott singled out. The governor asked those in attendance whether freshman lawmaker Ponder had campaigned on a promise that he'd "vote to do away with Visit Florida or Enterprise Florida?" The answer was a resounding "no.".....

Military supporters fight for Florida Defense Alliance

By [TOM McLAUGHLIN](#), Posted Apr 3, 2017 at 6:30 PM, Updated Apr 3, 2017 at 6:30 PM

<http://www.crestviewbulletin.com/news/20170403/military-supporters-fight-for-florida-defense-alliance>

If the state House has its way, Enterprise Florida will cease to exist in the next couple of months, and the Florida Defense Alliance will follow it into oblivion.

The Defense Alliance, the parent organization for county or regional Defense Alliances across the state, prides itself on work it has done to protect the state's 20 military bases from encroachment and possible closure.

House leaders, though, say the agency is expendable, as its task is basically the same as the one performed by the Florida Defense Support Task Force.

"The Florida Defense alliance was eliminated in HB 7005 because it's redundant and all its functions are currently being done, and then some, by the Florida Defense Support Task Force," Fred Piccolo, spokesman for Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran, said in an email.

Alliance officials and members of Northwest Florida organizations that work with it disagree with the redundancy argument put forth by House leadership.....

HB 7005 - a Legislative Perspective

http://www.southdadenewsleader.com/opinion/hb---a-legislative-perspective/article_888d23ca-1bca-11e7-9210-0757c9fdb765.html

South Dade News Leader -- April 7, 2017

By Rep. Holly Raschein

During the first week of the legislative session, the House passed HB 7005 which is designed to improve our state's economic development efforts and end our current practice of picking winners and losers in business by eliminating Enterprise Florida as well as a number of other poorly performing programs currently funded through our state budget. This bill is a top priority of the leader of the Florida House, Speaker Richard Corcoran.

When the bill was presented to me, I learned that the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) was one of the programs to be eliminated. This was of particular concern for my district, which is flanked by military installations to the north and south, and the military men and women and civilian employees are an important part of

my constituency. I share the unease expressed by many about any changes to the state's military support system given the constant potential of federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) looming over us.....

House Weakens Support for Florida Military Bases South Dade Newsleader

http://www.southdadenewsleader.com/opinion/house-weakens-support-for-florida-military-bases/article_9ef976be-161a-11e7-9769-43cddef1459f.html

March 31, 2017

By Kellie Joe Kilberg Chairperson, Florida Defense Alliance

In a recent article in the Tampa Bay Times, Representative Renner stated that HB 7005, which dismantles Florida's economic development programs, did not eliminate any military programs and that the Florida Defense Alliance is redundant with existing programs, making it unnecessary. This is untrue and these politicians are misguided in their actions.

FDA has a highly successful 19-year history and continues to leverage defense community resources and thousands of volunteer hours for the benefit of Florida's military installations, missions and ranges.

In addition, FDA members support more than 60,000 military members, defense civilians and their families, contributing to Florida's national reputation as one of the most defense-friendly states in the nation.

But perhaps the most important benefit to the FDA is their ability to protect Florida bases from elimination under federal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions. You see, the FDA was formed in 1998 with a mission to strengthen the bases and bolster community support in the wake of the loss of the Orlando Naval Training Center during the 1993 BRAC and in the 1995 BRAC Naval Cecil Field in Jacksonville. The FDA began two grant programs that exists to this day to preserve and protect military installations against future rounds of BRACs. With Congress poised to announce another BRAC as soon as 2019, we need FDA more than ever.....

Spotlight on: Homestead Air Reserve Base



Homestead Air Reserve Base (ARB) is a United States Air Force base located approximately 6 miles east-northeast of Homestead, Florida.

The host unit at Homestead is the 482d Fighter Wing (482 FW) assigned to the Air Force Reserve Command's Tenth Air Force. The 482 FW is a fully combat-ready unit capable of providing F-16C/D multi-purpose fighter aircraft, along with mission ready pilots and support personnel, for short-notice worldwide deployment. The wing has more than 1,500 members, including approximately 1,200 reservists, of which 250 are full-time reservists (Air Reserve Technicians), in addition to 300 full-time civilians.

Homestead ARB was established in 1942 as Homestead Army Airfield (AAF). After a period of dormancy following World War II, the installation began reactivated in 1954 and was redesignated as Homestead Air Force Base in 1955. After its destruction by Hurricane Andrew in August 1992, the base was taken off active status with the Regular Air Force and rebuilt, and officially re-designated as Homestead Air Reserve Base on March 31, 1994.

The first test for the new base came in September 1994 when a multi-service group assembled at the base in preparation for an invasion of Haiti. The newly designated base continued to be a forward joint service operating location for events surrounding Operation Uphold Democracy/Restore Freedom in Haiti. That year also marked the beginning of another major role in the region as Homestead became a forward supply stop for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The base was also a staging area for masses of Cuban immigrants receiving paroles into the United States.

In February 1995, the base faced its next serious threat from the Base Realignment and Closure Committee, which sought to close the ravaged base. The civilian community, including state and federal government leaders, rallied in support of the base, and launched a fight for the base's survival and the return of fighter operations to South Florida. The BRAC ultimately withdrew Homestead AFB from the closure list on June 22, 1995.

Today, the 482nd FW, the host unit of Homestead ARB, continues to support contingency and training operations of U.S. Southern Command and a number of tenant units, including Headquarters Special Operations Command South, the U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team, and an air and maritime unit of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. In addition, Homestead ARB is home to the most active NORAD alert site in the continental United States, operated by a detachment of F-15 fighter interceptors from the 125th FW of the Florida Air National Guard.

As we look toward the future, the 482nd FW continues to provide the Department of Defense with an efficient, cost-effective air reserve base on the rim of the Caribbean Basin. Its strategic presence at the southernmost tip of the continental United States provides an invaluable platform from which to launch its full range of capabilities. Poised to protect and defend, readiness is its primary mission. Whether responding to real-world contingencies and tasks in support of homeland defense or performing its on-going mission of training America's finest citizen Airmen, the 482nd FW consistently lives its vision of service before self, integrity first, and excellence in all we do.

482d Fighter Wing Mission:

Provide decisive combat power and agile support by leveraging our unique team capabilities while developing Airmen, supporting their families, and participating in our community.

482d Fighter Wing Vision:

Dedicated Citizen Airmen providing premier global combat dominance and regional humanitarian support to the joint war fighter.

Homestead ARB's winning culture

By Col. David P. Garfield, Commander, 482nd Fighter Wing / Published April 05, 2017

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. --

This past weekend Homestead Air Reserve Base hosted the Chief of Air Force Reserve and Commander, Air Force Reserve Command, Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller and Chief Master Sgt. Erika Kelly, Command Chief, AFRC.

What they saw in every Airman they met, was a winner. I saw it too. A Senior Airman showing winning customs and courtesies, noncommissioned officers professionally sharing why they are known as the "backbone of the Air Force," and senior NCOs proudly explaining processes. Our enlisted corps is second to none and our AFRC leadership saw that this weekend.

They also saw company grade officers and field grade officers skillfully supervising at every level and commanders leading in a professional fashion that showed confidence and trust in their squadrons as they accomplished the mission.

The general and chief were well impressed. I iterated that what they saw was not pushed up for their benefit, we did not put on a "dog and pony" show pretending to be something we are not. But they knew that and could see the genuine motivation and love in what the Airmen of the 482nd Fighter Wing are doing.

I'd like to thank everyone involved for the many months of work that have brought the wing to this level and for the opportunity our AFRC leadership had to see that. They saw we are winners. That we've adopted the wing culture of winning *on* purpose and winning *with* a purpose!

Like I say, we don't win by accident. We cannot win if we don't believe. I believe in this wing, its Airmen, and its mission. This weekend I saw that belief in everyone we encountered. As did Lt. Gen. Miller and Chief Kelly from the moment they stepped off the plane until they departed.

We have high standards. We do not apologize for hard work. We expect our Airmen to struggle, strain, and to raise their efforts. We don't do this alone, we do it as a team, as a family.

General Miller and Chief Kelly visited shops, viewed our squadrons firsthand, and attended the wing's annual awards ceremony and at every stopover they saw us doing what we do best.

They extended their congratulations to those nominated and selected as annual award winners. I'd like to take a moment and also thank those nominees and winners for the work, dedication, and contributions they've made to the wing's mission that made their nomination possible.

But I challenge them, and you, to continue to mentor, share, and motivate others to do the same.

All of us need to turn around and see if anyone is lagging, if anyone is untrained, or unmotivated, or stressed by family or other issues, then put our hand out and bring them up to where we are.

When we pay it forward and educate, motivate, and innovate—we get stronger, better, faster.

We've grown to have passion for each other and we *refuse* to give anything but our best because we don't want to let each other down. We don't apologize for hard work, we expect our teammates to stress and strain for the mission and it shows.

Our Operation Freedom Sentinel results were phenomenal and the current Reserve Component Period efforts are nothing less than superb!

Last year, the wing leadership identified that we needed to weave the components of commitment, belief, agility, communication, effort, and trust into a winning system by design. We were going to strike a balance throughout those components to produce a winning culture, promote pride, establish an attitude of excellence, ensure sound behavior, and then get out of the way to watch with extreme satisfaction all the mighty deeds our Airmen would accomplish.

Have we accomplished this? We have! Lt. Gen. Miller and Chief Kelly were impressed. They said we are doing it right and doing great things here. The mantra of the "World's Greatest" isn't a cliché - it's for real! Now, we have to continue to live by it, through it, and with it! Don't get caught from behind!

HARB Factoids

- HARB is the 16th largest single employer in Miami-Dade, the most populous County in Florida
- The 2016 HARB Payroll was \$95.0 million and Expenditures was \$151.2 million.
- The 2016 HARB Economic Impact Estimate is that the installation's economic activity indirectly creates 910 jobs with a total value of \$46.0 million.
- HARB is the only military installation in Florida with local municipal ordinances protecting the military mission from incompatible development, which were adopted by the City of Homestead in 2010 and updated by Miami-Dade County in 2017
- The most prominent users of the airfield are the F-16Cs of the host 482d Fighter Wing and the F-15s of the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing, Detachment 1, maintaining an alert facility for air defense and air sovereignty.
- Homestead ARB is the winter home and training location of the U.S. Army Parachute Team, better known as the Golden Knights
- HARB also supports Federal entities that are located on land that used be on Homestead Air Force Base, but who continue to rely on HARB facilities and access to the airfield. These include Special Operations Command South, drug-running interdiction flights conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Miami Air and Marine Branch, and the U.S. Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team Miami.



**Commander, Colonel
David P. Garfield**

Colonel David P. Garfield is Commander, 482nd Fighter Wing, Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. As Wing Commander, he is directly responsible for overall management of the installation, to include a squadron of 29 F-16C/D aircraft. His leadership span of control encompasses over 2,500 Airmen, including 165 active duty Air Force active association personnel; more than 1,700 traditional reservists, over 280 Air Reserve Technicians and over 280 full-time civilians. Additionally, he oversees the seamless integration of 11 tenant units to include the Florida Air National Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team, Headquarters Special Operations Command South and a geographically separated Detachment of 35 Airmen at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

Colonel Garfield graduated from Embry- Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, Fla., in 1989. He was a distinguished graduate of ROTC and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force in 1989. He earned his pilot wings in 1991 at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz. He served on active duty from 1990 to 1999 and joined the Air Force Reserve in 1999. His past assignments include serving as a T-38 instructor pilot and flight examiner at both Williams AFB, Ariz., and Columbus AFB, Miss., F-16 pilot and Flight Commander at Shaw AFB, S.C., Director of Operations at the 457th Fighter Squadron, 301st Fighter Wing, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. He served as Commander, 944th Operations Group, 944th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB, AZ. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Deputy Inspector General, Team Chief, for the Office of the Inspector General, Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.





Did You Know?

The Difference Between the Army National Guard and Reserve:

The most important thing to remember when comparing the National Guard and Army Reserve is that the National Guard is a "dual service," with both state and federal control, whereas the Army Reserve is strictly under the control of the federal government.

The Reserves are always under presidential control. The National Guard, on the other hand, are far more state-by-state controlled. Although both are ultimately financed by the US government, National Guard is controlled mostly by separate states. Therefore, although both groups can be called up for active duty by the president, the National Guard can also be called up by the governor of the state. It is illegal for army reservists to enforce state laws, however it is completely legal for the National Guard to do so.

Army National Guard. The 354,200 members of the Army National Guard provide significant forces for national defense. These include:

- Eight division headquarters;
- Six general officer-level operational commands (including sustainment as well as air and missile defense);
- 126 operational brigades and groups, including 28 Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) (a mix of Infantry, Armor, and Stryker BCTs);
- 48 multi-functional support brigades (including combat aviation, surveillance, and sustainment brigades);
- 48 functional support brigades and groups (including military police, engineer, and regional support); and
- Two Special Forces Groups.

Army Reserve. Unlike the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve has no combat units of its own. The Army Reserve constitutes some 20 percent of the Total Army force. Its 205,000 soldiers and 12,600 civilians provide 75 percent of key support units and capabilities such as logistics, medical, engineering, military information support, and civil affairs. It also includes structures such as voluntary public-private partnerships that amplify the total force's capabilities, as well as certain unique capabilities not found elsewhere in the military such as chemical companies able to detect biological weapons.



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

April 26, 2017

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

NEWS

Update to the 2012 Spectrum Report – The Florida Defense Support Task Force has approved the funding for a project by The Principi Group and Spectrum Group to update the 2012 assessment (Spectrum Report) of Florida’s military installations. This will allow Florida to have an updated assessment -- including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) -- prior to the expected BRAC in 2019 and/or 2021. Local defense community leaders will be receiving notification of this “Re-SWOT” within the next month. The team from the Principi Group will be visiting bases over the Summer. Part of this Re-SWOT will be to include input from the local defense community and we need FDA members to assist in coordinating this effort. More information on this forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Team Orlando Partnership IVb Building – Team Orlando is moving forward along with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands to complete the purchase of Partnership IVb building. This purchase will fulfill the office space requirements for their mission and will significantly reduce their overhead cost and risk of being relocated during a potential BRAC round. All the Partnership buildings are state-owned and shared with the University of Central Florida (UCF) who are also occupying portions of the buildings. As this additional office space is acquired, the cost to the military drops significantly and makes the cost comparable to the rent at any military facility.

F-35 Community Event at 125th FW in Jacksonville – Last Friday, the Florida National Guard hosted a DV Day at the 125th FW to promote the base as the best location for the next basing of Air National Guard F-35’s. The Florida Air Guard presented briefings on the base and the F-35 as well as a base tour. Visitors were treated to an experience in an F-35 mobile simulator, an orientation on the F-15 and the thrill of watching 6 F-15’s take off. This week, the 125th FW will host site inspectors/selectors from the Air Force. The basing decision is expected to be made later this Summer.

Tampa Bay Defense Alliance Working to Have Additional KC 135’s Stationed at MacDill -- The Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA) is supporting / advocating for twelve (12) additional KC-135s. TBDA met with Congresswoman Kathy Castor to and supplied her with a white paper to assist her in drafting a letter to Secretary of the Air Force, Lisa Disbrow requesting the tankers be relocated to MacDill. The choice appears to be between MacDill and Fairchild. The TBDA also drafted a letter in support of relocation to MacDill and sent it to Secretary Disbrow.

Encroachment Threat to MacDill AFB – Florida Rock owns land next to MacDill AFB in APZ I and is seeking to sell it to a developer for the construction of large grocery store, restaurants and a hotel. A meeting was convened a meeting on April 6, 2017 to discuss the planned development. Florida Rock and the development contract purchaser stated his intention to move forward with this development under the approved Commercial zoning guidelines that allow for restaurants, shopping centers and hotels. MacDill AFB stated its opposition and noted that this development was incompatible with their military mission. The planned development would put the flying mission of MacDill AFB at great risk. The tanker aircraft are stationed at

MacDill to refuel fighter aircraft that come to use training ranges in Florida. With no flying mission, fighter aircraft would go elsewhere and current tankers would be moved to a flying base. Additional tankers now in the pipeline for MacDill would be stationed elsewhere. This would put the future of MacDill AFB at risk of realignment or closure under BRAC. At this point, the state of Florida has done everything possible to prevent incompatible development of this property. Action now rests with the City of Tampa as it considers approval for zoning and permits for this proposed development.

The Principi Group (TPG) Conducts CODEL-Staff Meetings – TPG conducted three days on the Hill visiting with Congressional staff from Senators Rubio and Nelson as well as Representatives Wasserman Schultz, Murphy, Castor, Diaz Balart, Dunn, Rutherford, Curbelo, Ross-Lehtinen, and Gaetz. They discussed key issues within districts and across the state. Of note, the theme of working as a Florida team, including in a bi-partisan way, seemed to get a lot of traction. TPG will include more information at our next meeting during their update.

Rural and Family Lands – Bruce Grant and Terry McCaffrey met with representatives of the Rural and Family Lands program at the Department of Agriculture recently to discuss opportunity to provide match for REPI funds around the state. We had a productive meeting and found that several projects are underway using the program. We also found that the potential to do more depends on the outcome of funding levels provided this session since early draft budgets have seen no funding applied to the Rural and Family Lands program.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit – ADC will hold its National Summit June 19-21, 2017 in Washington, DC. There will be more than 600 leaders from around the nation for an event widely recognized as the most comprehensive look at the key issues facing defense communities and installations.

This summit will feature more than 30 educational sessions and dozens of senior DOD and congressional leaders focused on the key issues facing defense communities and installations. Highlights include discussions on:

- the Trump administration's FY 2018 budget proposal and the likelihood of a larger military;
- how communities have prepared for past BRAC rounds;
- how the reserve component is changing the way the military fights and trains;
- whether installations and wind farms can coexist;
- supporting military family quality of life;
- attracting developers to BRAC sites and negotiating real estate transactions; and
- the military's response to the discovery of contamination of drinking water supplies at active and closed bases.

The Summit also will include town halls for OEA and each of the services, pre-conference workshops on the FY 2018 defense authorization bill and the BRAC process, and the Armed Services committee staff roundtable. A detailed [description of the program](#) is available on the [conference website](#). Don't miss this opportunity to network with hundreds of your colleagues.

More information available at: <http://www.adcsummit.org/>



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Connecting the dots on this ever-changing landscape is what the FDA does. We listen to challenges, opportunities, threats and strengths of our communities and then look for solutions, best practices, resources, organizations or people that may assist. It's an important task to keep our Florida communities ready and ahead in addressing those issues. This means we look for the ways to get to a positive outcome. It means if there is a "no"; we look for the next possible "yes". I find it fascinating that we have organizations whose purpose is to get to "no" or "not allowed" before understanding what a program was created to address or how to utilize a program for the best possible outcome for the community and the military installations. The FDA will continue to find programs, resources and people to assist our Florida communities and installations.

At a recent Governor's round table an issue was discussed regarding sailors separating from active duty without credentials for jobs in the maritime industry. We are now working with Jacksonville on bringing together team to look how we can assist with credentialing before separation and then circle back on how veterans can gain their credentials. It's all about listening to the issues being discussed and bringing people together to create the solution.

So I ask you to listen in your communities and reach out to Bruce, Terry, myself or anyone on the FDA Executive Committee when you see or hear anything where we may be able to assist.

Keep contacting your state representatives and state senators in support of EFI and FDA. You make a difference as we move forward to Florida – The Base of the Future!

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Tuesday, May 23 – FDA Teleconference Meeting, 9 AM Eastern Time

Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21 -- ADC National Summit, Washington, DC

Wednesday, November 15—FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida

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

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. It is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed.”

--- Mwai Kibaki

News from the Bases

MacDill AFB --

SOCom at 30 has evolved into small command with big global impact <http://www.tbo.com/news/socom-at--has-evolved-into-small-command-with-big-global-impact-20170415/>

By [Howard Altman](#), Times Staff Writer

It was born out of a deadly failure and evolved into an organization that other nations seek to emulate, a command that accounts for a fraction of the Pentagon's budget but a large measure of how the world sees the U.S. military.

This week, U.S. Special Operations Command, with headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, turns 30.

Created by Congress in the wake of Operation Eagle Claw, the disastrous attempt to rescue American hostages from Iran in 1980, SOCom opened its doors at MacDill on April 16, 1987. It was an attempt to coordinate the work of military services that all did things differently.

Up until the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, SOCom was a relatively sleepy, train-and-equip organization. In 2001, SOCom had about 43,000 people and a budget of about \$3 billion. After 9/11, as the role of special operations forces in the fight against jihadis expanded, the command experienced dramatic growth. Today, it has 70,000 people and a budget of more than \$10 billion.....



The poster features a soldier in full combat gear, including a helmet and goggles, holding a dog. The background is a snowy mountain range. In the top left corner is a circular logo with a globe. In the top right corner is a QR code. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout.

OPENWERX

JUMP THE DOG

This month's OPENWERX challenge is to design a Canine Oxygen Mask for High Altitude High Opening (HAHO). Go to <http://www.sofwerx.org/jump-dog/> to RSVP and for more information about the current challenge.

01 June 2017

- 1730-1800 Networking/Introduction (at SOFWERX)
- 1800-1830 Team Q&A
- 1830-1845 Judging
- 1845-1900 Prizes Awarded
- 1900-1915 Next Challenge Announced

Schedule subject to change based on the number of participants

speed innovation solutions

SOFWERX



The poster features a dark background with faint green and blue code snippets. On the left is a circular logo with a globe. The main title 'OPENWERX HACKATHON' is in large, bold, white and yellow letters. To the right, a QR code is visible. Below the title, the prize amounts are listed: '\$5000 First Place Award', '\$3000 Second Place Award', and '\$1000 Third Place Award'. The dates 'May 12 & 13, 2017' and 'Data Science Challenge' are also present. At the bottom, there is a blue banner with the text 'speed innovation solutions' and the 'SOFWERX' logo.

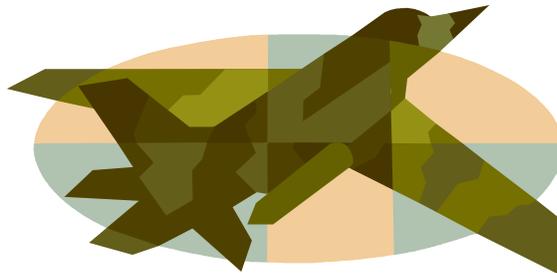
OPENWERX
HACKATHON

\$5000 First Place Award
\$3000 Second Place Award
\$1000 Third Place Award

May 12 & 13, 2017
Data Science Challenge
Challenge information: www.sofwerx.org/openwerx-hackathon/
To sponsor, please email Keri Cline (keri.cline@sofwerx.org) for more info

speed innovation solutions

SOFWERX



6th Air Mobility Wing (AMW) hosted 22 Tampa Bay community leaders on a trip to Nellis AFB





**TBDA President,
Lisa Monnet writes:**

The 6th Air Mobility Wing (AMW) at MacDill Air Force Base (AFB) hosted 22 Tampa Bay community leaders on a civic leader mission to Nellis AFB in Nevada. The trip intended to educate them on the mission of the 6th Air Mobility Wing and provide a first-hand look at what it's like to refuel 30,000 feet above ground from a KC-135 Stratotanker.

The event began at the pax terminal on MacDill AFB with a mission brief from Colonel April Vogel. After a five (5) hour flight on a KC-135 Stratotanker we arrived at Nellis AFB where we boarded a bluebird bus to begin an amazing tour of the base. The tour began at the Thunderbird Museum where we received a briefing from Maj. General Glen VanHerck on the United States Air Force Warfare Center's (USAFWC) mission. The mission of the USAFWC is to develop capabilities through responsive, realistic, and relevant Air Force and Joint testing, tactics development and advanced training across all levels of war. We then toured the Threat Training facility where we had the opportunity to explore aircraft, tanks, and missiles which were used as beneficial training aids during the Cold War. Following the tour of the Threat Training facility we received a briefing from Colonel Zev York, Vice Commander of the 99th Air Base Wing where we learned about the 2.9 million-acre Nevada Test and Training Range at Creech Air Force Base. Creech Air Force Base engages in daily overseas contingency operations of remotely piloted aircraft systems which fly missions across the globe and acts as an aerial training site for the USAF Thunderbirds. Our next stop was the JTAC simulator where we experienced the virtual simulator which is used in the United States Armed Forces to train direct the action of combat aircraft engaged in air support and offensive operations. We then toured the Warrior Fitness Center which is an 110,000-state-of-the-Art modern facility offering a multitude of high-tech fitness equipment. The day ended with a social which included Colonel April Vogel, CMSgt Melanie Noel, Maj. General Glen VanHerck, Colonel Zev York, and community leaders from both Tampa and Las Vegas.

I was absolutely amazed by the capabilities of the Airmen and the role the 6th AMW plays in national security. I am so honored to have had the opportunity to witness these Airmen in action, it was absolutely an incredible experience.

The 6th Air Mobility Wing provides unmatched air refueling support and mission support across the globe. MacDill Means Mobility!

Team Orlando --

NCS hosts Congresswoman Murphy's inaugural MS&T advisory board meeting

<http://www.teamorlando.org/ncs-hosts-congresswoman-murphys-inaugural-mst-advisory-board-meeting/>



On April 13, the [National Center for Simulation](http://www.teamorlando.org/ncs-hosts-congresswoman-murphys-inaugural-mst-advisory-board-meeting/) (NCS) hosted the inaugural meeting for Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy's Modeling, Simulation and Training Industry Advisory Board. The purpose of these periodic meetings is to update selected industry CEOs on the state of affairs on Capitol Hill, and to seek their advice and guidance on issues the Congresswoman can take back to the Congress.

"Central Florida is the epicenter of this growing industry and home to this wonderful example of effective public-private collaboration," Murphy said in her Facebook post. "Many thanks to the National Center for Simulation for helping organize and coordinate this valuable discussion"

In addition to the advisory board meeting, NCS facilitated access to the Army PALT meeting for Christy Wagner, senior defense and foreign policy advisor, and John Laufer, deputy chief of staff, which also included a visit to Naval Support Activity Orlando for a Team Orlando brief and visits to Navy laboratories to see selected technology.

Following the advisory group meeting, George Cheros, NCS chief operating officer, escorted Wagner to Engineering & Computer Simulations (ECS), Leidos, Fifth Dimension Technologies (5DT) and Cole Engineering Services, so she could have an opportunity to see, touch and operate simulation technology developed in Central Florida. *Photos courtesy of Congresswoman Murphy's Facebook page.*



Jacksonville –

F-35 fighter possibly to be based in Jacksonville

Jeff Valin, WTLV 6:43 PM, EDT April 21, 2017

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/f-35-fighter-possibly-to-be-based-in-jacksonville/433184734>

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. - The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter might be coming to the Florida Air National Guard wing at Jacksonville International Airport, and local military officials say the wing's future could be nose-up or nose-down depending on that decision.

"The wing itself represents a \$100 million economic impact to the city of Jacksonville," Major General Michael Calhoun told First Coast News on Friday. Calhoun said a lot of the jobs at the wing rely on the F-15 Eagle aircraft currently based there, and many of those jobs - as well as dollars - would leave the area if the F-15 is mothballed, as some anticipate.

"With conversations of the F-15 possibly being replaced, we need another technology that will complement or replace the one thousand full-time active air members that we have here in support," he contended, adding that the arrival of the F-35 would bring about 200 more jobs, in contrast to the void accompanying the loss of the F-15.

The F-35 is touted for its versatility, featuring a combined cutting-edge ability to engage in aerial combat as well as attack ground targets with bombs. But it's also been ballyhooed on both sides of the aisle in Congress for its cost; even President Trump has hinted at scrapping the plane for alternative strategies.

But Brigadier General Brian Simpler, who serves as assistant Adjutant General to Major General Calhoun at the wing, said that reality dictates a need for the expenditure, regardless of where the F-35 calls home....

Officials get close-up look at Jacksonville's Air National Guard ahead of F-35 selection committee

By [Joe Daraskevich](#), Posted April 21, 2017 06:36 pm

<http://jacksonville.com/news/military/2017-04-21/officials-get-close-look-jacksonville-s-air-national-guard-ahead-f-35>

The real show will start Tuesday when the official basing survey begins to determine which of five possible locations will receive one of two squadrons of F-35 Lightning II fighters. The bases were whittled down in December from an original pool of 18 potential landing spots announced last year.

Jacksonville missed out in 2013 when Burlington, Vt., was selected as the first National Guard post in the country to be awarded the F-35s.

Community and state leaders got the red carpet treatment Friday with a full presentation and tour of the 125th Fighter Wing. The show concluded with a group of F-15 Eagles taking off while the audience watched from the flight line.

"It's really kind of silly that anyone else is being considered," Maj. Jonathan Kassebaum said confidently.

He pointed to the location of the base — at Jacksonville International Airport — as a major reason the facility should make the cut. Proximity to the Gulf of Mexico as well as the Atlantic Ocean are beneficial selling points for training purposes, he said, and Jacksonville being a city that embraces

its military presence is another bonus.....



Patrick AFB --

Patrick military unit watches for North Korean nuclear blasts

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2017/04/19/brevard-airmen-watch-north-korean-nuclear-blasts/100560310/>

By [Rick Neale](#), FLORIDA TODAY Published 4:56 p.m. ET April 19, 2017 |

(Photo: U.S. Air Force photo by William B. Belcher)



PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE — As the world awaits North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's next military move, a secretive U.S. Air Force complex on the other side of the planet continues to monitor the isolated nation for nuclear bomb tests.

Headquartered at Patrick Air Force Base, the Air Force Technical Applications Center operates and maintains the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System. Operating on all seven continents, this \$3 billion surveillance network of more than 3,600 high-tech sensors — including seismic sensors, ocean hydrophones and gamma detectors — identifies nuclear detonations underground, underwater, and in the Earth's atmosphere and space.

"AFTAC, and our squadron in particular, are ready to go all the time, 24/7. It doesn't matter what's happening globally, what the specific circumstances are," said Lt. Col. Ehren Carl. He commands the Technical Surveillance Squadron, a group of 70 airmen who analyze the incoming sensor data.....



Sr. Airman Adam Edwards (left), Sr. Master Sgt. Rob Christman and Lt. Col. Ehren Carl talk about the mission of AFTAC at Patrick Air Force Base. (Photo: MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY)

Patrick AFB on short list for expansion

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/2017/04/18/patrick-afb-short-list-expansion-up-1200/100592146/>

By [Dave Berman](#), FLORIDA TODAY

Patrick Air Force Base is in the running for a major expansion that could bring as many as 1,200 more airmen to the Space Coast. Patrick is one of eight bases the Air Force has put on a short list for its consolidated Battlefield Airman Training Center.

The Air Force will pick one, two or three bases for its training center, according to Brevard County Commission Chairman Curt Smith. Depending on how many sites are chosen, the winner or winners will get 400 to 1,200 Air Force personnel. The term Battlefield Airman covers a variety of special-operations-type positions such as pararescuemen and combat controllers that require extensive training. Currently, airmen receive different parts of their training at different bases around the country.

Smith said he believes Patrick has a good chance to be selected, considering its location and the local facilities that are available for both land and water training.

He cited as examples Patrick's location near the Atlantic Ocean, and three rivers — the Banana, Indian and St Johns — to practice water rescues in a variety of conditions and water depths. Additionally, Smith said the Air Force has an underutilized Malabar Annex facility in Palm Bay, and the city of Palm Bay would make its gun range police training complex available for Air Force training.....

Eglin AFB --

6

RANGER OPEN HOUSE

29 APRIL 2017

RACE THE RANGER 5K & CAR SHOW

Race Start – 0800

Register Online
<https://endurancecul.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=42978651>

\$20 Online or \$25 at Start for Race and \$20 for Car Show Entry

Rangers in Action Demonstrations at 1000 & 1300

Cash only on site for most vendors
ATM available

Race Proceeds to Benefit:
Emerald Coast Fisher House

RANGERS IN ACTION

- Ranger Urban Assault
- Parachute Demo
- Skydiving Demo
- Reptile Show
- Combatives Demo

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- Camo Face Painting
- Tomahawk Throwing
- Weapons Demo
- Food and beverages from local vendors

For vending / representation opportunities at the event contact Cody Stevens @ 404-414-5047 or Gatoractivitiesfund@gmail.com

****The Gator Activities Fund is an unofficial activity and is not part of the DOD or any of its components and has no governmental status****



Spotlight on: Patrick Air Force Base

Patrick Air Force Base is located between Satellite Beach and Cocoa Beach, in Brevard County, Florida. It was named in honor of Major General Mason Patrick, USAAC. An Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) base, it is home to the 45th Space Wing (45 SW). In addition to its "host wing" responsibilities at Patrick AFB, the 45 SW controls and operates Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS) and the Eastern Range. It was originally opened and operated from 1940-1947 as Naval Air Station Banana River, a U.S. Navy airfield. It was then deactivated as a naval installation in 1947 and placed in caretaker status until it was transferred to the Air Force in late 1948.

Total employment is 10,400. There are 13,099 military, dependents, civilian employees and contractors on base.

There are currently four active launch complexes on the Eastern Range; Launch Complex 37 for ULA Delta; Launch Complex 40 for SpaceX Falcon 9; Launch Complex 41 for ULA Atlas; Launch Complex 36 for Blue Origin, who is in a contract with Space Florida, and Launch Complex 18 is reserved for Moon Express. The Navy continues to launch Trident II (D5) Missiles underwater from the OHIO Class of nuclear-propelled TRI-DENT submarines. The 45th Space Wing supported 23 successful major launches in 2016 and anticipates more than 30 launches in 2017 with a drive to achieve 48 launches in one year by 2021.

Tenants/Mission Partners

The 45th Space Wing has more than 30 major mission partners and tenants at Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral AFS, including:

- Defense Equality Opportunity Management Institute
- Air Force Technical Applications Center
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Naval Ordnance Test Unit
- 920th Rescue Wing, Air Force Reserve Command
- Joint STARS Test Force
- Department of State INL Air Wing
- Air Force Office of Special Investigations
- 333rd Recruiting Squadron
- American Red Cross



The History and Heritage of the 45th Space Wing: Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station

The 45th Space Wing's evolution into the World's Premier Gateway to Space and the Spaceport of the Future on Florida's Space Coast began in the 1940s when what's now known as the Eastern Range was used as a home for Army missile testing. The 45th Bombardment Group (Light) was activated from January 1941 until December 1942 to conduct patrols and search missions off the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. On Aug. 26, 1950, the Air Force's long-range proving ground base in Cocoa Beach, Fla., was named Patrick Air Force Base in honor of the late Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick, who retired as chief of the Air Corps, Dec. 12, 1927.

Permanent launch complexes were built in the 1950s and 1960s on the range.

First launched in 1959, the Titan family of boosters served for nearly 50 years putting satellites and astronauts into orbit. Since the 1960's the Eastern Range also supported the Navy's launches of sea-based deterrent missile systems from the Atlantic Ocean. On Oct. 1, 1979, Patrick Air Force Base and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station were consolidated under the Eastern Space and Missile Center (ESMC) to assume responsibility over all activities at the range.

In the 1980s, Air Force Space Command was formed and assumed launch responsibility for all Atlas E, Atlas II, Delta II, Titan II and Titan IV assets and missions. A new operational wing, the 45th Space Wing, was established in 1991 to oversee Eastern Test Range operations. Under the new designation, the 45th Space Wing's first launch was NASA's Space Shuttle Atlantis on Nov. 24, 1991.

On March 28, 1996, the first launch of the Global Positioning System replenishment satellite, Navigation System Timing and Ranging II-25, lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. This system changed the way members travel from point A to point B, while increasing the accuracy and efficiency of daily operations.

On May 22, 2012, the 45th Space Wing supported the first SpaceX Falcon 9 launch on its NASA commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station. SpaceX's Dragon became the first private spacecraft in history to visit the station.



**Commander, Brigadier
General Wayne R. Monteith**

Brig. Gen. Wayne R. Monteith is the Commander of the 45th Space Wing, and Director of Eastern Range at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. He leads more than 13,000 military, DOD civilian and contractor personnel responsible for the processing and launching of U.S. government and commercial satellites from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla. General Monteith is also the final approval authority for all launches on the Eastern Range, a 15-million-square-mile area which supports an average of 20 launches per year aboard Delta, Atlas, Falcon, Navy and emerging launch vehicles. Additionally, he manages wing launch and range infrastructure supporting NASA, commercial and missile test missions.

Prior to assuming his position, General Monteith served as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force.

General Monteith has served as a Peacekeeper intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) combat crew member, senior ICBM standardization and evaluation crew commander, ICBM instructor, chief ICBM flight testing, and command lead for a major space acquisition program. He commanded the Air Force's only ICBM combat crew training squadron and the 50th Space Wing where he led more than 5,300 military, DOD civilian and contractor personnel serving at 14 operating locations worldwide in support of more than 170 communications, navigation, weather and surveillance satellites with their associated systems valued at more than \$66 billion. General Monteith has also

served in various special duty capacities including MAJCOM, COCOM, HQ Air Force and OSD staff positions. He earned the Master Missile Operations designation and is a Command Space Professional.



Did You Know?

New Hand Grenade in Development



Great News for Lefties - It's Ambidextrous!

Excerpted from GunsAmerica News & Reviews, by Max Slowik

Picatinny Arsenal is developing a new kind of hand grenade. The current M67 hand grenade design is more than 40 years old, in service since 1968 and the Army thinks it is time for a new one.

The new hand grenade will be a variable-effect weapon. With the flip of a switch, it can be set to function as either a fragmentation grenade or a concussion grenade.

The next-generation grenade is called the Enhanced Tactical Multi-Purpose (ET-MP) hand grenade.

A fragmentation grenade works by using an explosion to throw metal shards outward in all directions from the point of detonation. While concussion grenades may still be lethal, they do not fragment - making them less dangerous for close-quarters situations. The Army stopped issuing concussion grenades over asbestos concerns in 1975.

The new grenade in development will have an electronic fuse and an ignition system allowing soldiers to pick either fragmentation or concussion modes by flipping of a switch. The Army also wanted the controls to be more ambidextrous with the same manual of arms for left- and right-handed users.

The decision to incorporate an electronic fuse may raise eyebrows in the Army but the electronic ignition system will be more predictable and reliable. The electronic fuse is accurate to a millisecond. These new weapons will also feature a longer shelf life. Development has been ongoing for the last five years.

The use of an electronic fuse adds an extra layer of safety to the system as well. "With these upgrades in the ET-MP, not only is the fuse timing completely electronic, but the detonation train is also out-of-line," Hall explained. "Until armed, the hand grenade will not be able to detonate."

See: https://www.gunsamerica.com/blog/the-armys-developing-a-hand-grenade-for-the-21st-century/?utm_source=email&utm_medium=20160930_FridayDigest_89g&utm_campaign=/blog/the-armys-developing-a-hand-grenade-for-the-21st-century/



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

May 10, 2017

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

NEWS

Congress Passes Omnibus CR and President Signs It: Congress passed and President Trump signed last week an omnibus spending bill for the remainder of FY 2017. This bill pays for the higher Army and Marine Corps troop levels and includes \$1.6 billion for an additional 1,000 active-duty Army soldiers, 1,000 Army National Guard soldiers, 1,000 Army Reserve soldiers and 1,000 active-duty Marines. The Army's active-duty end strength had been slated to drop from 475,000 to 460,000 soldiers from Oct. 1, 2016, to Oct. 1, 2017. Instead, the latest defense policy bill sets the service's active end strength at 476,000, with the active Marine Corps authorized at 185,000 troops.

Overall, the full-year spending agreement provides \$593 billion for the Pentagon, \$19.9 billion over FY 2016 levels and \$16.3 billion more than the Obama administration had proposed, according to a [House Appropriations Committee summary](#). The final figure includes nearly \$15 billion requested by the Trump administration, representing about half of the administration's supplemental request for DOD. The Pentagon's topline for FY 2017 rises to \$598.5 billion after adding in emergency funds included in an earlier continuing resolution (CR).

This spending agreement allocates \$223 billion to operation and maintenance accounts to address readiness shortfalls, representing a \$9.4 billion increase compared to FY 2016. The measure includes \$7.3 billion not included in the budget request for facility sustainment, restoration, and modernization programs; additional depot maintenance; base operations support; and supporting increased end strength.

The deal includes \$15 billion in supplemental funding for DOD, including several items dedicated to facilities requirements, according to a [Senate Appropriations Committee summary](#):

- \$859 million for infrastructure improvements and safety upgrades for ranges, unit training facilities, piers, hangars and airfields to address immediate, warfighting readiness requirements;
- \$251 million for repairs at military facilities affected by Hurricane Matthew — which pummeled portions of the southeastern United States last October — and other storms; and
- \$248 million for military construction, including \$150 million in planning and design for future milcon projects, and \$86 million to complete 11 projects on time. Many of these projects are critical to ensuring military readiness.

Administration Authorizes New Oil Exploration Rules – Last Friday, 28 Apr 2017, President Trump signed an executive order authorizing new exploration and drilling in U.S. waters. The order does not include potential exploration in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. Some members of the Florida CODEL including Sen Nelson, Rep Vern Buchanan and Rep Debbie Wasserman Schultz are concerned that this is a first step in opening additional areas including the eastern Gulf of Mexico and have voiced considerable opposition. In addition, Rep Wasserman Schultz is introducing new legislation to protect the Gulf waters off of Florida. Additionally, the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) on 26 Apr 2017 responded to a letter from Rep Matt Gaetz. The OSD response is supportive of the Florida position and acknowledges that DoD “cannot

overstate the vital importance of maintaining this moratorium”.

Space Coast EDC Visit to Washington, DC – From May 1-3, 2017, a group of 11 Space Coast community leaders led by EDC President & CEO Lynda Weatherman, visited the Pentagon, Capitol Hill and with Washington DC representatives of defense companies located on the Space Coast. The group of leaders was diverse and included representation from Chambers of Commerce, cities and local industry. The delegation also included Brevard County Commission Chair, Mr. Curt Smith and Port Canaveral Commissioner, Mr. Wayne Justice. Summary of this trip included later in this newsletter.

Florida Chamber Military and Veterans Opportunities Summit – This summit will be held on August 8, 2017 in Orlando. Both Florida Defense Alliance and Florida Defense Support Task Force are already involved in the planning of this annual event.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit – ADC will hold its National Summit June 19-21, 2017 in Washington, DC. There will be more than 600 leaders from around the nation for an event widely recognized as the most comprehensive look at the key issues facing defense communities and installations. This summit will feature more than 30 educational sessions and dozens of senior DOD and congressional leaders focused on the key issues facing defense communities and installations.

The Summit also will include town halls for OEA and each of the services, pre-conference workshops on the FY 2018 defense authorization bill and the BRAC process, and the Armed Services committee staff roundtable. Don't miss this opportunity to network with hundreds of your colleagues. **More information available at: <http://www.adcsummit.org/>**

Florida Military Friendly Legislation Passed During Session – HB 615 – Professional Regulation -- This bill requires DBPR to issue a fee-waived professional renewable license for boards and programs listed under Florida Statute 20.165 for members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty, spouses of members of the Armed Forces, and surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces providing they have proof they hold a valid license for the profession issued by any other state. This bill also permits the renewal of such licenses, provided the standard conditions of renewal under the applicable practice act are completed. The bill also extends the period of time that active duty members with licenses remain in good standing after discharge from active duty from 6 months to 2 years and allows spouses and surviving spouses of active duty members to remain in good standing when they are absent from the state due to their spouse's Armed Forces duties. NOTE: This bill is awaiting signature of the Governor.

Florida Military and Defense Budget Items Passed by Legislature -- The Florida Defense Support Task Force received an appropriation of \$2 million. The Defense Grants were funded at the same level as last year. DIG -- \$1.6 million DRG -- \$850,000 MBP -- \$150,000. NOTE: Budget has not yet been approved by the Governor.



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Tuesday, May 23 – FDA Teleconference Meeting, 9 AM Eastern Time

Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21 -- ADC National Summit, Washington, DC

Wednesday, November 15—FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida



Website -- <https://www.enterprise-florida.com/florida-defense/>

QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

Three Quotes from General George S. Patton:

“Courage is fear holding on a minute longer.”

“A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week.”

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

News from the Bases

MacDill AFB—

Keep 'em flying: MacDill crews keep aging KC-135 in the fight

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/macdill/keep-em-flying-macdill-crews-keep-aging-kc-135-in-the-fight/2322936>

Tampa Bay Times © May 8, 2017

By Howard Altman

Last December, a KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling jet out of MacDill Air Force Base was forced to shut down one of its four engines during a flight over Florida.

No one was injured, and the aging plane, which rolled off the assembly line when John F. Kennedy was president, landed safely.

But Air Force Col. April Vogel, the base commander, wasn't taking any chances. She immediately ordered inspections of each of MacDill's 16 tankers, shared and maintained by the 6th Air Mobility Wing and the 927th

Air Refueling Wing. It took crews working 12-hour shifts three months to complete the inspections on the aircraft, valued at a total of nearly \$1 billion.

Such efforts highlight the challenges MacDill crews face trying to keep the KC-135s in the air at a time when they are flying nearly 2 1/2 times their scheduled hours fleet-wide, largely as a result of the ongoing fight against the Islamic State.....



Space Coast –

Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC)

May 1-3, 2017, a group of 11 Space Coast community leaders led by EDC President & CEO Lynda Weatherman, visited the Pentagon, Capitol Hill and with Washington DC representatives of defense companies located on the Space Coast. The group of leaders was diverse and included representation from Chambers of Commerce, cities and local industry. The delegation also included Brevard County Commission Chair, Mr. Curt Smith and Port Canaveral Commissioner, Mr. Wayne Justice. While every participant's voice is important, it is always advantageous to have elected officials in attendance at Washington DC meetings.

Upon arrival in DC on Monday afternoon the delegation wasted no time and met with defense and industry companies for an update on their activities and programs on the Space Coast.

On the second day, the attendees divided into two groups to cover more territory. Group One met for over six hours with Air Force leaders in the Pentagon. This included meeting with several offices from the Secretariat and Air Staff that handle Space Operations as well as acquisitions/procurement relevant to Space. The delegation also met with OSD on environmental issues to include a discussion on rising sea levels and what actions might be taken, as well as examples where rising water levels have impacted operations.

The Pentagon meetings of Group One also included discussion with military officials to talk about their programs and military operations on the Space Coast. These meetings also included a session with the Strategic System Program Office (SSP), the office for Command of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU). An important tenant on Cape Canaveral AFS, NOTU brings a considerable number of defense contractor positions to Brevard.

Given the presence of the 920th Rescue Wing, Air Force Reserve at Patrick AFB, Group One also met with a senior officer to discuss weapon systems acquisition. Acting Assistant Secretary Hartley and his senior staff spoke to the delegation discussing space launch activity, new mission bed-downs, and general issues like future manpower needs. To conclude day two at the Pentagon, Group One had a meeting with Air Force Manpower to discuss future manning in the Space business.

On day two, Group Two had meetings that lasted a full day beginning with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The meetings continued with the Federal Aviation Administration's Offices of: Commercial Space Transport, Office of Aviation Safety, and UAS Integration and Office of Science & Technology within the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**. The EDC was fortunate enough to have Brevard local Dr. Duane Defreese, Executive Director of the Indian River Lagoon, National Estuary Program (NEP), in Washington DC at that time to continue the detailed discussion on the NEP nationally and specifics for the Space Coast.

On the third day, the entire EDC delegation went to Capitol Hill to meet Members of Congress representing the Space Coast. Representative Posey and several members of his staff briefed the EDC delegation on several issues to include the Continuing Resolution; potential Omnibus Appropriations Bill which did happen; and FY 2018 President's Budget Request. The delegation was briefed by Mr. Posey and Legislative Assistant, Mr. Jim Wilt, on the NEP and the growing National Estuary Caucus; of which Mr. Posey is the architect.



After meeting with Mr. Posey, the delegation met for over 30-minutes with Senator Nelson to discuss many of the same items. Community Leaders also discussed the past Military Construction Program for the Range Communications Facility and the follow-on five-year equipment procurement. The increased Range Launches (moving to 40+ in a few years) was of interest to the delegation and raised discussion of the need for more personnel to accommodate the increased launch schedule. A similar meeting relative to topics was discussed with senior members of Senator Rubio's staff. Although

the Senator was delayed in the Capitol and unable to meet the delegation in person, he was gracious enough to call in for a few minutes of discussion.

Overall, the EDC Community Leader delegation had a full two and a half days of topical discussion with leaders and organizations in the Nation's Capital.

Eglin AFB –

Change of Command Ceremony at which Brigadier General Christopher P. Azzano will relinquish command of the 96th Test Wing to Colonel Evan C. Dertien on Wednesday, the thirty-first of May



**Brigadier General
Christopher P. Azzano**



**Colonel Evan C.
Dertien**

Brig. Gen. Christopher Azzano, 96th Test Wing Commander, will be hosting his final community leader breakfast on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. This invitation only event will include an update on various Eglin activities from Brig. Gen. Azzano, in addition to a tour of the 96th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit.

Change of Command Ceremony for the 33rd Fighter Wing from Brig Gen Select Lansing Pilch to Col Paul Moga

Eglin Environmental named best In DOD

NWFdailynews.com, April 25, 2017
By Mike Spaits I Team Eglin Public Affairs

The Department of Defense announced April 21, that Eglin Air Force Base was named winner of the 2017 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Sustainability.

The award is given to the installation that best extends the longevity of its resources by preventing, or eliminating pollution at the source and practicing efficiency and sustainability in the use of raw materials, energy, waste or other resources. Sustainable practices ensure the protection of valuable resources that are critical to mission success.

This is the sixth DOD environmental award Eglin has won in the last seven years.

"Being recognized six times out of the last seven years as the best in the Department of Defense reflects the truly exceptional team we have guiding Eglin's environmental stewardship. I couldn't be more proud of them, for their service and for demonstrating the complementary nature of our military mission and environmental conservation," said Brig. Gen. Christopher Azzano, 96th Test Wing commander.

"This team is truly a global leader in environmental and energy management," he said.

Eglin's environmental team displayed environmental leadership by recycling or reusing municipal solid waste, pursuing alternative energy sources, enhancing the prescribed burn program and achieving designation as a clean and resilient installation.

The Eglin Environmental division consists of more than 80 biologists, scientists, foresters, fire management specialists and engineers. They are responsible for managing an assemblage of biodiversity of distinct natural community types, the largest forested military reservation and over 120,000 square miles of water ranges while enabling essential DoD missions.

Credit for the accomplishment goes well beyond the team at the 96th Civil Engineer Group, said Maria Rodriguez, 96th CEG environmental management chief.

"It's definitely a reflection of the base leadership's commitment to being good stewards of the environment. Understanding that the military missions here can thrive because our stewardship, not in spite of it, is key to having total buy-in to our management practices," she said.

Some of the accomplishments contributing to Eglin's award-winning effort include:

- Eglin recycles or reuses approximately 77 percent of the municipal solid waste it creates, exceeding the DOD goal by 27 percent, saving the base \$3.5 million in waste disposal costs.
- They furthered the national goal of pursuing alternative energy sources by facilitating and breaking ground for a 30 megawatt solar photovoltaic array project on 245 acres of Eglin property, raising Eglin's percentage of renewable energy sources to 19 percent.

- The team identified an increase in the number of reportable spills resulting from poor marina operations and worked with base personnel to adopt Florida Department of Environmental Protection practices and procedures to certify Eglin as one of only 10 other marinas in Florida to receive the Clean and Resilient designation. Since implementation, marina oil spills have been reduced to near zero.



Spotlight on: Hurlburt Field



Hurlburt Field is a United States Air Force installation located in Okaloosa County, Florida, immediately west of the Town of Mary Esther. It is part of the greater Eglin Air Force Base reservation, and is home to Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), the 1st Special Operations Wing (1 SOW), the 24th Special Operations Wing, the USAF Special Operations School (USAFSOS) and the Air Combat Command's (ACC) 505th Command and Control Wing. The installation is nearly 6,700 acres and with a total population of approximately 21,500 inclusive of active duty, reserve, family members, civilians and contractors.

Hurlburt Field is the home of the 1st Special Operations Wing, one of four Air Force active duty special operations wings and falls under the Air Force Special Operations Command. The 1st SOW is a pivotal component of AFSOC's ability to provide airpower to conduct special operations missions worldwide. The primary mission of the 1st SOW is to rapidly plan and execute specialized and contingency operations in support of national priorities. The wing's core missions include close air support, precision aerospace firepower, specialized aerospace mobility, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) operations, and agile combat support. The 1st SOW is known as "the 4th largest wing in the Air Force and the most deployed installation."

The 24th Special Operations Wing is one of three Air Force active duty special operations wings assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command. The 24 SOW is the only Special Tactics wing in the Air Force. The primary mission of the 24 SOW is to provide Special Tactics forces for rapid global employment to enable airpower success. The 24 SOW is U.S. Special Operation Command's tactical air and ground integration force, and the Air Force's special operations ground force to enable global access, precision strike, personnel recov

ery operations and battlefield surgery. Core capabilities encompass: airfield reconnaissance, assessment, and control; personnel recovery; joint terminal attack control and environmental reconnaissance.

History:

Hurlburt began as a small training field for the much larger Eglin Field. It was initially designated Eglin Auxiliary Field No. 9, and later as Eglin AFB Auxiliary Field 9/Hurlburt Field when the U.S. Air Force became an independent service, before being administratively separated from the rest of the Eglin AFB complex in the 1950s. However, once separated, the facility retained its history and kept all building numbers the same; i.e., all start with a "9". The installation was named by then-Eglin Field base commander Brigadier General Grandison Gardner for First Lieutenant Donald Wilson Hurlburt (1919–1943), who was killed in an aircraft crash at the main base, then known as Eglin Field, in 1943.

The facility had previously been named the Eglin-Hurlburt Airdrome until 1943; Hurlburt Field, March 1944; Eglin Auxiliary Field No. 9, October 1944; with the current name official on January 13, 1948. The base commander of Eglin Main was also responsible for Hurlburt, 1942–1946, but when the base reactivated on February 1, 1955, it gained a separate commander.



Commander – Colonel Thomas B. Palenske

Col. Thomas B. Palenske is the Commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing and Installation Commander, Hurlburt Field, Fla. As the 1st SOW commander, he is responsible for preparing Air Force special operations forces for missions worldwide in support of Army, Navy, Marine and allied special operations forces and USAF counterparts. The wing's mission includes infiltration, resupply, air refueling, and precision fire support, employing over 70 aircraft including the AC-130U/J, MC-130H, CV-22B, U-28A and PC-12. These capabilities support a variety of special operations missions including direct action, unconventional warfare, special reconnaissance, counterterrorism, personnel recovery, psychological operations and information operations.



HRT | Copyright by Timothy Aanerud | 2002-09-06 | Airport-Data.com

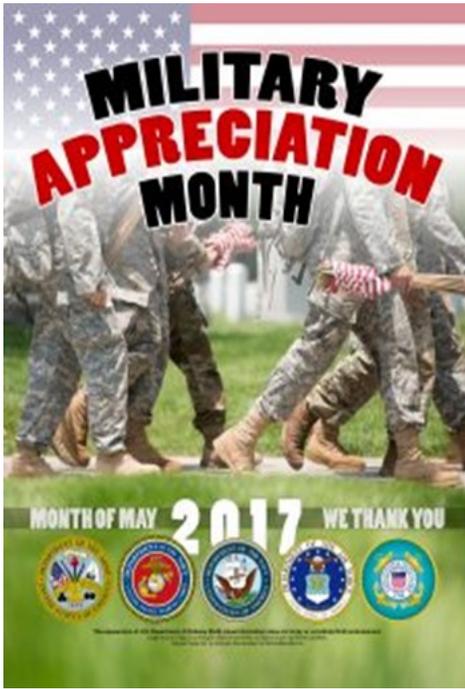


(U.S. Air Force photo/ Senior Airman Julianne Showalter)



Did You Know?

May is National Military Appreciation Month!



Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the opportunity to publicly demonstrate their appreciation for the sacrifices and successes made by our service members -- past and present. Each year the president makes a proclamation, reminding Americans of the important role the U.S. Armed Forces have played in the history and development of our country. May was selected because it has the most days set aside for celebrating and commemorating our military's achievements.

Many locations also celebrate a specific Military Appreciation Day. Although not a nationally recognized holiday, areas use the day to hold parties and picnics in honor of their local active duty, Guard, Reserve and military veteran communities. Local businesses may offer discounts, while local sports teams may give free entrance to military families and veterans.

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW)

Date: Sunday, May 7th – Saturday, May 13th, 2017. Celebrated the first full week in May.
About: A time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.

Victory in Europe Day AKA V-E Day or VE Day

Date: Monday, May 8th, 2017
About: May 8th, 1945 is the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Date: Friday, May 12th, 2017. Traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day.
About: A day to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.

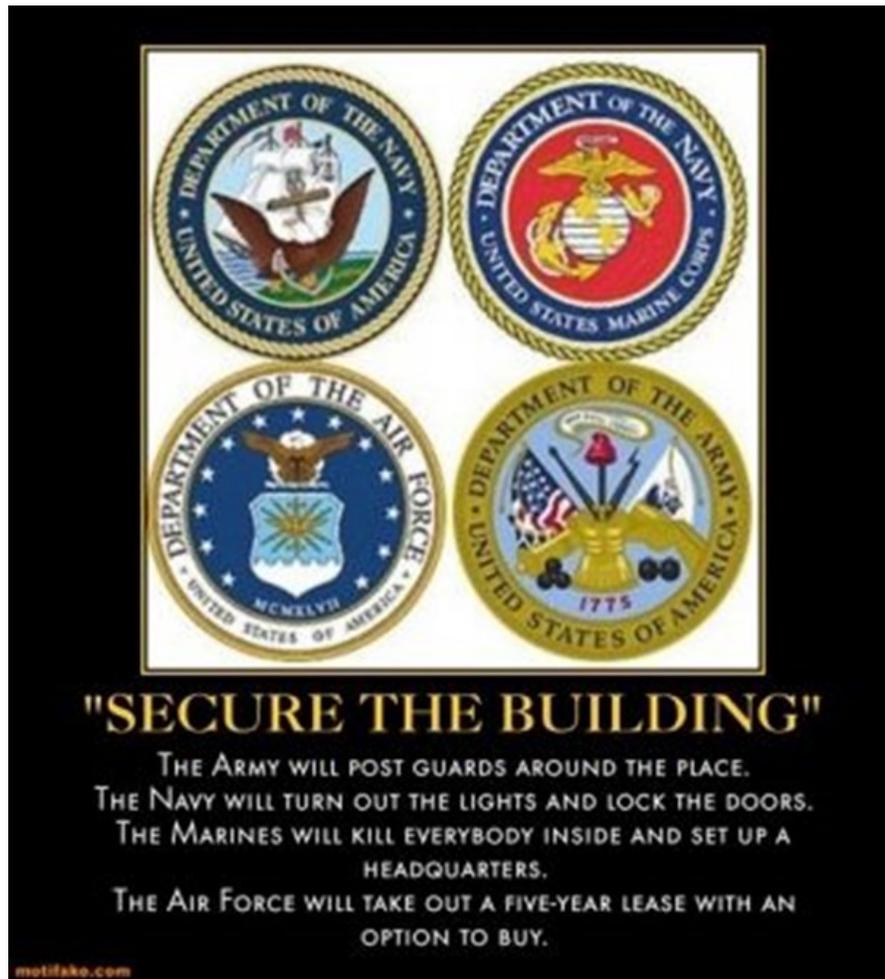
Armed Forces Day

Date: Saturday, May 20th, 2017. Celebrated the third Saturday in May every year.
About: A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. This day honors everyone serving in the U.S. Military branches; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy.

Memorial Day

Date: Monday, May 29th, 2017. A Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May.
About: A remembrance of our veterans. Commemorates the men and women who died while in military service.

Poster of the Day:



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

I am happy to report that the reports of the death of the Florida Defense Alliance have been greatly exaggerated. The FDA was not eliminated by the Florida Legislature. Additionally, Enterprise Florida, Inc. has been funded for the next Fiscal Year. DEO is scheduled to receive the same amounts for DRG (\$850K) and DIG (\$1.6M) as last year. Florida recognizes the importance of the military and defense sector to the state. Moreover, Florida appreciates the great work done by FDA members every day in conjunction with the military bases throughout the state. Staff would like to thank you for all your hard work on behalf of our state's military personnel and their families. The things you do every day truly 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





Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

May 24, 2017

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

NEWS

President's Budget Plan Released: Calls for BRAC – As part of the President's proposed budget for FY 2017, the White House proposed a sixth round of base realignment and closure (BRAC) to be conducted in 2021. According to the Office of Management & Budget (OMB), the round would save the federal government at least \$2 billion annually starting in FY 2026. Also noted in the budget rollout was a statement calling for the end of sequestration and introduction of new reforms. "The Budget includes \$639 billion for the Department of Defense, reversing the defense sequester and filling critical gaps in our warfighting readiness. These resources provide for the military forces needed to conduct ongoing operations, deter potential adversaries, and protect the security of the United States. At the same time, the Budget lays the groundwork for an ambitious defense reform agenda to reduce the costs of military programs wherever feasible without reducing effectiveness or efficiency," according to an OMB fact sheet. The Budget includes \$639 billion for the Department of Defense, reversing the defense sequester and filling critical gaps in warfighting readiness. Specifically, the budget calls for a 2.1% military pay raise, slight increases in personnel end strength for all services except the Army and a 25% increase in military construction funds.

Florida Attorney General's Office Unveils New Legal Program to Help Military Members and Veterans – The Military and Veterans Assistance Program ("MVAP") is an initiative launched by the Florida Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, which seeks to serve the unique needs of Florida's military servicemembers, reservists, and veterans. The program was developed to address several concerns that were identified while speaking to military members and veterans across the state.

About the MVAP:

- **Outreach and Education:** We will partner with military and veteran leadership statewide to provide education and information regarding emerging scams targeting service members, reservists, and veterans and ways in which our program can assist this community.
- **Complaint Resolution:** A dedicated team will work to address individual complaints by facilitating contact between the complaining service member, reservist, or veteran and the related business. Military service members, reservists, dependents, base representatives, veterans, veteran services representatives, and state or federal agencies can file a complaint at www.myfloridalegal.com/MVAP.
- **Enforcement:** The MVAP team will monitor trends in complaints received and pursue consumer protection enforcement actions where appropriate.
- **Outside Referral:** For matters not within our consumer protection enforcement jurisdiction, our team will connect eligible service members, reservists, and veterans with legal aid offices or other agencies if needed and as appropriate.

- **Improved Communication:** The MVAP team will work to encourage open communication between local, state, and federal partners to help ensure complaints are being handled by the correct organization and new and relevant information is shared.

For More Information, go to : www.myfloridalegal.com/MVAP

Perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) on military bases – This issue may impact Florida bases. In the recently signed defense appropriations agreement, the following language addresses a growing water contamination issue affecting military installations nation-wide:

“The use of the fire-extinguishing agent Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) by DOD has been linked to elevated levels of perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) on military bases and in neighboring communities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, PFCs have adverse impacts on human health. The Navy and Air Force have begun remediation of PFC contamination. The Secretary of Defense is encouraged to require all Services to establish procedures for prompt and cost-effective remediation. In addition, the Secretary of Defense is directed to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 120 days after the enactment of this Act that assesses the number of formerly used and current military installations where AFFF was or is currently used and the impact of PFC contaminated drinking water on surrounding communities. The report should also include plans for prompt community notification of such contamination, when the contamination was detected, and the procedures for timely remediation.”

A list of installations in Florida being assessed for possible contamination can be found at the following link:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/2755131-List-of-military-fire-and-crash-training-sites.html>

Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – The Florida Chamber will hold their 4th annual Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando on August 8, 2017. The morning portion is dedicated to military and defense issues and the afternoon devoted to veterans issues. Both Task Force staff and Florida Defense Alliance are involved in the planning of this event. More information available at: http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

Florida Defense Day in Washington, DC on June 26/27th – Congressman Matt Gaetz and Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy are hosting an inaugural Florida Defense Day to showcase Florida’s role in national defense and to discuss key issues facing defense communities and installations. More details to follow.

Next Florida Defense Economic Impact Study and Factbook – Florida Defense Support Task Force will be contracting with Matrix, Inc. to produce an updated Defense Economic Impact Analysis and Florida Defense Factbook. The study is scheduled to be completed in the Fall and the new Factbook should be published by the end of the calendar year.

ADC Defense and Community Award Winners for 2017 -- ADC is proud to announce the 2017 recipients of the Defense Community Awards, which honor the achievements and leadership present in our defense communities, on military installations and within DOD:

- Community Leadership Award — Utah State Sen. Jerry Stevenson
- Military Leadership Award — Col. Robert Lyman, Commander, 628th Air Base Wing and Joint Base Charleston, S.C.
- John Lynch Base Redevelopment Leadership Award — Ivy Owen, PCED, EDFP, Executive Director, Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, Ark.
- President’s Award — Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson, Commander, Air Education and Training Command, U.S. Air Force

Winners will be recognized during the 2017 Defense Communities National Summit, June 19-21 in Washington, D.C.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit – ADC will hold its National Summit June 19-21, 2017 in Washington, DC. There will be more than 600 leaders from around the nation for an event widely recognized as the most comprehensive look at the key issues facing defense communities and installations. This summit will feature more than 30 educational sessions and dozens of senior DOD and congressional leaders focused on the key issues facing defense communities and installations.

The Summit also will include town halls for OEA and each of the services, pre-conference workshops on the FY 2018 defense authorization bill and the BRAC process, and the Armed Services committee staff roundtable. Don't miss this opportunity to network with hundreds of your colleagues. **More information available at:** <http://www.adcsummit.org/>

Update to the 2012 Spectrum Report – The Florida Defense Support Task Force has approved the funding for a project by The Principi Group and Spectrum Group to update the 2012 assessment (Spectrum Report) of Florida's military installations. This will allow Florida to have an updated assessment -- including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) -- prior to the expected BRAC in 2019 and/or 2021. Local defense community leaders will be receiving notification of this "Re-SWOT" within the next month. The team from the Principi Group will be visiting bases over the Summer. Part of this Re-SWOT will be to include input from the local defense community and we need FDA members to assist in coordinating this effort. More information including a list and schedule of visits forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Governor, Cabinet Sign 2017 Memorial Day Resolution -- Gov. Rick Scott and members of the Florida Cabinet presented the 2017 Memorial Day Resolution during the May 23 Cabinet Meeting. The resolution was accepted on behalf of Florida's veterans by Glenn Sutphin, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Governor and Cabinet ask all Floridians to pause for one minute and observe the National Moment of Remembrance to honor America's fallen at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day. Memorial Day is Monday, May 29, 2017.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to everyone on today's FDA Conference Call. We had a lot of information to share with you. Welcome to Lieutenant General David H. Huntoon to the group. He is now the team leader for the Principi Group here in Florida. We look forward to working with him.

Chris Evanson, the legislative military aide for Congressman Matt Gaetz, updated us on the Florida Defense Day event for the Florida Delegation on June 26th and 27th. We will keep you updated as we receive more information on the event.

Rita Smith, chair of the Family Support Working Group, is requesting your assistance in recruiting the right individuals for the group. Make sure to reach out to individuals in your community who you feel would be a good fit.

We will be updating our FDA Strategic Plan and creating an awareness campaign as well as developing our legislative agenda for 2018 over the next two months. If you have ideas you would like to share, please email me or give me a call to discuss.

As you are out and enjoying your holiday weekend, take a moment to thank the men, women and their families who have sacrificed the greatest gift for our freedoms. May you and your family have a safe Memorial Day Holiday.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21 -- ADC National Summit, Washington, DC

Wednesday, November 15—FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida

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



QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

From General James Mattis, USMC --

"The most important six inches on the battlefield is between your ears."

"You are part of the world's most feared and trusted force. Engage your brain before you engage your weapon."

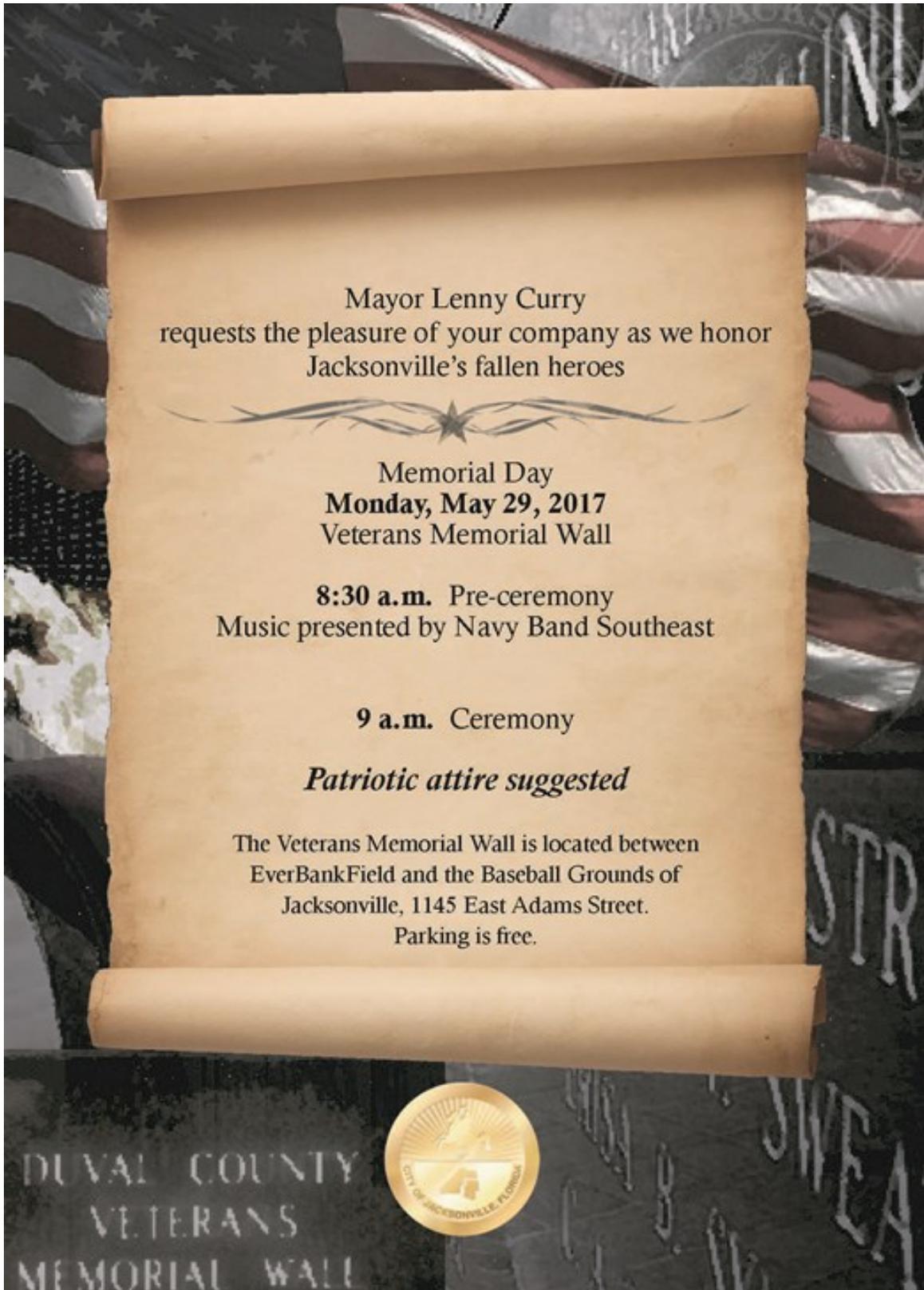
"No war is over until the enemy says it's over. We may think it over, we may declare it over, but in fact, the enemy gets a vote."

"You cannot allow any of your people to avoid the brutal facts. If they start living in a dream world, it's going to be bad."



News from the Bases

Jacksonville –



MacDill AFB—

Cool gadgets, new ideas on display at SOFIC, Tampa's annual commando conference

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/macdill/cool-gadgets-new-ideas-on-display-at-sofic-tampas-annual-commando/2323707>

By **Howard Altman**,
Times Staff Writer
Published: **May 15, 2017**

For the next four days, the Tampa Convention Center will become a commando big box store, where the nation's Special Operations Forces can shop for much-needed equipment and services.

The annual Special Operations Forces Industry Conference (SOFIC) convenes at the convention center starting today. A collaboration between U.S. Special Operations Command, headquartered at Mac-

Dill Air Force Base, and the National Defense Industry Association, the conference is also a marketplace of ideas. SOCom officials will meet with industry and academia to lay out the kinds of goods and services they need in an increasingly challenging world. It's a world where commandos have been on the tip of the spear for the past 15 years in the fight against jihadis. And they now face new threats from countries like Russia, China, North Korea and Iran.

"Folks look to this conference as a premier venue bringing everyone together to look at the tough problems the nation, as well as special operations, is facing," said Jim "Hondo" Geurts, SOCom's acquisition chief, whose unit spends billions a year from its headquarters at MacDill.....

SOFIC Conference Begins as Special Operations Command Embraces New Missions

<http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2017/5/16/sofic-conference-begins-as-special-operations-command-embraces-new-missions>

By Stew Magnuson

Special Operations Command kicks off its largest conference of the year May 15 in Tampa, Florida, as it takes on new responsibilities at the Pentagon.



EaglePicher Technologies shows off its remote cameras that can roll on land or in the water at the 2014 Special Operations Forces Industry Conference in Tampa. More than 10,000 individuals and 400 companies are expected this year. SKIP O'ROURKE | Times (2014)



Certain to be discussed at the annual Special Operations Forces Industry Conference is the command's new roles as the lead Defense Department organization coordinating both the counter-terrorism and the counter-weapons of mass destruction missions.

Photo: EPNAC

The responsibility of synchronizing the counter-weapons of mass destruction mission for the Defense Department was recently transferred from U.S. Strategic Command to SOCOM. In this role, the command will be responsible for establishing intelligence priorities, monitoring global operations and conducting assessments.

It will also be the designated coordinating authority for trans-regional terrorist organizations and other threat networks.....

Eglin AFB—

Think Tank: Jobs could be lost if drilling is allowed in Gulf of Mexico

<http://weartv.com/news/local/think-tank-jobs-could-be-lost-if-drilling-is-allowed-in-gulf-of-mexico>

by Christopher Saul

A moratorium on oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico ends in less than five years, but members of two industries in Okaloosa County say allowing the moratorium to end could have disastrous consequences for the local economy, including the loss of more than 220,000 jobs in northwest Florida alone.

Experts with the defense industry alone think drilling offshore could wipe out northwest Florida's defense industry and cost Okaloosa County billions of dollars.

Small birds and bigger ones, like the F-35 call the Gulf Coast home.

Just offshore, the [Gulf Range](#), where airmen based at Eglin test the latest and greatest

warfighting devices. It's also the catalyst for high-paying, high-tech jobs.

In 2022, a moratorium on oil drilling expires and it has defense industry experts worried about jobs in Okaloosa County.....

Hurlburt Field—

FLANG Det 2 is making its mark

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Parkinson, 1st Special Operations Wing Public Affairs / Published May 19, 2017

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. -- Florida Air National Guard Detachment 2 has been at Hurlburt since December 2015 and are only a few Airmen away from fulfilling all of their full-time positions.

The FLANG Det 2 employs officers and enlisted personnel in maintenance and aircrew positions to aid the 8th Special Operations Squadron and the 801st Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron to create a foundation and to form continuity within the CV-22 Osprey Community.

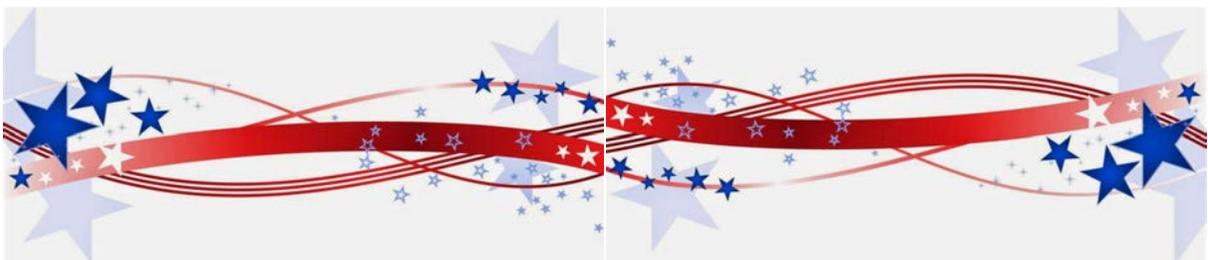
“We’re currently hiring those who have experience in the CV-22 community,” said Senior Master Sgt. Shawn Martell, maintenance superintendent with the FLANG Det 2. “Bringing in people who have that experience helps keep consistency and saves the Air Force money on retraining.”

Det 2 members are a foundation for the CV-22 units here. Since they don’t permanent change of station, they create a continuity and consistency of experience, said Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Adams, a CV-22 crew chief with the FLANG Det 2.

When transitioning from active duty to guard, the military status changes, but the mission does not.

“The mission statement is the same, but the mindset, and how we accomplish the mission, is what makes us stand out from our active duty counterparts,” Adams said. “In the guard we have more control over our career.”

With the unit still in its infant stages, those transitioning from active duty to guard should have experience on the CV-22 in order to apply. Those members who are considering leaving active duty can contact Master Sgt. Joel Johnson at (850) 881-3465.



Spotlight on: The United States Coast Guard



The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government. Established in 1790, the Coast Guard served as the nation's only armed force on the sea until Congress launched the Navy Department eight years later. Since then, the Coast Guard has protected the United States throughout its long history and served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts.

The Coast Guard is both a federal law enforcement agency and a military force, and therefore is a faithful protector of the United States in peacetime and war. In times of peace, the Coast Guard operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security, enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment, guarding the nation's vast coastline and ports, and performing vital life saving missions. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard serves under the Department of the Navy, defending the nation against terrorism and foreign threats.

The Coast Guard is a unique branch of the military responsible for saving lives, protecting the environment, and defending America's coastlines and waterways. All of this is done through 11 official missions, which include Port and Waterway Security, Drug Interdiction, Aids to Navigation, Search and Rescue, Living Marine Resources, Marine Safety, Defense Readiness, Migrant Interdiction, Marine Environmental Protection, Ice Operations, and Law Enforcement.

As the principal Federal agency responsible for maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship in U.S. ports and waterways, the Coast Guard protects and defends more than 100,000 miles of U.S. coastline and inland waterways, and safeguards an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) encompassing 4.5 million square miles stretching from North of the Arctic Circle to South of the equator, from Puerto Rico to Guam, encompassing nine time zones – the largest EEZ in the world.

As one of the five Armed Services of the United States, the Coast Guard is the only military branch within the Department of Homeland Security. In addition to its role as an Armed Service, the Coast Guard is a first responder and humanitarian service that provides aid to people in distress or impacted by natural and man-made disasters whether at sea or ashore. The Coast Guard is a member of the Intelligence Community, and is a law enforcement and regulatory agency with broad legal authorities associated with maritime transportation, hazardous materials shipping, bridge administration, oil spill response, pilotage, and vessel construction and operation.

The over 56,000 members of the Coast Guard operate a multi-mission, interoperable fleet of 243 Cutters, 201 fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, and over 1,600 boats. Operational control of surface and air assets is vested in two Coast Guard geographical Areas (Pacific and Atlantic), nine Coast Guard Districts, and 35 Sectors located at strategic ports throughout the country. Six Mission Support Logistics and Service Centers provide services for operational assets and shore facilities. Coast Guard program oversight, policy development, and personnel administration are carried out at Coast Guard Headquarters located on the St. Elizabeth's campus in Washington, DC.



On an average day, the Coast Guard:

Conducts 45 search and rescue cases; **saves 10** lives; **saves over \$1.2M** in property; **seizes 874** pounds of cocaine and **214** pounds of marijuana; **conducts 57** waterborne patrols of critical maritime infrastructure; **interdicts 17** illegal migrants; **escorts 5** high-capacity passenger vessels; **conducts 24** security boardings in and around U.S. ports; **screens 360** merchant vessels for potential security threats prior to arrival in U.S. ports; **conducts 14** fisheries conservation boardings; **services 82** buoys and fixed aids to navigation; **investigates 35** pollution incidents; **completes 26** safety examinations on foreign vessels; **conducts 105** marine inspections; **investigates 14** marine casualties involving commercial vessels; **facilitates** movement of **\$8.7B** worth of goods and commodities through the Nation's Maritime Transportation System.

USCG Districts of the United States



U.S. Coast Guard Units in the State of Florida (17)

Seventh Coast Guard District Headquarters Office, Miami, FL

Coast Guard Air Station Miami

Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater

Coast Guard Marine Safety Office / Marine Safety Unit Tampa

Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit Miami

Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) Jacksonville





Coast Guard Station St. Petersburg

Coast Guard Station Ft. Myers Beach

Coast Guard Station Ft. Pierce

Coast Guard Station Islamorada

Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Inlet

Coast Guard Station Marathon

Coast Guard Station Ft. Lauderdale

Coast Guard Station Ponce De Leon Inlet, New Smyrna Beach

Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral

Coast Guard Station Sand Key, Clearwater

Coast Guard Station Key West



Did You Know?

Memorial Day – May 29, 2017

Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday got started on May 30, 1868 as Decoration Day, when Union General John A. Logan and the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois, established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Union war dead with flowers. Twenty years later, the name was changed to Memorial Day. By the 20th century, competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service.

On May 11, 1950, Congress passed a resolution requesting that the President issue a proclamation calling on Americans to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. President Richard M. Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday in 1971. Memorial Day is now observed on the last Monday of May. It is an occasion to honor the men and women who died in all wars.

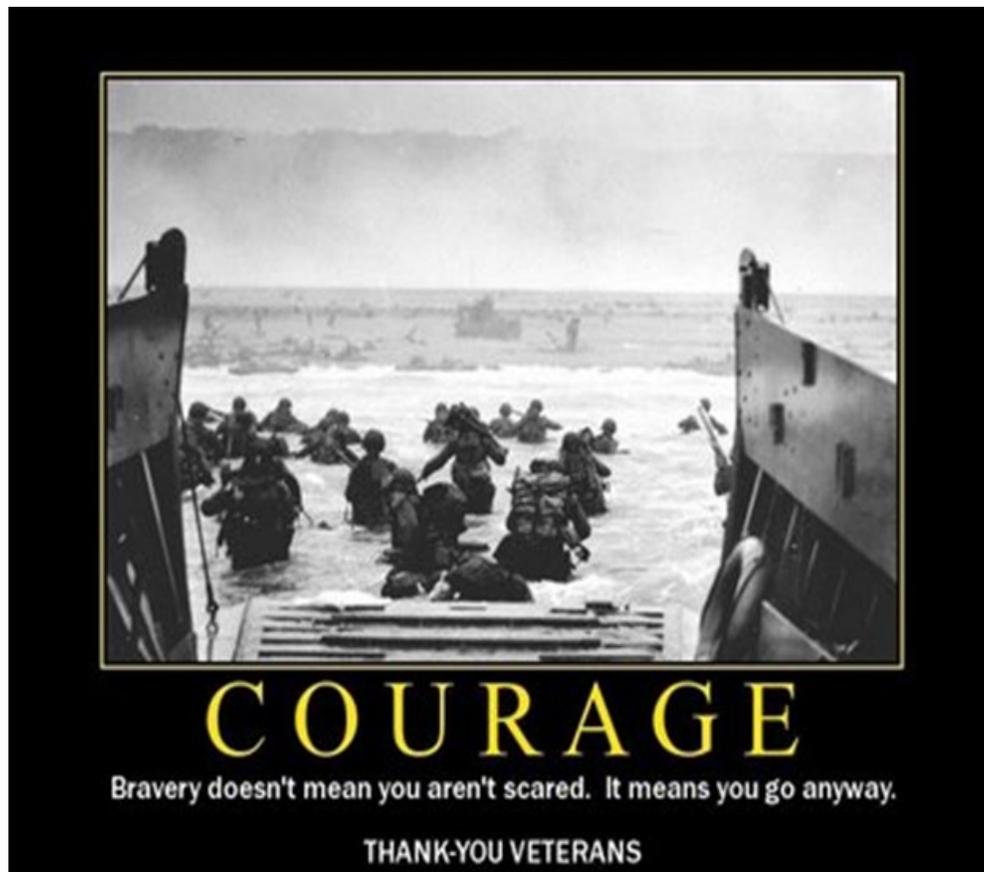
Remembering Those Who Served

It is customary to mark Memorial Day by visiting graveyards and war monuments. One of the biggest Memorial Day traditions is for the President or Vice President to give a speech and lay a wreath on soldiers' graves in the largest national cemetery, Arlington National Cemetery, in Virginia. Most towns have local Memorial Day celebrations. Here are some ways you can honor the men and women who serve our country:

- * Put flags or flowers on the graves of men and women who served in wars.
- * Fly the U.S. flag at half-staff until noon.
- * Visit monuments dedicated to soldiers, sailors and marines.
- * Participate in a National Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. local time.
- * March in a parade.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day; Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who *died* while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

Poster of the Day:



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Tremendous thanks to all the great volunteers in the Florida Defense Alliance. Through your hard work and dedication, Florida has become a model for support of the military. In defense communities across the state, you have set the standard for being military-friendly. You constantly embrace our service members and their families and integrate them into the tapestry of the larger civilian community. It is these personal relationships that our military members remember years after leaving their assignments in Florida. During this month when we remember our military, staff thanks you for all you do for our men and women in uniform and their families in the Sunshine State.

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



Remember -
our fallen heros.
They are the reason
that we are free.



Never Forget Their Service





Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

June 7, 2017

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

NEWS

President's Budget Plan Released: Calls for BRAC – As part of the President's proposed budget for FY 2017, the White House proposed a sixth round of base realignment and closure (BRAC) to be conducted in 2021. According to the Office of Management & Budget (OMB), the round would save the federal government at least \$2 billion annually starting in FY 2026. Also noted in the budget rollout was a statement calling for the end of sequestration and introduction of new reforms. "The Budget includes \$639 billion for the Department of Defense, reversing the defense sequester and filling critical gaps in our warfighting readiness. These resources provide for the military forces needed to conduct ongoing operations, deter potential adversaries, and protect the security of the United States. At the same time, the Budget lays the groundwork for an ambitious defense reform agenda to reduce the costs of military programs wherever feasible without reducing effectiveness or efficiency," according to an OMB fact sheet. The Budget includes \$639 billion for the Department of Defense, reversing the defense sequester and filling critical gaps in warfighting readiness. Specifically, the budget calls for a 2.1% military pay raise, slight increases in personnel end strength for all services except the Army and an increase military construction funds by 25%.

Family Support Programs Fare Well Under President's Budget Request-- Funding for military family support programs would jump \$600 million to \$8.3 billion under the fiscal 2018 budget request the White House released this week, benefiting DOD Education Activity schools and commissaries, among other programs. The proposal includes \$2.4 billion to operate the department's school system, a \$300 million increase over the current year. Commissaries would receive \$1.4 billion next year, up \$200 million, reports Military Times. Funding for morale, welfare and recreation programs — such as fitness centers, libraries and some education and recreation programs — would remain constant at \$1.5 billion. Child care and youth programs, however, would suffer a \$100 million cut to \$1.2 billion under the FY 2018 blueprint.

Florida Supports F-35 for FLANG – On May 25th the Florida Congressional Delegation, spearheaded by Congressman John Rutherford's office and signed by every member of the Florida delegation, sent a letter in support of the Florida Air National Guard being selected for F-35 at Jacksonville IAP. The letter highlighted the critical location and mission of the 125th Fighter Wing and indicated that Jacksonville is best suited to take on the new aircraft now. In addition, the City Council also signed a new F-35 support proclamation that they will present at the Wing.

Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – The Florida Chamber will hold their 4th annual Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando on August 8, 2017. The morning portion is dedicated to military and defense issues and the afternoon devoted to veterans issues. Both Task Force staff and Florida Defense Alliance are involved in the planning of this event. More information available at: http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

Florida Defense Day in Washington, DC on June 26/27th – Congressman Matt Gaetz and Congresswoman

Stephanie Murphy are hosting an inaugural Florida Defense Day to showcase Florida's role in national defense and to discuss key issues facing defense communities and installations. More details to follow.

Florida Defense Day” in Washington DC – The Florida Defense Day in Washington DC has changed a bit. The event is now planned for June 27, 2017 from 1:00PM – 4:00PM with a reception at 5:00PM. We are awaiting more details, including location, on the event.

FDA Support for Florida MILCON Projects – The FDA Chair sent letters to seven members of the Florida Congressional Delegation who will have a role in approving Military Construction (MILCON) Projects for the FY-18 Federal budget in either the MILCON Committee, the HASC/SASC or Appropriations Committees. The letters went to Senators Nelson and Rubio, and Representatives Wasserman Schultz, Gaetz, Rutherford, Rooney and Diaz Balart. We just received the USAF Unfunded Priority List and will send similar letters of support for the Air Force projects to the same Congressional members.

FDA Revises Strategic Plan – Last week, FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg convened a meeting to revise and update the FDA Strategic Plan. This document will be posted to the FDA web site later this week.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit – ADC will hold its National Summit June 19-21, 2017 in Washington, DC. There will be more than 600 leaders from around the nation for an event widely recognized as the most comprehensive look at the key issues facing defense communities and installations. This summit will feature more than 30 educational sessions and dozens of senior DOD and congressional leaders focused on the key issues facing defense communities and installations. The Summit also will include town halls for OEA and each of the services, pre-conference workshops on the FY 2018 defense authorization bill and the BRAC process, and the Armed Services committee staff roundtable. Don't miss this opportunity to network with hundreds of your colleagues. We have just been informed that Heather Wilson, sworn in last month as the 24th Secretary of the Air Force, will address the summit during the opening general session on June 19. **More information available at: <http://www.adcsummit.org/>**

Enterprise Florida Board Meeting June 1, 2017

FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg addressed the Enterprise Florida Board to remind them of the importance of military and defense to the state of Florida. She also encouraged them to engage with legislators and support local defense communities across the state.



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Monday, June 19 – Wednesday, June 21 -- ADC National Summit, Washington, DC

Wednesday, November 15—FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida

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



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Last week we had a small working group review and update our FDA Strategic Plan. I would like to thank Debi Graham, Tim Jones and Kay Rasmussen for taking time out their busy schedules to travel to Tallahassee to work on this important document for our organization. Below is the draft plan and I welcome your input into our plan so we can finalize it and develop the companion implementation plan for this year.

In addition to the Mission Sustainment and Family Support Working Groups we will be adding a Marketing/Advocacy Working Group. Through this last year, we realized we need an awareness campaign to inform others about our military installations and defense industries in our state and the vital roles they play in our economies and communities. This group will also work on our legislative agenda for the FDA. If you have suggestions for our legislative agenda and/or if you would like to participate in this working group, email me at kjilberg@hotmail.com. This working group will be meeting via conference calls.

At the end of the Enterprise Florida Board meeting on Friday, I spoke during the public comment section. This was a wonderful opportunity to remind board members that the FDA is an initiative of EFI that they created in 1997 with the FDA organization being established in Florida Statute in 1998. As the next round of BRAC seems to be around the corner it is important, we inform our state leaders (elected, appointed and business) about the opportunities as well as the challenges before Florida as we prepare and engage for these activities.

A shout-out to Bruce, Michelle, Terry, Marcy for all that they do for the Florida Defense Alliance and the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Without this great team, it would be very difficult to move the needle on increasing military value for our installations. Finally, thank you our members for your time and knowledge that you share with the FDA and your communities to assist with growing and protecting this sector as well as assisting the family members of the men and women who serve in our military. We do not take your time lightly as it is a gift you give to improve your communities and Florida. I look forward to the coming year as we focus on FDA priorities and creating “*Florida as the Base of the Future*”.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

Draft Strategic Plan for FDA

FDA Authority

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, Installation Commanders and staff, Community Leaders, and Business Executives to increase military value, enhance installation capabilities, and promote multi-service synergies for Florida's military installations, while supporting and enhancing the quality of life of Florida military families.

Background

Florida's military installations stretch from Pensacola to Jacksonville and through Florida's high-tech corridor to Miami and Key West. The installations, long recognized as true national and state assets, stimulate over \$79 billion dollars annually to the Florida economy, as a result of salaries and services, defense industries, retirees, and federal programs. This makes defense the 4th leading economic driver of the state's economy. Additionally, defense-related spending accounts for over 775,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs. The high-tech nature of the installations and their defense industries has been a foundation for much of Florida's businesses involving aviation, aerospace, photonics, lasers, and modeling and simulation.

Purpose

Florida Defense Alliance's strategic plan is designed to enhance partnerships with communities near major defense installations, develop economic diversification in those areas and promote base efficiencies in the State of Florida. This Alliance supports local groups that work to enhance their military installations, defense industries, and local economies.

FDA Mission

- Foster federal military presence in the State of Florida in support of National Defense.
- Preserve, enhance and expand test, training, and staging areas suitable for maneuver by joint 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 active, retired and separated Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines, National Guard, Coast Guard, reserves, and family members receive continual improvement to quality of life.
- Support local efforts to enhance the value of military installations and activities.

FDA Vision

Enhance the position and reputation of Florida as the most military friendly state in the Nation.

FDA Goals & Objectives

1. Enhance the value of Florida military installations.

- 1.1 Inform and engage local, state, and federal governments in pertinent military issues.
 - 1.1.1 Encroachment
 - 1.1.2 Ranges
 - 1.1.3 Public-Public, Public-Private (P4) Partnerships
 - 1.1.4 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and BRAC-like activities
 - 1.1.5 Transportation
 - 1.1.6 Education

1.1.7 Healthcare

1.2 Provide accurate and consistent military economic impact data to the State of Florida and individual communities.

1.2.1 Florida Defense Economic Impact Analysis

1.2.2 Florida Defense Fact Book

1.3 Encourage military-community collaborative planning processes.

1.4 Grow defense related industries.

1.4.1 Expand tech-partnerships between educational institutions, military research and development offices, and the defense industry.

1.5 Actively seek opportunities to support and recruit future military missions.

2. Strengthen the abilities of the Governor, the Florida Legislature, and State Agencies to protect and enhance the value of the state's military installations.

2.1 Coordinate actions and recommendations with other advisory bodies.

2.1.1 Florida Defense Support Task Force

2.1.2 Governor's Base Commanders' Meetings

2.1.3 Others as required such as

2.1.3.1 Department of Veterans Affairs

2.1.3.2 Veterans Florida

2.1.3.3 National Defense Industrial Association

2.1.3.4 Regional Defense Alliances

2.1.3.5 CareerSource Florida

2.2 Support local, state and federal compatible growth management initiatives.

2.3 Seek appropriate state legislation and/or administrative action to support issues for military service members and their families, and veterans.

2.4 Encourage state agency liaisons' participation in the Florida Defense Alliance.

2.5 Maintain a Florida "priority military issues" list.

3. Collaborate with Florida's legislative and congressional delegations to enhance the contribution of Florida's installations to meet defense requirements.

3.1 Advise congressional staffers on unique opportunities to increase the military value of Florida's installations.

3.1.1 Identify legislative initiatives for consideration by the Florida Legislature.

3.1.2 Maintain a Florida Defense Alliance "priority military issues" list

3.1.3 Advocate for congressional authorization and appropriations to positively impact Florida's installations.

3.2 Support outreach to the Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security to facilitate the understanding of the value of Florida's installations and ranges to National security.

4. Increase public awareness of the military's economic value.

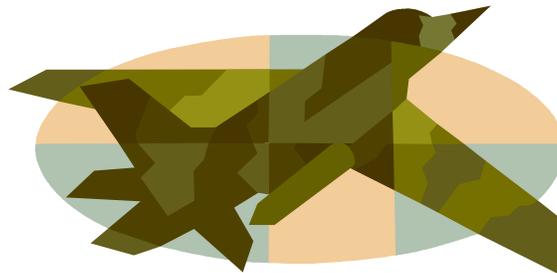
- 4.1 Cultivate government, defense, industry, workforce and academic alliances at the local, regional, and national levels.
- 4.2 Support installation visits by state leaders and related partners to increase awareness and seek support for military support legislation.
- 4.3 Determine the economic impact of military and defense industries on individual communities, regions, and the entire state.
- 4.4 Develop and implement comprehensive media plan for the Florida Defense Alliance and its members.

5. Identify and assess opportunities for state and local government to respond to installation needs.

- 5.1 Promote, support and seek continued state funding for defense grant programs.

6. Develop strategies to assist communities expand and diversify their defense dependent economies.

- 6.1 Attend defense focused national meetings to gain insight into direction from national leaders
 - 6.1.1 Association of Defense Communities
 - 6.1.1.1 Others as identified
 - 6.1.2 Relay national information during quarterly meetings



QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

"Damn the torpedoes, Full speed ahead!"-- Admiral David Glasgow Farragut

During the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864, Admiral Farragut was aboard *Hartford* entering Mobile Bay in two columns, with armored monitors leading and a fleet of wooden ships following. When the lead monitor *Tecumseh* was demolished by a mine, the wooden ship *Brooklyn* stopped, and the line drifted in confusion toward Fort Morgan. As disaster seemed imminent, Farragut gave the orders embodied by these famous words. He swung his own ship clear and headed across the mines, which failed to explode. The fleet followed and anchored above the forts, which, now isolated, surrendered one by one. The torpedoes to which Farragut and his contemporaries referred would today be described as tethered mines.

News from the Bases

Maj. Gen. Bellon takes command of MARFORSOUTH

<http://www.southcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/Article/1191872/maj-gen-bellon-takes-command-of-marforsouth/>

May 24, 2017 — Maj. Gen. David G. Bellon assumed command of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South during a change of command ceremony in Doral, Florida, May 22.

Brig. Gen. Kevin M. Iiams relinquished command to Bellon during the ceremony after serving as the commander of MARFORSOUTH since January 2016.

Bellon was previously the director of the Reserve Affairs Division. Iiams is set to be the commander of U.S. Marine Corps Training and Education Command.



Iiams praised his Marines for the progress they've made the impact they have had on the region during his command, telling them the effects of their work would last long after they had all left the command.

"We've planted the seeds for trees we'll never see," Iiams told Marines.

For his part, Bellon said he was looking forward to commanding the Marines of MARFORSOUTH and working with their partners in the region. He pointed to the various times he had traveled or worked in South and Central America, explaining that his family felt a special connection to the countries they had been to during his time as a Marine.

"This is a region that our family loves," said Bellon. "And we love it because there are so many layers to the different cultures that we find in the region. And what we've found is a common set of values that resonate with our family."

Brig. Gen. Kevin M. Iiams, the outgoing commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South, passes the unit colors to Maj. Gen. David G. Bellon during the unit's change of command ceremony in Doral, Florida, May 22, 2017. Iiams is set to become the next commander of U.S. Marine Corps Training and Education Command. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Gunnery Sgt. Zachary Dyer)

Eglin AFB—

Defense Support Initiatives By Kay Rasmussen, DSI Manager

A DSI leadership group consisting of Kay Rasmussen, Bob Black, and Jim Heald traveled to Washington DC the first week of April for two days of targeted, hard-hitting meetings on The Hill. The objective was to target three top areas of interest: 1) Congressional budget increase in the FY18 National Defense Authorization Act to fund critical instrumentation enhancements to the Eastern Joint Gulf Test and Training Complex; 2) Advocate for permanent legislation that restricts oil and natural gas drilling, exploration and related activities in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, East of a designated protective Military Mission Line (MM)-currently set to expire in 2022; and 3) Verify positions on a proposed Navarre Pass across Santa Rosa Island which has been identified as incompatible to the military mission.

All meetings were conducted on Capitol Hill with Legislators and key staff. Additional meetings were conducted with members of The Spectrum Group which provides support to the Florida Defense Support Task Force.

With an economic impact of over \$10 Billion in the tri-county area, including the provision of 85,000 jobs, it is critical to maintain the military's strong contributions to our communities; in addition to our national security. Any entity that must practice in order to deliver their service or product to the best of their ability understands the military's necessity to train as they are required to perform in reality.

In support of that objective, the DSI has consistently stood in support of the eastern Joint Gulf Range and the permanent sustainment of the Military Mission Line. In 2010, the DSI constructed a Northwest Florida regional position packet advocating for protecting the eastern Gulf against oil drilling. Interestingly, this paper was finalized and distributed a month before the Deepwater Horizon tragedy. This regional position paper has subsequently been utilized by other organizations to demonstrate the advocacy efforts in play to collectively protect the Gulf; most currently the Florida Defense Support Task Force's January 31, 2017 white paper on oil drilling and mission compatibility.

The DSI updated this position paper in March 2017 restating its support of the U.S. military and opposition to any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the MML. And, further supports and requests permanent sustainment of the MML moratorium. This packet has been distributed to state and federal legislative leaders with strong positive reception.

We are proud and appreciative of our continued community leadership partnerships. It continues to be no surprise that our communities have been awarded the national designation of a *Great American Defense Community!*

Eglin welcomes new test wing commander

<http://www.eglin.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1199114/eglin-welcomes-new-test-wing-commander/>

By Kristin Stewart, Team Eglin Public Affairs / Published June 01, 2017

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- The 96th Test Wing welcomed its new commander May 31 during a change of command ceremony here. Brig. Gen. Christopher Azzano passed the guidon

to the wing's new leader Brig. Gen. Evan Dertien. The wing bid farewell to Azzano, who moves to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, to take command of the Air, Space and Cyberspace Operations Directorate.

A command pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours and 180 combat hours, Dertien is familiar with Air Force Materiel Command and the test mission. Previously, he was the 40th Flight Test Squadron commander in 2008 and an F-16/F-15 test pilot in 2002. Prior to arriving here, he served as the vice commander of the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson AFB.....



NAS Jacksonville—

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Visits NAS Jacksonville

By Kaylee LaRocque, Naval Air Station Jacksonville Public Affairs, Release Date: 5/31/2017 12:56:00 PM

http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=100778

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (NNS) – Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO) Adm. Bill Moran visited Naval Air Station Jacksonville May 30 to get a firsthand look at the new MQ-4C Triton Mission Control Center and meet Sailors and civilians during several all-hands calls.

During his first all hands call, the admiral greeted maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircrew and instructors with praise for their achievements in executing their missions.

He also discussed an increasingly competitive security environment, but highlighted where our Navy still maintains its edge.....

MacDill AFB —

AF announces Fairchild AFB as preferred location for additional KC-135s

<http://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1203670/af-announces-fairchild-afb-as-preferred-location-for-additional-kc-135s/>

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs / Published June 05, 2017

Today, Air Force officials announced Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, as the preferred location for basing 12 KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft, and MacDill AFB, Florida, as the reasonable alternative.

"Fairchild (AFB) is the best choice for additional Air Force tankers," said Heather Wilson, the Secretary of the Air Force. "It's well placed to gas up aircraft going across the Pacific, and it has the facilities we need without a lot of construction, making it the lower-cost option for the taxpayer."

The aircraft are currently scheduled to transfer from McConnell AFB, Kansas, in fiscal year 2020, as McConnell AFB is slated to receive the KC-46A Pegasus.....



Spotlight on: The Florida National Guard

The Florida National Guard consists of the Florida Army National Guard and the Florida Air National Guard. The Florida Army National guard is composed of approximately 10,000 soldiers while the Air Guard is composed of approximately 2,000 airmen.

Florida Department of Military Affairs



The Florida Department of Military Affairs (DMA) provides management oversight and administrative support to the Florida National Guard (FLNG).

Directly responsive to the Governor of Florida, the Department operates within the policy guidance and fiscal framework of both federal and state authorities. The Department manages a force of nearly 12,000 National Guard members, including over 2,300 full-time federal personnel, and more than 450 state employees. Together, the DMA and the FLNG are committed to serving the vital interests of the nation, the state of Florida, and its communities.

The Adjutant General, as head of the department, is specifically tasked with (1) the readiness of the Florida National Guard, (2) its response in times of natural disaster, and (3) assistance to Floridians at risk.

Tracing its heritage back to 1565, the year the Spanish founders of St. Augustine organized their first company of citizen-soldiers, the Florida National Guard's militia heritage extends back into our communities more than 450 years. Whether it was a call to arms during our nation's conflicts, or a cry for help during a natural disaster, the Guard has been there for Florida.

Today Florida National Guard Soldiers and Airmen remain engaged in overseas contingency operations, are vigilant in preparations to respond to domestic emergencies, and are committed to serving Florida's citizens and communities.

Mission

To provide ready military units and personnel to support national security objectives; to protect our citizens; and to support programs and initiatives which add value to our state and nation.

Vision

The nation's premier National Guard, embodying a winning spirit, living our core values, committed to serving Florida's citizens, and ready to meet the nation's call.

Our Values - P.R.I.D.E.

- Professionalism (Duty, Service Before Self)
- Respect (Diversity)
- Integrity (Loyalty, Integrity First, Honor)
- Discipline (Personal Courage, Selfless Service)
- Excellence (Excellence in All We Do)

Florida Army National Guard



State Mission

When Army National Guard units are not mobilized or under federal control, they report to the governor through the state Adjutant General. Each of the 54 National Guard organizations is supervised by the adjutant general of the state or territory. Under state law, the Army National Guard provides protection of life, property and preserves peace, order and public safety. These missions are accomplished through emergency relief support during natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and forest fires; search and rescue operations; support to civil defense authorities; maintenance of vital public services and counterdrug operations.

Federal Mission

The Army National Guard's federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped combat units available for prompt mobilization during federal military operations. During peacetime, these combat-ready units and support units are assigned to one of four Florida National Guard major commands to carry out missions compatible with training, mobilization readiness, humanitarian and contingency operations such as Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

While the Army National Guard provides almost half of the Army's combat units, the National guard also contains communications engineer, logistics, military police, signal, and other combat support organizations capable of deploying to military operations around the globe. In addition, the Florida Army National Guard has deployed units to provide airspace security for the National Capital Region since 2003.

Florida Air National Guard

State Mission

When Air National Guard units are not mobilized or under federal control, they report to the governor of their respective state, territory (Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands) or the commanding general of the District of Columbia National



Guard. Each of the 54 National Guard organizations is supervised by the adjutant general of the state or territory. Under state law, the Air National Guard provides protection of life, property and preserves peace, order and public safety. These missions are accomplished through emergency relief support during natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes and forest fires; search and rescue operations; support to civil defense authorities; maintenance of vital public services and counterdrug operations.

Federal Mission

The Air National Guard's federal mission is to maintain well-trained, well-equipped units available for prompt mobilization during war and provide assistance during national emergencies (such as natural disasters or civil disturbances). During peacetime, the combat-ready units and support units are assigned to most Air Force major commands to carry out missions compatible with training, mobilization readiness, humanitarian and contingency operations such as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Air National Guard units may be activated in a number of ways as prescribed by public law. Most of the laws may be found in Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

The Air National Guard provides almost half of the Air Force's tactical airlift support, combat communications functions, aeromedical evacuations and aerial refueling. In addition, the Air National Guard has total responsibility for air defense of the entire United States.

Leaders of the Florida National Guard:



**The Adjutant General,
Major General
Michael A. Calhoun**



**Assistant Adjutant General,
Army, Brigadier General
Michael A. Canzoneri**



**Assistant Adjutant
General, Air, Brigadier
General Brian Simpler**

Did You Know?

D-Day June 6, 1944



On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline, to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which, "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 Ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Continental Europe. The cost in lives on D-Day was high. More than 9,000 Allied Soldiers were killed or

wounded, but their sacrifice allowed more than 100,000 Soldiers to begin the slow, hard slog across Europe, to defeat Adolf Hitler's crack troops.

The American airborne landings in Normandy were the first American combat operations during Operation Overlord, the invasion of Normandy by the Western Allies on June 6, 1944, during World War II. Around 13,100 American paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions made night parachute drops early on D-Day, June 6, followed by 3,937 glider troops flown in by day. As the opening maneuver of Operation Neptune (the assault operation for Overlord) the two American airborne divisions were delivered to the continent in two parachute and six glider missions.

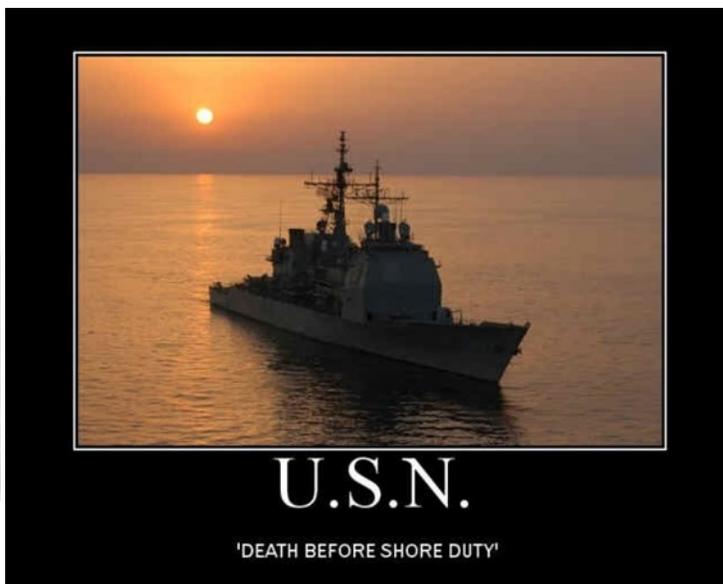
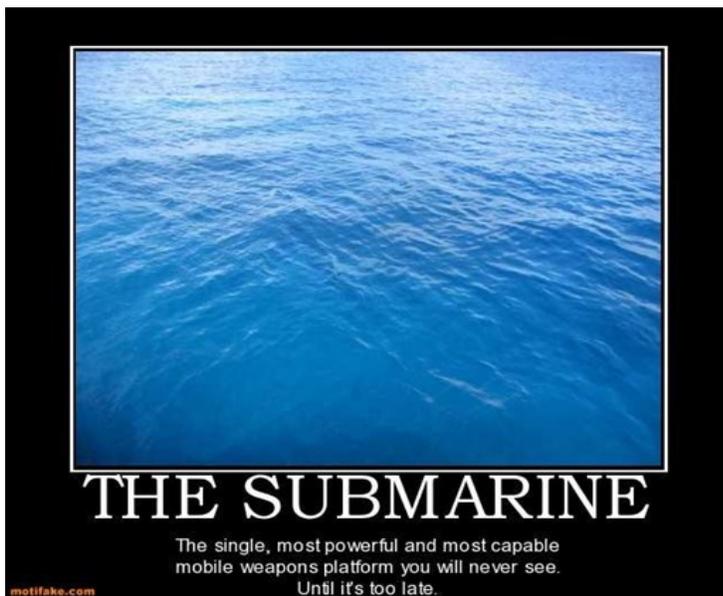


Divisions jumped behind enemy lines as part of the invasion of Normandy and the cracking of Hitler's Fortress Europe.

This is the airborne operation that all other airborne operations are measured against. In two separate missions, code named operations Albany and Boston, the paratroopers of both the 101st and 82nd Airborne



Navy Posters of the Day:



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

The Florida Defense Alliance continues to thrive in the Sunshine State! The Alliance continues to gain strength and do great work on behalf of our military installations. There is a Governor's Base Commander meeting coming up in August. Please touch base with your local Base Commander and see if you can assist with any issues. Keep up the great support of the military and continue to embrace our service members and their families and integrate them into the tapestry of the larger civilian community. It is these personal relationships that our military members remember years after leaving their assignments in Florida. Thanks for doing great things for our military and family members in Florida!

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



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

June 22, 2017

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

NEWS

House MILCON Spending Bill: The House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee will take up its fiscal 2018 spending bill, marking the first move by either chamber to deal with appropriations for the coming year. Questions about topline discretionary spending levels for defense and non-defense programs in FY 2018 still remain, however, as lawmakers have yet to reach a deal to raise the statutory spending caps for next year.

Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – The Florida Chamber will hold their 4th annual Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando on August 8, 2017. The morning portion is dedicated to military and defense issues and the afternoon devoted to veterans issues. Both Task Force staff and Florida Defense Alliance are involved in the planning of this event. More information available at: http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

Florida Defense Day in Washington, DC on June 27th – Congressman Matt Gaetz and Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy are hosting an inaugural Florida Defense Day from 12 -4 PM at the Florida House to showcase Florida’s role in national defense and to discuss key issues facing defense communities and installations. There will be a presentation by Secretary Anthony Principi followed by roundtable discussions. Representatives from the Florida Defense Alliance and the Florida Defense Support Task Force will be present and participate in the roundtables. FDA members are invited to attend. Please contact Chris Evanson in Congressman’s Gaetz office if you are interested in attending.

FDA Support for Florida MILCON Projects – The FDA Chair sent letters to several members of the Florida Congressional Delegation who will have a role in approving Military Construction (MILCON) Projects for the FY-18 Federal budget in the MILCON Committee, the HASC/SASC or Appropriations Committees. The letters supported both the Navy and Air Force MILCON projects in Florida.

Florida Defense Task Force Chair and Member News – The Task Force Chair rotates by Florida Statute every year between the House and Senate on 1 July. Senate President Joe Negron has appointed Senator Doug Broxson as the next Chair of the Task Force. He will take over from Representative Clay Ingram on July 1, 2017. Representative Ingram will continue serving the Task Force for the remainder of his elected term as Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran has reappointed him to remain on the Task Force. The Speaker has also appointed Representative Jay Trumbull from Bay County (FL-6) to the Task Force as of 6 June 2017. Rep Trumbull is in his second term representing the residents of the Greater Panama City area which includes two major military installations: Tyndall AFB and NSA Panama City.

Lucian Niemeyer announced as ASD for Energy, Installations and Environment – According to Dan Cohen, “*On Base*”, 13 June 2017, “[President Trump on Friday](#) announced his intent to nominate Lucian Niemeyer, former staff member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, as assistant secretary of defense

(ASD) for energy, installations and environment. If Niemeyer gains Senate confirmation, he would become the first individual to serve in a permanent capacity in the post since it was created in December 2014.Niemeyer worked for the Senate Armed Services Committee from 2003 to 2014, managing the military installations portfolio and providing oversight of the 2005 BRAC round. Since then he has led the Niemeyer Group, a public affairs consulting firm specializing in defense. Niemeyer also been a frequent speaker at ADC events, and will lead several discussions at next week's [Defense Communities National Summit](#)."

Final Team Orlando Building Approved – On June 14 2017, the Governor and Cabinet approved purchase of the final Partnership Building (Partnership IVB) for Team Orlando. The cost of the building was \$19.1 million and it provides 123,000 square feet of office space. This acquisition completes Team Orlando's goal of reducing the cost for the military services and protecting Team Orlando from any future realignments or closures. Thanks to all who worked hard to complete the vision of Team Orlando and see this through; especially General Baptiste, George Cheros and David Clark at DEP's Division of State Lands.

Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC) – Last week, FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg and Family Support Working Group Chair Rita Smith met by phone with Lynn Brannon, the Florida Coordinator for Building Healthy Military Communities. BHMC is working to support military families across the state – especially those families that are geographically dispersed – to connect to essential supporting services not directly provided by military installations. BHMC seeks to fill the gaps for those families not nearby to the installations. Kellie Jo and Rita Smith will be working with local defense community leaders to connect BHMC and help coordinate efforts with base commanders. BHMC will be in attendance at the next FDA meeting in November. More information at: www.jointservicessupport.org/Outreach/Index8.aspx

Next Governor's Base Commander Meeting August 9th at Homestead ARB – The Governor's Base Commander meetings provide a great forum for Base Commanders to provide information and raise issues directly to the Governor. In some cases, the issues raised can be resolved at the local/community level. In preparation for the next meeting, the Florida National Guard has reminded Base Commanders to have a continuous dialogue with local FDA leaders. So, please touch base with your Base Commander before the end of July and see if you can be of assistance.

Green Zone Heroes – National Movement of Veteran Friendly Businesses – Green Zone Hero (GZH) businesses have stepped up publically to honor and recognize veterans, active duty military personnel and their families. They recognize and serve American businesses that recognize and serve veterans. Their unique patented cyber-medal system quickly identifies what these "veteran-friendly" businesses do for our veterans. GZH partners with select veteran-focused nonprofit organizations, calling them the GZH *Ambassador*. More information at: <http://greenzonehero.com/>

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit – ADC will hold its National Summit June 19-21, 2017 in Washington, DC. There will be more than 600 leaders from around the nation for an event widely recognized as the most comprehensive look at the key issues facing defense communities and installations. This summit will feature more than 30 educational sessions and dozens of senior DOD and congressional leaders focused on the key issues facing defense communities and installations. The Summit also will include town halls for OEA and each of the services, pre-conference workshops on the FY 2018 defense authorization bill and the BRAC process, and the Armed Services committee staff roundtable. Don't miss this opportunity to network with hundreds of your colleagues. We have just been informed that Heather Wilson, sworn in last month as the 24th Secretary of the Air Force, will address the summit during the opening general session on June 19. **More information available at: <http://www.adcsummit.org/>**





**Kellie Jo Kilberg,
Keith Hoskins,
Kay Rasmussen,
Debi Graham and Jeff Fanto
at the
2017 ADC National Summit
in
Washington, DC.**

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Tuesday, November 14th & Wednesday, November 15th
FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida

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



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

On this day, June 21, 1788, the U.S. Constitution was ratified. It's a moment to pause and recognize how wise those men were when they crafted the constitution. They created a living document to which later, several amendments would be added. It is the document that, as Americans, guides our government and the way we live. It is the document for which men and women give their lives, protecting the freedoms we have in America. So what does this have to do with my notes today? The answer is everything.

As I sit through the different presentations here at the ADC Conference, it is clear our role at the FDA is going in the right direction. We continue to address opportunities and challenges for our installations, service members and their families. Areas of importance from the conference include encroachment, encroachment for mission sustainment and growth as well as family quality of life including quality of education, spousal employment and

housing. And for the civilian workforce, working with our educational institutions to create the talent pipeline for the aging workforce.

Whether or not there is a call for a BRAC, our members of the FDA continue to build the collaborative partnerships to develop policy and investment decisions to give vital support to our installations for their current missions as well as plan for future mission expansions.

In order for the State of Florida to be "the most military friendly state", we need to be forward-thinking, increasing investments and strengthening ties with all of our partners. Now is NOT the time to tie the hands of our local partners with burdensome governmental constraints which handicaps their abilities to be flexible and proactive to take on the opportunities and challenges of this ever changing environment to enhance and grow the military/defense sector of our state. This \$80 billion sector, with employment of more than 775,000, requires our local partners to build partnerships not only in Florida; but, also in D.C. and across the country.

When the FDA was created in 1998, we understood the importance of providing resources to those local partners to be proactive and innovative in addressing challenges at or around our installations as well as lead the partnerships to enhance the environment to grow the installations missions. Partnership relationship development is a continuous process and leads to insights into programs and resources opportunities for our communities to maximize and leverage both local and state resources with federal dollars to move the needle on our installations and missions military value.

As we move forward, we will need engagement from all of you as Florida retains the role of innovative leader in enhancing partnerships with our military installations/missions/war fighters and their families. Make sure to mark your calendars for November 14-15 for the next FDA meeting.

To all of our members and partners, thank you for all that you do in your communities to build the partnerships, leverage resources and support our service members and civilian workforce that protect our freedoms. You make a difference!!

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg



QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

President John F. Kennedy, Godfather of the Army's Green Berets (Special Forces) --

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

News from the Bases

Eglin AFB—

Photos from the Sentinel Landscape Meeting, June 13, 2017 Okaloosa County



MacDill AFB—



SOFWERX invites SOF Warfighters, Interagency Partners, and select contributors from Industry and Academia to participate in a two-month Rapid Prototyping Event (RPE) focused on drones (sea, land, air, and space), tactical swarms, effects, and their associated data science applications for the Special Operations community.

For more details, please see this presentation: [ThunderDrone RPE](#)

Warfighter, Interagency, and Academic Reservations Deadline: 20 June 2017
Drone Technology and Data Science Submissions Deadline: 20 July 2017

Initial Timeline

Warfighter Council: 29 June at SOFWERX. This is for active-duty SOF, or their designated representatives only. The Warfighter Council will help shape the overall RPE, define desired effects, provide use cases, operational parameters, and assessment criteria for the event. [Register Here](#)

Interagency Council: 11 July at SOFWERX. This is for authorized representatives from across the US Federal Government (including National Labs). The Interagency Council will help inform SOCOM of the activities, technologies, and lessons learned from other areas of government that should be considered for this RPE. [Register Here](#)

Academic Council: 18 July at SOFWERX. This is for authorized representatives from accredited universities. The Academic Council will help inform SOCOM of the research and development across the international academic community that should be considered for this RPE. [Register Here](#)

Drone Technology and Data Science Submissions: Submissions due by 20 July. This is for new, novel, or provocative technology up to and including; drone hardware, electronics, software, sensors, actuators, kinetic/non-kinetic payloads, and advanced data science techniques, algorithms, and frameworks. Submissions will be submitted to Vulcan, USSOCOM's technology database. Please read and follow the directions in this guide to submit your technology: [ThunderDrone RPE Submission Guide](#). All submitters will be notified whether their submission has been selected or not o/a 7 August via e-mail.

Warfighter Downselect: 21 July – 4 August. Warfighters will review the submissions and help determine which ones will be invited to present at the Tech Expo.

Selected Technology Demonstration Days: 5-8 September. Downselected capabilities presented and discussed with stakeholder onsite in Tampa, Florida.

Patrick AFB —

In a recent article in Defense One, SECAF Heather Wilson commended Patrick AFB:

"There may be no greater visual sign of the growing importance of space than the events that are occurring weekly at Patrick Air Force Base on the Atlantic coast of Florida. This year, Patrick will be the busiest space port in the world, launching military and commercial payloads at the rate of about one per week. The number of space launches there dwarfs the number of launches at other facilities **around the world, signaling the nation's commitment to maintaining technological leadership above the Earth.** This renaissance in commercial and military space launch – harkening back to the 1960s – will be accompanied by a parallel effort to develop forces that are trained and equipped for 21st Century conflict."

The full article can be found here:

<http://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2017/06/why-im-directing-air-force-focus-space/138744/>

NAS Pensacola—

Two Coast Guard cutters coming to NAS Pensacola

<http://weartv.com/news/local/two-coast-guard-cutters-coming-to-pensacola>

By Jacob Newby



Come 2018, Pensacola will be the new home port of a pair of 210-foot medium endurance cutters.

The crews of the Coast Guard Cutter Decisive and the Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless will make Pensacola their new home no later than August 31, 2018, according to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Each cutter boasts a crew of 76 Coast Guard members used to conduct a variety of missions, including counter drug enforcement, alien migration interdiction operations, search and rescue and much more. The cutters' new base will be the Naval Air Station Pensacola, the base that Coast Guard Cutter Cypress, a 225-foot Seagoing Buoy Tender, already calls home.

"This is incredible news for Pensacola and for all Northwest Floridians," said Florida Congressman Matt Gaetz. "Not only is Northwest Florida gaining 152 new families, but the safety and security of the Emerald Coast and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico is significantly enhanced."

The Coast Guard will reportedly make infrastructure improvements to accommodate the Coast Guard cutters

at NAS Pensacola. Improvements will include wharf repairs, minor pier utility upgrades to electrical and telecommunications equipment and additional storage.

Currently, the Decisive is based in Pascagoula, Mississippi, while the Dauntless is in Galveston, Texas.

In 2016, the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless -- in partnership with the Royal Canadian Navy -- seized more than 26 tons of cocaine worth at least \$715 million.



Spotlight on: United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)



The **United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM or SOCOM)** is the Unified Combatant Command charged with overseeing the various Special Operations Component Commands of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force of the United States Armed Forces. The command is part of the Department of Defense and is the only Unified Combatant Command legislated into being by the U.S. Congress. USSOCOM is headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

The idea of an American unified special operations command had its origins in the aftermath of Operation Eagle Claw, the disastrous attempted rescue of hostages at the American embassy in Iran in 1980. The ensuing investigation, chaired by Admiral James L. Holloway III, the retired Chief of Naval Operations, cited lack of

command and control and inter-service coordination as significant factors in the failure of the mission. Since its activation on 16 April 1987, U.S. Special Operations Command has participated in many operations, from the 1989 invasion of Panama to the ongoing Global War on Terrorism.

USSOCOM conducts several covert and clandestine missions, such as direct action, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare, psychological warfare, civil affairs, and counter-narcotics operations. Each branch has a Special Operations Command that is unique and capable of running its own operations, but when the different special operations forces need to work together for an operation, USSOCOM becomes the joint component command of the operation, instead of a SOC of a specific branch.





**General Raymond A. Thomas III
Commander,
U.S. Special Operations Command**



General Raymond A. Thomas III currently serves as the 11th Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Prior to assuming command of USSOCOM, General Thomas served as Commander, Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), Fort Bragg, NC. General Thomas' other assignments as a general officer include: Associate Director for Military Affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency; Commanding General, NATO Special Operations Component Command-Afghanistan; Deputy Commanding General, JSOC; Deputy Director for Special Operations, The Joint Staff in the Pentagon; Assistant Division Commander, 1st Armor Division in Iraq; and Assistant Commanding General, JSOC. Prior to being promoted to brigadier general, General Thomas also served as the JSOC Chief of Staff and Director of Operations. His other formative and key, joint and special operations, assignments include: Commander, Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano, Honduras; Commander, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Savannah, GA; and Commander, B Squadron, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, Fort Bragg, NC. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA., and the Naval Command and Staff College, Newport, RI. General Thomas is a native of Philadelphia, PA. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, and was commissioned an infantry second lieutenant upon graduation in 1980.

Did You Know?

Special Forces Factoids

1. On average, Special Operations forces are married with two kids

Special Ops troops aren't fresh-faced, straight-out-of-high-school recruits. Despite the pressures of such a high-octane job, they are, on average, married with kids. The average age for an enlisted member is 29 and for officers, 34.

2. They generally have eight years of experience in the conventional forces

Chances are, Special Ops troops probably didn't start their military career in special forces. They most likely had training in another sector of the military before being recruited into special forces.

3. They can carry up to 100 pounds of gear in their rucksacks

Special Operations forces are strong -- strong enough to be able to carry 100 pounds of gear in their rucksacks. Additionally, all of their survival gear is kept in their pockets -- including a pen and notepad, maps, GPS device, knives, grenades and a flashlight -- so that they are ready for whatever situation is thrown at them.

4. They have their own university -- and are likely to have a college degree

The Special Operations university, called the Joint Special Operations University, is located at the MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. The university serves active duty, reserve and civilian faculty members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. The university is offered at no cost to the student.

5. They know how to speak a language beside English

Special Operations isn't just about brawn -- troops are also valued for their superior intelligence. They score better than average at the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and many have college degrees. Once they join, they receive cultural and language training to give them a deep understanding of the regions in which they'll eventually operate. All Special Operations forces know how to speak a language other than English. They also have the opportunity to learn any of 35 different languages taught at the U.S. Air Force Special Operations School.

6. They were created by Congress

The forces were created through congressional action in the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 and the Nunn-Cohen Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 1987. The creation of a Special Operations force was sparked after the command and structure of the U.S. military special led to the failure of Operation Eagle Claw in 1980. Operation Eagle Claw was a mission ordered by then-President Jimmy Carter to try to end the Iran hostage crisis by rescuing U.S. diplomats that were being held at the embassy in Iran.

7. Everyone has a certain level of medical training

Special Operations forces often deploy to remote areas where there is little medical care. As a result, they receive some medical training to help each other if wounded until they reach more advanced care. They also have access to new technologies that help them when they, or a comrade, are injured in the field. They include a SharkBite Kit and Freeze Dried Plasma, which were developed with SOCOM support.

8. They provide aid in humanitarian crises when other units are not available

Special Operations forces have unique skills and capabilities and are often positioned in areas where they can help in the case of a humanitarian crisis. They've provided humanitarian assistance after the earthquakes in Haiti and Nepal, tsunamis in Japan and avalanches in Afghanistan.

9. They often play team sports such as water polo, wrestling or football

Special Operators are also trained in hand-to-hand combat and advanced marksmanship. They're incredibly physically fit and are trained by some of the same people who train professional, collegiate and Olympic-level athletes. They also learn skill sets such as scuba diving, land navigation and insertion methods into hostile areas. Oh, and they train constantly under every condition imaginable.

10. They can grow beards

Operators have special grooming standards, separate from the rest of the military. They're allowed to have beards and long hair if they choose to when other service members may not. It's allowed so that they have the opportunity to blend in with the communities they work in, such as in Afghanistan, where beards are common.

Posters of the Day:



SPECIAL FORCES
THE ONLY ASSIGNMENT WHERE YOU LOOK GOOD DRESSED AS VEGETATION.

www.military-power.net



PARARESCUE

Because even SEALs, Green Berets and Recon Marines need to call 911



DELTA FORCE

" People sleep peacefully in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf. " - George Orwell



NAVY SEALS

AND YOU THOUGHT THAT THE SHARK WAS THE DEADLIEST PREDATOR IN THE OCEAN

DEV.DEAPDR.COM

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

The Florida Defense Alliance continues to thrive in the Sunshine State! The Alliance continues to gain strength and do great work on behalf of our military installations. There is a Governor's Base Commander meeting coming up in August. Please touch base with your local Base Commander and see if you can assist with any issues. Keep up the great support of the military and continue to embrace our service members and their families and integrate them into the tapestry of the larger civilian community. It is these personal relationships that our military members remember years after leaving their assignments in Florida. Thanks for doing great things for our military and family members in Florida!

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More Photos from the ADC National Summit





Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

July 5, 2017

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

NEWS

Some BRAC News from Defense Communities 360:

No BRAC Language in House NDAA: The proposal for the fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill that House Armed Services Chair Mac Thornberry released Monday does not include explicit language prohibiting the Pentagon from pursuing a BRAC round but, more significantly, it does not authorize the administration's request to hold a BRAC round in 2021.

Defense Spending Bill Would Bar BRAC Preparation: The Defense Department would be prohibited from proposing, planning for or carrying out a new round of base closures, under the fiscal 2018 spending bill the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee approved Monday evening. The measure, which would provide a total of \$658 billion for DOD's base budget and its overseas contingency operations account, is \$68 billion above current spending and \$18.4 billion above President Trump's budget request, according to a [committee summary](#). The bill appears to stick to the defense funding levels the House Budget Committee plans to provide in its budget resolution. The subcommittee approved the spending bill unanimously by voice vote in a closed markup with no amendments.

Senate Armed Services Wraps Up Defense Bill, Minus a BRAC: The Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday approved a fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill that calls for more spending in the Pentagon's base budget but adds fewer troops to the White House's budget request than its counterpart in the House. The measure, which has not yet been released, also fails to green light the Trump administration's request to hold a BRAC round in 2021, likely ending the debate this year over whether lawmakers will consent to downsizing the military's real estate. The annual policy bill would provide \$640 billion for the base defense budget, \$8.5 billion more than the policy measure being considered by the House Armed Services Committee. The Senate plan would add 5,000 active-duty soldiers, 500 soldiers to the National Guard and 500 soldiers to the Army Reserve, according to a [committee summary](#). In comparison, the House version would add 10,000 personnel to the regular Army, 4,000 to the National Guard and 3,000 to the Army Reserve. The Senate version, though, would add 1,000 troops to the active-duty Marine Corps, an increase which the House bill does not cover.

Congressional Defense Caucus – The new Congress is in the process of re-establishing a Defense Caucus to support military communities. Congressman Bill Posey from the 8th District has joined this group.

Florida Defense Day in Washington, DC on June 27th – Congressman Matt Gaetz and Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy hosted the inaugural Florida Defense Day from 12 -4 PM at the Florida House in Washington to showcase Florida's role in national defense and to discuss key issues facing defense communities and installations. This event was attended by Congressman Gaetz, Dunn, DeSantis, Rutherford and Congresswoman Murphy. There were other Congressional staffers in attendance as well. It was a great bipartisan initiative and demonstrated the unity of the Florida Congressional Delegation in support of Florida's military

and defense. Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg did a great job of representing FDA on both roundtables. Secretary Anthony Principi set the tone for this event with great opening remarks.

Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – The Florida Chamber will hold their 4th annual Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando on August 8, 2017. The morning portion is dedicated to military and defense issues and the afternoon devoted to veterans issues. Both Task Force staff and Florida Defense Alliance are involved in the planning of this event. More information available at: http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

Next Governor's Base Commander Meeting August 9th at Homestead ARB – The Governor's Base Commander meetings provide a great forum for Base Commanders to provide information and raise issues directly to the Governor. In some cases, the issues raised can be resolved at the local/community level. In preparation for the next meeting, the Florida National Guard has reminded Base Commanders to have a continuous dialogue with local FDA leaders. So, please touch base with your Base Commander before the end of July and see if you can be of assistance.

New Space Force? – According to Air Force Space Command, The House Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces subcommittee put forward a proposal to create a separate Space Corps under the Department of the Air Force, with a 4-star general in the lead equivalent to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, both reporting to the Secretary of the Air Force. The subcommittee further proposed recreating US Space Command as a subordinate command to US Strategic Command, just as US Cyber Command is today. Air Force Secretary Dr. Heather Wilson stated: "I could not agree more that now is the time to address the threats our nation faces in space, which is why the Air Force has proposed a 20% increase in space funding in this year's budget, and announced last week a reorganization that integrates, elevates and normalizes space." The reorganization she referenced was the creation of an "A-11" office on the Air Staff, led by a 3-star general, which will concentrate on Space issues."

USAF Supports Extending the Gulf Moratorium – Last week USAF Chief of Staff, Gen David Goldfein sent a letter to CM Rob Bishop (see in article below), who Chairs the Committee on National Resource, to ask for his support in extending the moratorium on oil drilling east of the Military Mission Line (MML) due to USAF mission needs well into the future. This is good news as the Florida Congressional Delegation continues to push hard to maintain the moratorium past its current 2022 expiration date established in the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). Additionally, 21 members of the Florida House Delegation sent a bi-partisan letter to Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, asking him to stop new oil exploration and drilling off the Atlantic coast. The letter mentions DoD and Task Force opposition to drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico

Florida lawmakers tell Trump to back off Atlantic drilling

ALEX LEARY, Tampa Bay Times, Posted by Patricia Mazzei on Thursday, Jun. 29, 2017 at 4:39 PM

<http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2017/06/florida-lawmakers-tell-trump-to-back-off-atlantic-drilling.html>

WASHINGTON - A large, bipartisan contingent of the Florida House delegation has a firm message for President **Donald Trump**: Lay off plans for oil drilling in the Atlantic.

"Opening the Atlantic to seismic testing and drilling jeopardizes our coastal businesses, fishing communities, tourism, and our national security," reads a letter signed by the Florida lawmakers and dozens of others. "It harms our coastal economies in the near term and opens the door to even greater risks from offshore oil and gas production down the road. Therefore, we implore you not to issue any permits for seismic airgun surveys for subsea oil and gas deposits in the Atlantic Ocean."

The letter was sent to Interior Secretary **Ryan Zinke** and was signed by Florida Reps. **John Rutherford**,

Darren Soto, Bill Posey, Alcee Hastings, Matt Gaetz, Charlie Crist, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Frederica Wilson, Brian Mast, Dennis Ross, Val Demings, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ted Yoho, Kathy Castor, Francis Rooney, Al Lawson, Ted Deutch, Ron DeSantis, Lois Frankel, Vern Buchanan and Stephanie Murphy.

The Trump administration announced in April it was exploring opening up the Atlantic for oil and gas exploration.

The letter (see below) was organized by Rutherford, R-Jacksonville, and Rep. **Don Beyer**, a Virginia Democrat.

June 28, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke

Department of Interior

1849 C St NW

Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We are writing in strong opposition to your recent secretarial order (#3350) to move forward with offshore oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic Ocean, and the subsequent issuance of five Incidental Harassment Authorizations (IHAs) by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for Atlantic geophysical & geological (G&G) permit applications.

This decision to move forward with permits for seismic airgun surveys for subsea oil and gas deposits puts at risk the vibrant Atlantic Coast economies dependent on healthy ocean ecosystems, which generate \$95 billion in gross domestic product and support nearly 1.4 million jobs each year.

Offshore oil and gas exploration and development, the first step of which is seismic airgun testing, puts at risk coastal economies based on fishing, tourism, and recreation. Numerous studies show the detrimental impacts seismic airgun blasting has on fisheries and marine mammals, thereby affecting the catch anglers bring dockside and the revenue generated by related businesses. A 2014 study conducted off North Carolina's coast by the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Duke University and NOAA found that, during seismic surveying, the abundance of reef-fish declined by 78 percent during evening hours, a time of day when fish use of that same habitat was highest on the previous three days when seismic surveys were not being conducted. The tertiary effects of this trickle down to fishing businesses, restaurants and the visitors that flock to our coastal communities.

Some proponents of opening drilling in the Atlantic make the argument that seismic airgun surveys for oil and gas deposits would allow local communities to learn more about what resources might be available. The reality is that, by law, the data obtained from seismic surveys are proprietary and only available to the oil and gas industry. The public, local government officials and even Members of Congress would not have access to the survey data. This inability to access information leaves coastal communities without the opportunity to perform substantive cost-benefit analyses for extracting oil and gas reserves off their coasts. Our constituents would be left taking on significant risk without being involved in future development decisions.

We hear from countless business owners, elected officials and residents along our coasts who recognize and reject the risks of offshore oil and gas development. More than 120 local governments have passed formal resolutions opposing oil and gas exploration and/or drilling in the Atlantic or Eastern Gulf. These include numerous local chambers of commerce, tourism and restaurant associations, commercial and recreational fishing associations, and the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. More than 41,000 businesses and 500,000 commercial fishing families strongly oppose offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling. Further, NASA, the Department of Defense, and the Florida Defense Support Task Force have also expressed concern with offshore oil and gas development threatening their ability to perform critical activities.

Opening the Atlantic to seismic testing and drilling jeopardizes our coastal businesses, fishing communities, tourism, and our national security. It harms our coastal economies in the near term and opens the door to even greater risks from offshore oil and gas production down the road. Therefore, we implore you not to issue any permits for seismic airgun surveys for subsea oil and gas deposits in the Atlantic Ocean.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As we enter the Dog Days of Summer, we now know that both the House and the Senate bills do not call for a BRAC in 2021. The good news of that statement means we will be able to continue to have dialogue with our installation commanders and staff. The bad news means we will continue to operate within a silent BRAC or a BRAC under the radar. So as local leaders stay on their toes, keep your ears to the ground and your visions to the horizon. This will be the way to hear and see where the direction of DOD and the services as well as to be agile if you hear or see opportunities for additional missions or concerns for the reductions of missions. Take this as an opportunity to be proactive in developing P4 partnerships, addressing encroachment solutions, creating awareness and informing local leaders and your community of the military and defense assets in your region. Later this fall we will have the new Fact Book being compiled by Matrix Design Group. The Fact Book is a great resource as we tell our story across the state as well as in Washington D.C.

Speaking of Washington D.C., many of us were in our nation's capitol for the Florida Defense Day hosted by Congressman Matt Gaetz and Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy. We engaged with our federal delegation on military and defense opportunities and challenges facing our installations, missions and defense companies. The Florida Defense Alliance looks forward to working with Representatives Gaetz and Murphy on making this event an annual gathering to enhance our coalition relationships.

In August, the Florida Chamber Foundation will host their annual "Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunity Summit". This year the Summit will be at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld. Some of the speakers include Secretary Principi, Wayne Peacock of USAA, Cissy Proctor of DEO, Dr. Randy Blass of FSU Moran Institute, Bobby Carbonell of Veterans Florida and representatives from Lockheed, FDCA, Boeing, Northrup and Space Florida. Some of the topics to be covered include: Florida's Military, Defense and Veterans State of the State; A Federal Perspective; When Businesses Support Military, Defense and Veterans, Florida Wins; Military and Defense: An Economic Development Driver; Planning From the Future: Emerging and Expanding Industries; Beyond the Hire: Veteran Career Development, and Veterans and Entrepreneurship. I hope you will **mark Tuesday, August 8th** on your calendar to attend and engage in this annual state discussion to build awareness.

And finally, thank you for your continued engagement in the Florida Defense Alliance. We have made a lot of progress this pass year. ***You make a difference*** and we will be here working by your side to assist in finding the connections, resources and best practices you need to address the opportunities and challenges to move the needle of the military value of your installations and missions. This is a partnership in growing and sustaining this economic development and workforce sector.

Until next time, I hope you enjoy these "Dog Days of Summer".

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Tuesday, November 14th & Wednesday, November 15th
FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida

FDA Website
www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/



QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

From Theodore Roosevelt --

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.

Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed.

Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.

The only man who never makes a mistake is the man who never does anything.

News from the Bases

Jacksonville—

The 2017 Jacksonville Vetrepneur Summit

The first Annual Jacksonville Veterpreneur Summit was held on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at the Florida State College of Jacksonville's Advanced Technology Center.

The event was co-sponsored by the City of Jacksonville's Military Affairs and Veterans Department and the Military and Veterans Service Center, Florida State College at Jacksonville and developed in concert with a Planning Committee made up of Veteran-Business Owners and Resource Providers.



The purpose of the event was to bring together Veteran-Owned Businesses, Resource Providers and Exhibitors to provide a forum to share information on the challenges and opportunities experienced by

the Veteran Business Owners in an effort to speak to the realities they faced and the tools they used to overcome and become successful. The Veteran Business Owners and the Resource Providers were members of a six member panel that addressed real-life issues and identify the Resources in the community that current and future Veteran business owners could utilize to help start and/or grow a business.

The Exhibitors provided information and resources relative to connecting to area programs and agencies in the City of Jacksonville who could help businesses link with them for opportunities to do business and contracts.

The event was open to Transitioning Military, Veterans and their Family Members as well as National Guards, Reservists and spouses.

The event attracted close to two-hundred attendees and was lived streamed by the Wounded Warrior Project, with over 15,000 views on the first summit live stream and over 19,000 on the second live stream.

The overarching goal of the Summit was to center on:

- How to start a business
- Resources Available
- Small Business Contracting Opportunities
- Financing Options

This was a great opportunity to help start or build a business and will be presented on an annual basis.



Whiting Field—

Change of command: HT-28 gets new leadership

<http://www.srpressgazette.com/news/20170622/change-of-command-ht-28-gets-new-leadership>

By Jay Cope | NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

MILTON — Helicopter Training Squadron TWENTY-EIGHT observed a time-honored Navy tradition June 9 as the commanding officer of the unit passed command to another officer in the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Atrium building.

The Change of Command ceremony enabled Cmdr. Robert Dulin to accept the reins of HT-28 from Lt. Col. Cory DeKraai in front of the assembled military personnel, family and friends.

DeKraai turned over command following a successful 15-month tour in charge of the “Hellions.” However, it was a bittersweet moment for the Marine who said the squadrons at the installation held fond memories for him.....



Miami —

Coast Guard conducts district change of command

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1a48df9>

MIAMI — The Coast Guard Seventh District conducted a change of command ceremony Friday at Coast Guard Air Station Miami.

During the ceremony Rear Adm. Scott A. Buschman transferred command of the Coast Guard Seventh District to Rear Adm. Peter J. Brown.

Buschman originally took command of the Seventh District in 2015.

The change of command ceremony marks a transfer of total responsibility and authority from one individual to another. It is a time-honored tradition, conducted before the assembled crew, as well as honored guests and dignitaries to formally demonstrate the continuity of the authority within a command.

Buschman is transferring to Coast Guard headquarters where he will serve as the deputy commander of Coast Guard Atlantic Area.

Brown comes to Miami from Coast Guard headquarters where he held the position of assistant commandant for response policy.



Pinecastle Bombing Range—

Pinecastle Range Complex continues to protect environment

By Julie M. Lucas

NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs

In 1951, the U.S. Navy began using Pinecastle Range Complex, located in the middle of the Ocala National Forest. Today, it continues to be the only range on the East Coast for live ordnance used by the Navy, as well as the Air Force, Marine Corps and Army.

The range is approximately 5,698 acres of a 383,000 acre national forest that is home to animals on the state species special concern list. Due to the activities that take place, NAS Jacksonville's Environmental Division staff makes it their mission to check on the land and local animals.





With rolling sandy hills on the range, the gopher tortoise had it made its home at Pinecastle. According to NAS Jax Environmental Division Natural Resource Manager Angela Glass, if the tortoises were bothered by the inert and live bombs they would move away.

“These are solitary animals and can move freely around the range, therefore this is a favorable habit for them,” she said.

Glass uses GPS to record the burrow locations and inserts a small camera to determine if the burrow is active. Measurements are taken as to the size of the burrow, which can show the size of the tortoise. An estimated 500 gopher tortoises live on Pinecastle, NAS Jacksonville, Rodman range and Outlying Landing Field Whitehouse. Other local protected species include the Florida scrub-jay and Eastern indigo snake. The rest of Ocala National Forest is home to wild hogs and deer that the 1.5 million visitors per year enjoy on the campground and trails.

Along with protecting wildlife, steps are taken to preserve the environment. Prescribed burns are performed throughout the Ocala National Forest and Rodman range, which is located 40 miles north of Pinecastle. The prescribed burns, planned every three-five years, reduce the hazardous fuels such as old pine needles and saw palmettos and aid in preventing large uncontrolled fires that can occur from a variety of things, especially lightning strikes that are frequent to Florida. Prescribed burns also remove unwanted invasive plant species, recycle nutrients back into the soil and promotes the growth of trees and other native plants. Timber harvests are another means to reduce unwanted species of plants, often slash pine is harvested and long leaf pine a more desirable species is planted. Long-leaf pine reforestation takes around 20 years to mature and continues to grow for centuries. All of these events are coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service, which allows the Navy use the land. The current permit is up for renewal in 2022.



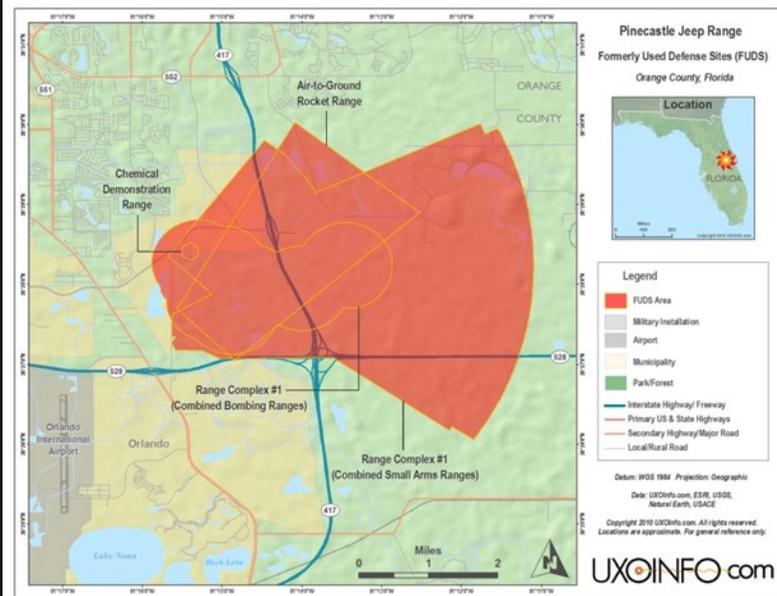
Spotlight on: Pinecastle Bombing Range

Location --The Navy’s Pinecastle Impact (Bombing) Range is located in the Ocala National Forest near Orlando, Florida.

The Pinecastle Bombing Range is an un-fenced 5,760-acre area, with the eastern edge of the range located about 2 miles west of State Road 19 and the Camp Ocala campgrounds, and one-half mile west of the Farles Lake campground. F-18 jet fighters and other aircraft take off from Jacksonville Naval Air Station, fly low over the Forest, and drop their bombs in the middle 450 acres of the range.

History

The Pinecastle Range is located in the Ocala National Forest and has served the Navy since 1951. It is as an integral component of the training program to certify combat squadrons for deployment. The range provides realistic training in the air-to-ground delivery of ordnance.



In 2002, the Navy proposed to renew its authorization with the U.S. Forest Service to use the Pinecastle Range. An environmental study, called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), was prepared to examine the potential impacts of continuing training operations at the

Pinecastle Range.

A Record of Decision (ROD) was issued for continued operations at the range, and the U.S. Forest Service issued a Special Use Permit. This permit and its associated Operating Plan included mitigation measures that were implemented to enhance public safety and conserve the environment. The Navy continues to operate under the conditions of the Special Use Permit and Operating Plan.

Mission

The Pinecastle Range provides critical support for Navy operational readiness training. The Pinecastle Range supports military units by permitting training through the delivery of air-to-ground explosive ordnance, non-explosive ordnance, and air-to-ground gunnery. The Pinecastle Range is critical to pre-deployment mission training for the nation's military forces.

The Navy's Pinecastle Impact Range is the only place on the East Coast where the Navy can do live impact training. The Navy drops nearly 20,000 bombs a year at the site, a few hundred of which are live. The Navy has used nearly 6,000 acres of the 382,000-acre forest for target practice for 50 years under a special use permit from the US Forest Service.

Existing Training Operations

The Range supports its users by permitting strike warfare training through the delivery of air-to-ground explosive and non-explosive ordnance and air-to-ground gunnery (strafing). Strike warfare addresses combat (or interdiction) activities by air and surface forces against hostile land-based forces and assets. Other existing training and testing activities conducted at the PRC are further described by range:

Pinecastle Range: Pinecastle Range and its associated airspace are used for live ordnance training (including air-to-ground bombing), lasing, and strafing. Pinecastle Range consists of two high-explosive ordnance target areas, eight inert ordnance target areas, a strafe pit with three different target areas, and a laser target that can be scored (Navy 2017c). Overall, Pinecastle Range has 17 unique targets or target areas. In addition, the USDA Forest Service helicopter base is within Pinecastle Range. This helicopter base is used by the USDA Forest Service and the Navy. Under the Navy-USDA Forest Service Annual Operating Plan, when air-delivered ordnance training is scheduled at the range under authorized conditions, an air support helicopter is dispatched to suppress any wildfires. Aerial lasing operations occur at the Pinecastle Range and are directed only at certified laser targets on the ground. These operations only include laser targeting; weaponized lasers are not used. Lasing can occur in combination with bombing operations or alone. Laser operations at the PRC are conducted in accordance with applicable procedures (Navy 2012).

Lake George Range: Lake George Range is used for sea search-and-rescue training and mine warfare exercises in Lake George. In the late 1960s, Lake George became the only electronic warfare range on the East Coast with approved use of flares for small missile simulation. Temporary Electronic Warfare equipment (i.e., man-portable air-defense systems and mobile threat emitters) can be installed to support flare operations (Navy 2012). Electronic warfare is intended to deny the enemy the ability to effectively use electronic equipment to see, communicate, and control the battlespace.

Rodman Range: Rodman Range is used for helicopter operations and search and rescue training. The range consists mainly of a 600-foot-diameter cleared area with a central target. The target is equipped with a lighting system to accommodate night ordnance training (Navy 2012). Helicopter training operations can include training in a variety of aviation tasks including low-level flight and hoisting operations that involve lowering a crew member by winch for search and rescue training. In addition to air-to-ground training, the PRC also supports various training activities that may incorporate a ground-based element supporting the mission. These scenarios are pre-coordinated events with the Range Department and, after conducting a Range Safety Brief, may be allowed to operate downrange in different locations throughout the PRC.

Range Safety Development

- One of the measures the Navy has implemented to ensure public safety is the Range Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (RAICUZ) Program. Even though greater than 99% of munitions hit their intended target, there is an extremely remote probability of a mechanical or system error resulting in an off-range impact. The RAICUZ Program classifies range lands adjacent to the range into Range Compatibility Zones (RCZs) and provides land-use recommendations for these areas.
- Since the 2002 final EIS, the Navy has incorporated SAFE-RANGE and Weapons Danger Zone Tool, more technologically advanced modeling systems, for establishing RCZs. The new modeling systems produce more accurate information, which is used by the Navy to ensure public safety in the Ocala National Forest.



Did You Know?

United Services Organization (USO)



The USO strengthens America's military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation.

For over 75 years, the USO has been the nation's leading organization to serve the men and women in the U.S. military, and their families, throughout their time in uniform. From the moment they join, through their assignments and deployments, and as they transition back to their communities, the USO is always by their side.

Today's USO continuously adapts to the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families, so they can focus on their very important mission. The USO operates centers at or near military installations across the United States and throughout the world, including in combat zones, and even un-staffed USO service sites in places too dangerous for anyone but combat troops to occupy.

USO airport centers throughout the country offer around-the clock hospitality for traveling service members and their families. USO tours bring America and its celebrities to service members who are assigned far from home, to entertain them and convey the support of the nation. And their many specialized programs offer a continuum support to service members throughout their journey of service, from the first time they don the uniform until they last time they take it off.

The USO is not part of the federal government. A congressionally chartered, private organization, the USO relies on the generosity of individuals, organizations and corporations to support its activities, and is powered by a family of volunteers to accomplish our mission of connection.

History

Just prior to the onset of America's involvement in World War II in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sought to unite several service associations into one organization to lift the morale of our military and nourish support on the home front. Those entities – the Salvation Army, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, National Catholic Community Services, National Travelers Aid Association and the National Jewish Welfare Board - became the United Service Organizations or, the USO.

Today, the USO has continued to support our nation's military and their families for over seven decades as they defend our country and its freedoms. By providing support to our servicemen and women as they perform their most challenging duties around the world, our credo is to be always by their side.

The reach of the USO's 160 centers extends to countries on every continent except Antarctica, operated by thousands of staff and volunteers whose goals are to match our service members' vigilance and provide best-in-class service to those who sacrifice so much for America.

Leadership

Led by CEO and President Dr. J.D. Crouch II, the USO's staff and thousands of dedicated volunteers operate more than 160 centers worldwide. This team, along with the USO Board of Governors, brings knowledge and expertise essential to the USO's ability to deliver high-quality programs and services to our men and women in uniform, wherever they serve.

USO Congressional Caucus

The USO Congressional Caucus was formed in 2003 to enhance the outreach efforts of the American people to U.S. service members and their families, providing another critical link between service members and their representatives. Bipartisan and bicameral, the caucus brings together members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives who have a mutually shared interest in supporting and improving the lives of our service members and their families.

With more than 200 members, the USO Congressional Caucus unites our leaders and helps strengthen the bridge that supports our military by keeping America's service members connected to family, home and country.

The USO Congressional Caucus is led by Rep. Tim Walz (DFL-MN), who serves as Honorary Co-Chair. Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX) and Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) serve as Co-Chairs.

Posters of the Day:



HONOR

The difference between the good guys and the bad guys is whether they use human shields or make themselves human shields.



AIR SUPERIORITY

The only reason to fly below 10,000 ft. is a photo-op.

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

The Florida Defense Alliance had a great presence at the ADC Conference June 19-21st! The members in attendance heard presentations from the Secretary of the Air Force, DOD staffers and members of Congress about military and defense issues and the possibility of BRAC. We networked with other states and found that Florida remains the leader among the states in support of its military installations and missions. The relationships FDA builds in communities around the state truly make a difference. Thanks for all you are doing for our military and family members in Florida!

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

Pictures from Florida Defense Day in Washington, DC on June 27, 2017









Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

July 24, 2017

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

NEWS

Update of the 2012 Spectrum Report/Assessment of Florida's Military Installations – The Task Force has contracted for an update of the 2012 Spectrum Report. It is expected that the Principi/Spectrum team will begin collecting and collating information (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) in the next few weeks. The intent of this effort is to ensure Florida has the most updated information/assessment on its bases prior to an actual BRAC being announced. With this information, communities can remedy any deficiencies or weaknesses ahead of a 2021 BRAC.

August 7th is Florida Purple Heart Day – Gov. Rick Scott has signed the annual Florida Purple Heart Day Proclamation. The Governor calls upon Floridians to pay special tribute to those members of the Armed Forces who have received the Purple Heart, while also honoring the families of the fallen.

Gov. Scott Appoints Representative Holly Raschein to Florida Defense Support Task Force – Last week, Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Rep. Holly Raschein (pronounced *Raw – shine*) to the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Rep. Raschein, 36, of Key Largo, currently represents District 120 in the Florida House of Representatives and serves as the State Director for the National Foundation of Women Legislators. She received her bachelor's degree from Florida State University. She is appointed to fill a vacant seat for term beginning July 19, 2017, and ending July 1, 2019.

Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – The Florida Chamber will hold their 4th annual Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando (flyer attached) on August 8, 2017. The morning portion is dedicated to military and defense issues and the afternoon devoted to veterans issues. Both Task Force staff and Florida Defense Alliance are involved in the planning of this event. Also, here is a link to the promotional video the Florida Chamber created for the event. [Importance of Florida's Veterans, Military and Defense Industries](http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/). More information available at: http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

Next Governor's Base Commander Meeting August 9th at Homestead ARB – The Governor's Base Commander meetings provide a great forum for Base Commanders to provide information and raise issues directly to the Governor. In some cases, the issues raised can be resolved at the local/community level. Bruce Grant and Terry McCaffrey will attend.



House and Senate Defense Caucus Members – The following are current members of the House and Senate Defense Caucus according to the Association of Defense Communities (ADC):

HOUSE CAUCUS MEMBERS	DISTRICT	SENATE CAUCUS MEMBERS	STATE
Joe Courtney, Co-Chair	CT - 02	Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (ND), Co-Chair	ND
Marta Roby, Co-Chair	AL - 02	Sen. Jerry Moran (KS), Co-Chair	KS
Robert J. Wittman (TBD)	VA-01	Sen. Martin Heinrich (NM)	NM
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr	GA-02	Sen. Mazie Hirono (HI)	HI
Bill Posey	FL-08	Sen. James Inhofe (OK)	OK
Anthony Brown	MD-04	Sen. Johnny Isakson (GA)	GA
Doug Lamborn	CO-05	Sen. Tim Kaine (VA)	VA
Matt Gaetz	FL-01	Sen. James Lankford (OK)	OK
Scott Tipton	CO-03	Sen. Joe Manchin III (WV)	WV
Mike Bost	IL-12	Sen. Christopher Murphy (CT)	CT
Mo Brooks	AL-05	Sen. Pat Roberts (KS)	KS
Mike Simpson	ID-02	Sen. Brian Schatz (HI)	HI
John Rutherford	FL-04	Sen. Jon Tester (MT)	MT
Bobby Scott	VA-03	Sen. Mark R. Warner (VA)	VA



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Tuesday, November 14th & Wednesday, November 15th
 FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida

FDA Website
www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

Rely on your own strength of body and soul. Take for your star self-reliance, faith, honesty and industry. Don't take too much advice — keep at the helm and steer your own ship, and remember that the great art of commanding is to take a fair share of the work. Fire above the mark you intend to hit. Energy, invincible determination with the right motive, are the levers that move the world. ----- Noah Porter



News from the Bases

Key military leaders endorse extending drilling moratorium in Gulf

<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20170712/key-military-leaders-endorse-extending-drilling-moratorium-in-gulf>

By TOM McLAUGHLIN

“The moratorium is essential for developing and sustaining the Air Force’s future combat capabilities.”

As the debate gets underway on whether to expand offshore drilling along the outer continental shelf (OCS), the Air Force Chief of Staff and Under Secretary of Defense have weighed in to oppose oil and gas exploration in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

In separate letters to Florida congressional representatives, Gen. David Goldfein and Acting Under Secretary of Defense A.M. Kurta say they support extending an existing moratorium on oil and gas “leasing, pre-leasing and other related activities” beyond its current expiration in 2022.

“The moratorium is essential for developing and sustaining the Air Force’s future combat capabilities,” Goldfein wrote in a letter to U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida.

Kurta’s letter was penned “on behalf of the Secretary of Defense” in response to a letter “regarding maintaining the moratorium” sent from U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz of Fort Walton Beach.

NAS Whiting Field—

Whiting Field continues buffering

<http://gcacnews.blogspot.com/2017/07/whiting-field-continues-buffering.html>

Naval Air Station Whiting Field secured an easement to help protect the training mission of the installation last month. The contract provides for an easement over 163 acres of undeveloped property adjacent to the northern boundary of Navy Outlying Landing Field Pace. The easement issues protections that ensure incompatible development of the land cannot occur in the future. The property is under flight tracks for the helicopter training that occurs at NOLF Pace, helping to ensure that future construction does not occur under Accident Potential Zones (APZs) or clear zones. “This parcel of land offers a tremendous buffer with respect to our TH-57 training,” said Community Planning Liaison Officer Randy Roy. “These transactions will positively affect the installation’s mission for decades to come.” The easement was purchased for \$571,000, with 75 percent paid by the Navy. Santa Rosa County picked up the rest of the cost.

Patrick AFB —

45th LRS Change of Command

By 45th Space Wing Public Affairs



Col. Matthew Wallace, 45th Mission Support Group commander, presents Maj. Dawn Baker, 45th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, with a guidon during a change of command ceremony June 6, 2017, at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. Changes of command are a military tradition representing the transfer of responsibilities from the presiding official to the upcoming official.

Bugg Springs—

Navy Sonar Laboratory An Almost Silent Partner At Lake Springs

February 23, 1988|By Mike Oliver of The Sentinel Staff

OKAHUMPKA — There is almost complete silence as a canoe glides across Bugg Spring Run like a skate blade on ice.

Wildlife rustles behind razor-sharp saw grass while Joe Branham guides the canoe past a limpkin nesting in the brush. Nearby, four baby alligators splash into the water. It's a quiet place, and the Navy likes it that way.

In the wetlands of the Okahumpka Marsh where endangered birds nest, otters swim, turtles surface and alligators sun, the Navy has set up a sophisticated laboratory on the 400-foot-wide head pool of Bugg Spring.

The splash of a gator sliding off a log into the water or the rumbling of a tanker truck on a nearby highway can make a needle jump in the control room where technicians calibrate supersensitive sonar equipment.

"In the ocean, it's no secret that we can detect sound as far as 3,000 miles away," said Joe Blue, superintendent of the U.S. Navy Underwater Sound Reference Laboratory in Orlando.

The work at Bugg Spring in a remote corner of Lake County is an offshoot of the Orlando lab. It isn't exactly top-secret, Blue said. "But we prefer to keep a low profile."

The lab is south of Leesburg near U.S. Highway 27 and State Road 33, near Okahumpka. The Navy leases the land from Branham, who grew up fishing, swimming and canoeing in its waters. For Branham, a biologist, schoolteacher and conservationist, the land is more than just another environmentally sensitive parcel in Central Florida.

"This is home," Branham said, paddling around the big fence put up by the Navy. "This is where I'd spend the day after skipping school."

Branham's grandfather, a surgeon at Johns Hopkins University, came to Florida and built a house on the land in 1923. About 1960, the Navy discovered the deep spring would be perfect for research. At 176 feet, the spring pool is the deepest in Florida, not counting Wakulla Springs in North Florida.

In 1965, with permission from the Branhams, the Navy set up its laboratory and has been working there quietly ever since. Currently halfway through a 15-year lease, the Navy plans to stay for some time, Blue said. That's okay with Branham, who recently took charge of the estate after his mother died.

"It looks like the Navy is going to be here for a while and that's fine," Branham said. "The Navy regulates the use by the public, which for now is good. Ultimately, I'd like to see it become a state park."

The Navy's presence on this isolated pond is just the latest chapter in the spring's colorful history. The spring, in fact, got its name when a mule pulling a wagon knocked a young man named Buggs into the water, Branham said. Buggs drowned.

Somehow mapmakers dropped the "s," so it is now known as Bugg Spring. The details about poor young Buggs seem to be lost to time, but Branham said an intact wagon is mired in a muddy ridge of the pool about 40 feet down.

The site has been a watering hole for Indians, a steamboat stop for early settlers and a campground for traders traveling from Clermont to Leesburg, Branham said.

Branham's uncle, Charles Morehart, still lives in the Branham family house overlooking the spring. Branham lives in Leesburg but visits the spring often. The Navy lab, he said, has been a fine and quiet neighbor.

Likewise, Blue said the Branhams have been good landlords. And the spring is a nearly perfect spot for the Navy's sonar work, he said.

"It was chosen because it is so deep," Blue said. "It's one big hole out here and that makes a good acoustic calibration facility."

Because of the spring's water properties, there is no oxygen 15 feet below the surface, Blue said. Whatever fish wander into the pool do not go deeper than 15 feet, so they stay out of the way of the deep underwater testing equipment, Blue said.

The Navy calibrates sonar devices by producing sound waves in the deep water. Underwater projectors or loudspeakers emit sounds picked up by underwater microphones called hydrophones.

Using underwater sound detection, submarines can see objects such as approaching enemy craft, oil companies can study the ocean bottom for drilling sites and entrepreneurs can search for sunken ships and treasure.

Blue said a type of projector used at Bugg Spring was used as a "shark caller" on a recent show by Jacques Cousteau. The projector was placed atop an open cage which was lowered underwater. The projector emitted the sound of wounded fish, attracting a shark into the cage for capture.

There are no sharks at Bugg Spring, but wildlife is plentiful. Water turkeys, blue herons, limpkins and other birds, reptiles and mammals chatter and play along the spring run which flows for one mile into Helena Run. Helena Run flows another mile or so into Lake Harris.

Branham recently went to Tallahassee with a busload of Lake County residents to urge the state to buy Seminole Springs, a wilderness tract in the eastern part of the county threatened by development.

In his own back yard, Branham has noticed that there is less wildlife than when he was younger. "I remember counting 200 gators back here in the summertime."

A recreational vehicle park has moved in down river, and Bugg Spring, like much of Lake County, would be prime land for developers.

Back in the 1970s, an appraiser valued the 67-acre tract at more than \$500,000.

For now it's still quiet, just as the Navy likes it. Branham said he hopes it stays that way.

CNRSE Recognizes Family's Support of Navy at Bugg Springs

Story Number: NNS120202-17Release Date: 2/2/2012 2:11:00 PM

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Greg Johnson, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (NNS) -- Commander, Navy Region Southeast presented the Department of the Navy Superior Public Service Award to the owners of Bugg Spring during a ceremony at the property in Okahump-

ka, Fla., Jan. 26.

Rear Adm. John C. Scorby Jr. presented the award in recognition of Dr. Joe Branham and his wife, Margaret's, five decades of support to the U.S. Navy.

The Branham's were the long-time owners of Bugg Spring and surrounding areas. The family purchased the 69-acre property in 1923 and began leasing a portion of it to the Navy for sonar testing purposes in 1956. On Dec. 30, 2011, the Branhams sold the entire property to the Navy for \$2.4 million.

Throughout the years, the property has become the Navy's standardizing activity in the area of underwater acoustic measurements. As the home to the Underwater Sound Reference Division (USRD) of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, the research conducted at the spring is a crucial support element for the Navy's submarine and surface fleet, and the Branhams' have been instrumental in making that research possible, Scorby said.

"I wanted to come here and personally thank the Branhams for their commitment support to our Navy," Scorby said. "This one-of-a-kind facility is so important and we really owe our gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Branham for their generosity and patriotism throughout the past 60 years."

Although Joe said it was an honor to accept the award, the true pleasure was having the opportunity to meet those who were in attendance.

"It feels very good to be able to accept the award today and we really enjoyed the company of all of the fine men and women from the Navy who came here today," Joe said.

According to Tony Paolero, USRD technical program manager, the 175-foot deep Bugg Spring is not only a perfect setting for sonar testing, it is one-of-a-kind due to its isolated, noise-free environment.

"It's the perfect place for low-frequency calibrations," he said. "We can calibrate at ambient conditions that are below sea state zero, which is ideal and not in existence anywhere else."

When the Branham family originally decided to lease the spring to the Navy in 1956, Joe and Margeret said they weren't initially sure what the implications would be. According to Margaret, they certainly didn't foresee a relationship that would grow and mature for the next 60 years.

"I had just graduated from Florida State and I was setting off on a new adventure with world travels and a new Ph.D. in biology and we had other things to think about rather than the implications of the lease," Joe said.

The years of living in close proximity of the Naval facility and its workers has been a positive experience for the Branhams.

"We've had a good relationship with the Navy," Margaret said. "We've personally known all of the commanders of the facility."

"And as high school teachers, we even taught many of their kids," said Joe, "so we've certainly developed personal relationships with the Navy over the years."

In fact, the Branham's developed such a good relationship with the Navy that they decided to lease the property for less than fair market value throughout the past five years. Property leases had to be renegotiated eve-

ry five years and the last negotiation was in 2006, Joe explained.

"A lady from Charleston called and said, 'I've got good news for you. The evaluation has come out at \$87,500,' and I said, 'Well, that's far too much because that's taxpayer money.' We settled on \$60,000, and out of consideration for the economy of our country and the good of our Navy, we were pleased to be able to do that."

With the expiration of the lease late last year, the Branhams were faced with the Navy's proposition to purchase the property outright. According to Paolero, the deal was a key acquisition for the Navy because it prevents future incompatible development that would degrade the integrity of the research facility, which relies heavily on its isolation from ambient noise. But for Joe and Margaret, it was a difficult decision to sell the property their family has called home for nearly a century.

"It turns out to be a lot harder than you think to give up something you're so fond of, but I'm very pleased that we could do this because I do feel loyal to our country," he said. "I've felt a responsibility to be a good steward to this place, and I know the Navy has a record of honoring history and ecological situations and I hope that tradition continues here."



Spotlight on: Bugg Springs

Bugg Springs is a second magnitude spring near Okahumpka in Lake County, Florida. The spring has a 400 feet wide pool with little vegetation which goes down to 170 to 175 feet. Its outflow runs north as Bugg Spring Run into the Helena Run from Lake Denham and into Lake Harris.

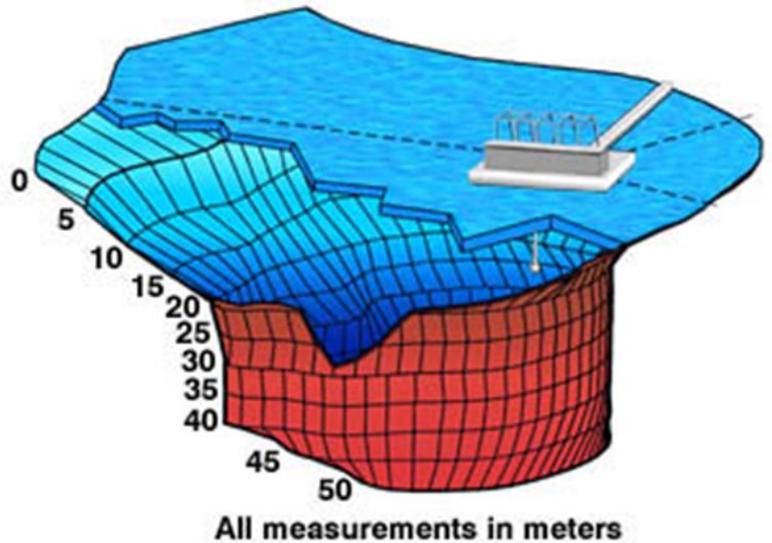
The surrounding land was once home to a Native Seminole village prior to the Civil War. After the war, the surrounding land was the home of Confederate States Army Colonel J. J. Dickison. The 69-acre property was then purchased by the Branham's in 1923 who began



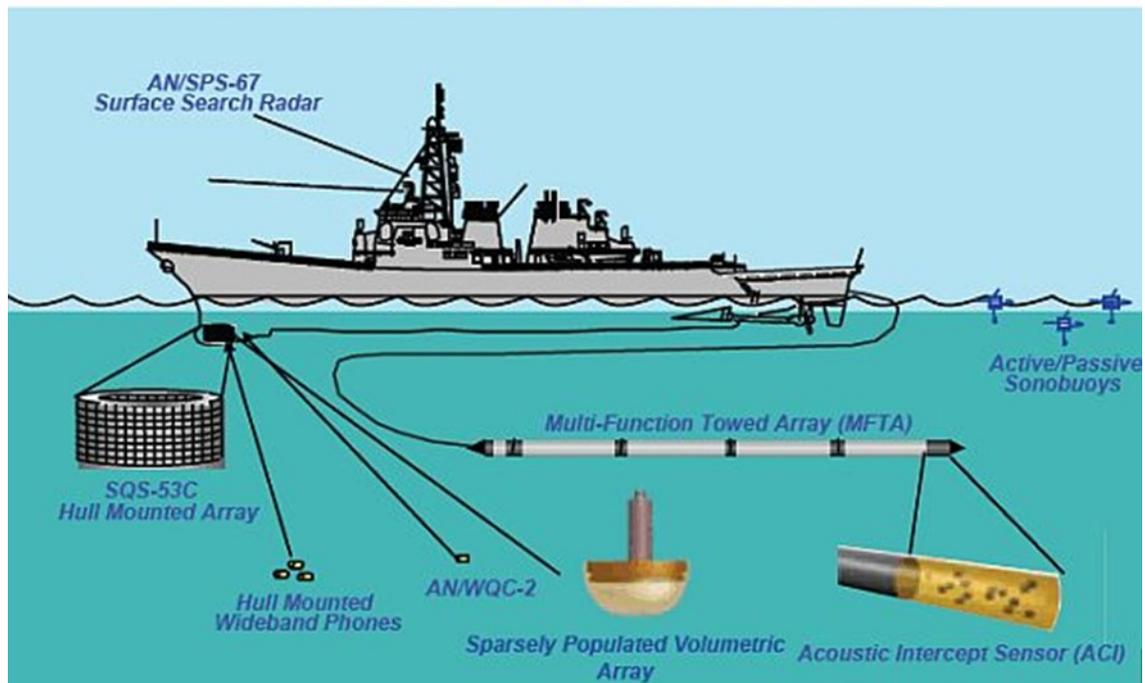
leasing a portion of it to the Navy in 1956. On December 30, 2011 the entire property was sold to the Navy.



The spring is on the property of a facility of the Underwater Sound Reference Division of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center and is not accessible. It is mostly surrounded by swampland with sandhills to the south.



AN/SQQ-89A(V)15 Sensor Suite



Bugg Springs is the one location in the United States where all U.S.Navy submarine and surface ship tactical towed array sonars are calibrated prior to ship deployments. This facility provides the following unique capabilities:

1. Very low ambient noise especially in low frequencies.
2. Season independent isothermal (72 F) vertical temperature profile.
3. Low contamination from biological scatterers.



Did You Know?

Military Trivia Questions & Answers

Q: What marked the first time since the Revolution that the U.S. accepted direct financial aid to fight a war?

A: The Persian Gulf War.

Q: What U.S. military base was won in the last major battle against Japan?

A: Okinawa.

Q: What opportunistic country declared war on Japan five days before its surrender in 1945?

A: The Soviet Union.

Q: What U.S. war broke out the same year the federal government first printed paper money?

A: The Civil War.

Q: What country did ever-prudent King Farouk I declare war on in 1945?

A: Germany.

Q: What Bill Murray Ghostbusters term did Persian Gulf Warriors use to describe being hit by chemical weapons?

A: Slimed.

Q: What trials, beginning in 1945, spawned the phrase "I was only following orders"?

A: The Nuremberg war crimes trials.

Q: What was the first war the U. S. took part in that was partially financed with lottery dollars?

A: The Revolutionary War.

Q: What southeastern state was the last to return to the Union after the Civil War.

A: Georgia.

Q: What Persian Gulf warrior called his young majors in charge of combat operations "Jedi Knights"?

A: Norman Schwarzkopf.

Q: Which two nations, constitutionally barred from military actions, sent money to support the Allied coalition against Iraq in "1991"?

A: Germany and Japan.

Q: What Ohio city was the 1995 Bosnian peace accord signed in?

A: Dayton.

Q: What Civil War general graduated first in the West Point class of 1829?

A: Robert E. Lee

Q: What was the B-17 long-range bomber nicknamed in World War II?

A: The Flying Fortress.

Q: What English King introduced death by boiling and legalized the killing of gypsies?

A: Henry VIII.

Q: What two continents have never been the site of a major military conflict?

A: Antarctica and Australia.

Q: What song was the Navy band playing at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked?

A: The Star-Spangled Banner.

Q: What was the first war in which one jet plane shot down another/

A: The Korean War.

Q: What so called "war" spawned the dueling slogans "Better Dead Than Red" and "Better Red Than Dead" in the 1950s?

A: The Cold War.

Q: What modern vehicle was invented to circumvent trench warfare?

A: The Tank.

Posters of the Day:



STRENGTH

"If you are going to win any battle, you have to do one thing. You have to make the mind run the body. Never let the body tell the mind what to do... the body is never tired if the mind is not tired."



ACTION

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



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

The Florida Defense Support Task Force has just contracted for an update of the 2012 Spectrum Report Assessment of Florida's Military Installations. This update – to be completed over the next few months – will help us better prepare for any possible Department of Defense realignments. As you know, the Principi Group has visited many of Florida's bases over the past few years and met with community leaders and base commanders. Because of these many visits, the Principi Group will not be re-visiting every base in Florida, but rather target only a few bases for a re-visit. As soon as we receive the final schedule, we will share that with the communities so that you can help facilitate visits. Please do not be offended if your installation is not one of the bases to be re-visited. As before, the final report will be exempt from public disclosure. However, once the report is completed, the Task Force will share the results in a controlled environment with local defense community leaders. Your relationships with the base and local community are especially important to keep this effort moving forward. We sincerely appreciate all you do on a daily basis to support the military bases and improve the quality of life for military members and their families in the Sunshine State.



**Florida Defense Alliance
Leadership**

Chair – Kellie Jo Kilberg

Vice Chair – VACANT

Mission Sustainment Working

Group Chair – Jeff Fanto

Family Support Working Group

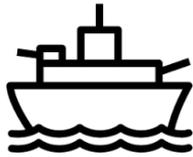
Chair – Rita Smith

Executive Board

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

**Pictures from the Florida Defense
Support Task Force Meeting
July 20, 2017 in Key West**







Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

August 2, 2017



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

NEWS

Gulf Range Enhancements – Congressman Neal Dunn (FL-02) introduced an amendment to the NDAA on the House floor to prioritize \$30 million in FY18 for Gulf Range Enhancement. CM Dunn had cosigned a request with CM Gaetz requesting these funds, but the appropriations committee had only made \$11 million available for the program in FY18. The amendment CM Dunn is sponsoring on the floor was cosponsored by Reps Francis Rooney, Matt Gaetz and Tom Rooney. The amendment passed the House on Thursday afternoon just prior to the full NDAA being approved by the House.

Senator Nelson Defends the MML – On July 20, 2017 at 12:49P.M., Senator Bill Nelson spoke on the nomination of David Bernhardt to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. As part of the remarks, he stated: “As I have explained time and time again, it makes no sense to drill in an area that is critically important to the United States military, and likewise, is the largest testing and training area for the U.S. military in the world where we are testing our most sophisticated weapon systems and where we are sending our fighter pilots that need the open space to train, and that’s why they have the training at Tyndall AFB of the F-22 and that’s why they have the training for pilots on the F-35 at Eglin AFB. and so that’s also why the Chief of Staff of the Air Force wrote in a letter recently, quote, the moratorium is essential for developing and sustaining the Air Force’s future combat capabilities. end of quote. Now, we have two letters, and I will make them a part of the record with the permission of the chair. These letters, one from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and two, from General Goldfein, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, two letters that say that they are needing to put a major investment of the military into the eastern gulf range for all of the sophisticated weapons systems, and they don’t want this investment of infrastructure, and then the moratorium ends in the year 2022, they want it extended for another five years to 2027.”

Newest Task Force Member – Governor Scott has appointed Representative Holly Raschein to the Task Force as of July 19, 2017. Rep Raschein of Key Largo currently represents District 120 in the Florida House and serves as the State Director for the National Foundation of Women Legislators. She received her bachelor’s degree from Florida State University and fills a critical area for the Task Force as the only member from South Florida. Rep Raschein’s appointment puts the Task Force at full strength with all 13 seats now filled.

Enterprise Florida Inc. gets new President and CEO – Peter Antonacci was named as the new President and CEO of Enterprise Florida, Inc. Minutes after the EFI Board of Directors voted to select Pete Antonacci as the new CEO, Governor Scott released a statement that said, “I am proud that the entire EFI Board voted to select Pete Antonacci as their new President and CEO. Pete has a long record of success and has demonstrated an incredible commitment to helping make our state the best place for families and job creators. I am confident that his experience as the executive director at the South Florida Water Management District and as my office’s general counsel will make him a great leader for EFI as he fights to bring more jobs to Florida every day. I commend the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors for nominating such a great leader, and I know Pete will help utilize the new \$85 million Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to compete for new job opportunities on behalf of Florida families.”

Putnam Supports JAX F-35 – On Thursday, July 27, 2017, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam sent a letter of support for the Florida Air National Guard’s selection for F-35 bed down to the Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson. Commissioner Putnam cited “Jacksonville’s unparalleled access to airspace, infrastructure, weather and quality of life” as reasons the USAF should give the nod to the 125th Fighter Wing at JAX.

FDSTF FY 2019 Grant Cycle – The next grant application cycle for Task Force grants begins on Monday, July 31, 2017 and runs through Thursday, August 31, 2017. The newly updated fillable-field application will be available at the Task Force website (<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf/>) on Monday; **no prior versions of the application will be accepted.** Within budget constraints, the FDSTF may fund projects that can be leveraged to promote, preserve, or enhance military missions and installations in Florida. Criteria for projects include:

- A. The FDSTF will consider providing resources only for initiatives which directly support preserving, protecting and enhancing Florida’s military installations. Projects must directly improve the military value of the installation.
- B. Projects must have a clearly defined, measurable outcome in support of the Task Force mission of protecting military installations in Florida.
- C. Projects should be able to be accomplished within one year of contracting. If the project is expected to take longer than one year to complete, then the applicant must justify the longer time period.

Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – The Florida Chamber will hold their 4th annual Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando on August 8, 2017. The morning portion is dedicated to military and defense issues and the afternoon devoted to veterans issues. Both Task Force staff and Florida Defense Alliance are involved in the planning of this event. More information – including the agenda -- available at: http://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

Next Governor’s Base Commander Meeting August 9th at Homestead ARB – The Governor’s Base Commander meetings provide a great forum for Base Commanders to provide information and raise issues directly to the Governor. In some cases, the issues raised can be resolved at the local/community level. Bruce Grant and Terry McCaffrey will attend.

2017 Military Friendly Guide – The new version of the Military Friendly Guide is at the printer and will be available in hard copy by the end of next week. Distribution will begin as soon as we have them on hand. A digital version will be available on our website at this link by the end of this week: <http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide.pdf>.

Senate Confirms Important DoD Positions – The Senate confirmed Lucian Niemeyer as assistant secretary of defense (ASD) for energy, installations and environment. According to Dan Cohen, the confirmation makes “him the first individual to serve in a permanent capacity in the post since it was created in December 2014.” In another article, Dan Cohen notes that “In addition to Lucian Niemeyer, the chamber confirmed Richard Spencer, a former Marine pilot and career investment banker, as Navy secretary; and Ellen Lord, who had been CEO of Textron Systems, as undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics (AT&L).”



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It's hard to believe it is August. Next week, many of us will be in Orlando for the Florida Chamber Foundation's Military Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit. Over the last few months, the FDA has been out there sharing our military and defense story for Florida. The more we can inform the better we will be when it comes to fighting encroachment and the other challenges as well as position our installations and for opportunities for enhancements and new or expanding missions.

Bruce Grant recently released the Florida Programs to Mitigate Encroachment to Military Installations. I hope you have taken the time to read it. Now is time to share the information in your communities. First, meet with the installations commander and community planner to highlight the programs you have used to mitigate encroachment in your area. Discuss which of the 16 encroachment challenges and 11 encroachment impacts to the military mission pertain to your installations, missions and community.

You now have your talking points when you share the report with your state elected officials, county commissioners, city councils, planning commissions, tourist development councils, real estate associations, builders' associations, other business/civic associations and editorial boards. We all assume everyone knows what we know regarding the installations and their missions. However, this is not true and if you follow the national headlines there is misinformation or partial information when it comes to the funding of our military and the challenges facing today's military installations and missions. Let's be their voice in our community and with our elected officials. You understand their needs, challenges and opportunities. You understand what the missions' requirements are and how changing missions or reductions in missions can impact your local economy from the real estate markets to education institutions to your workforce talent pipelines.

Florida has always been forward-thinking when it comes to our military and defense programs. We started out with a tool to assist with redevelopment from a closure, develop programs to protect from a BRAC and assist defense-dependent communities and defense contractors to diversify their economic base. Other states have caught up with us and in many cases, are being more creative in addressing the challenges and opportunities. Whether there is an official BRAC or not, BRAC activities are going on every day. We learned long ago, we have a greater impact if we address the challenges and opportunities on what is best for our installations, their missions and our communities and not get caught up in the political world of BRAC. Simply put...we need to be proactive and not rest on our laurels. If we want to continue to be the most welcoming and friendly military state in the nation, we need to step up our investments in programs and engagement. We have a great story to tell. Get out there and share our story and the white papers our team at EFI have developed. If you would like me, someone from the FDA executive committee, Bruce Grant or Terry McCaffrey to join you in sharing the sharing contact Michelle Griggs at mgriggs@enterprise florida.com. Let's be that innovative alliance that started this movement 19 years ago. Until next time, stay cool and enjoy these August days of summer.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

FDA Website
www.enterprise florida.com/floridadefense/

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 15th

FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida—Holiday Inn Orlando East—UCF Area

QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

“The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.”

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, learning from failure.”

--Colin Powell



News from the Bases

Eglin AFB —



Tri-County Community Partnership, TCPI, Regarded as National Model

Mr. Teran Judd, the Director, Air Force Community Partnership and Air Force Encroachment, joined the Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative (TCPI) Advisory Board on July 25th gaining valuable insight to the benchmark program. Representing the Pentagon's Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Mr. Judd supports all Air Force Installations with initiatives and partnership agreements benefitting both installations and community partners. Regarded as a national model, Mr. Judd wanted to see how the

TCPI does what we do. Throughout the day, Mr. Judd immersed himself in a number of the pinnacle endeavors accomplished through the TCPI and local partnerships initiatives including the Tourist Development Department's Concrete-to-Reefs program as well as the Enhanced Use Leases at the Holiday Inn Resort and Arbennie Pritchett Water Reclamation Facility.

The EDC of Okaloosa County created the TCPI program in 2013 as a parallel effort to the Air Force Community Partnership Program. <http://www.floridapartnerships.com/home.html>

State jump starts Carrabelle radar site

<http://www.apalachtimes.com/news/20170713/state-jump-starts-carrabelle-radar-site>

By DAVID ADLERSTEIN

Posted Jul 13, 2017

Expect to see more Air Force personnel visiting the Carrabelle waterfront in the months ahead, as they examine how best to engineer and manage a remote instrumentation site to assist in Eglin Air Force Base's testing capabilities over the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

The project, called the "2017 Gulf Range Expansion Systems Engineering for Remote Instrumentation Site" was granted \$235,000 in funding last week from the state program created about a decade ago to better position Florida's military installations and their surrounding communities within the turbulent world of nationwide defense cutbacks.

The funds, the lion's share of \$400,000 awarded through the Florida Defense Support Task Force Grant Program, will go to a joint venture, Reliance Test and Technology, which is the prime contractor that does operation and maintenance for Eglin's test ranges. InDyne, Inc. owns three-quarters of RTT, which also includes AECOM as a partner.....

Team Orlando —

Military training systems commands collaborate to develop 'cutting-edge' solutions

By NAWCTSD Public Affairs

The leaders of each of the Orlando-based military modeling and simulation commands formally reaffirmed their commitment to working together by signing an updated Team Orlando charter during the annual Training and Simulation Industry Symposium (TSIS) on Wednesday, June 14. The senior officers from each of the four military services represented within the Central Florida Research Park serve as the Team Orlando Executive Board of Directors. They work together as a collaborative interservice military body with a primary mission of supporting the Department of Defense (DoD).

Commanders of each of the military modeling and simulation commands stand by their service flags after reaffirming their commitment to working together to facilitate cross-pollination of technologies and lessons learned by signing an updated "Team Orlando" charter. Left to Right, Brigadier Gen. William Cole, Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation; Capt. Erik Etz, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division; Col. Walter Yates, Program Manager for Training Systems; and Col. Robert Epstein, Commander, Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation.



SOUTHCOM—

FAU and U.S. Southern Command Team Up for Science, Technology and Education Initiatives

<https://www.newswise.com/articles/fau-and-u-s-southern-command-team-up-for-science-technology-and-education-initiatives>

Newswise © July 27, 2017

Florida Atlantic University and U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) have signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to pursue common goals for research collaboration and student internships. The latest MOU will help to facilitate cooperation between the two institutions in pursuing mutual objectives in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

FAU and SOUTHCOM signed their first MOU in 2016 to establish a student internship program with the primary goal of providing additional educational experiences for student interns at SOUTHCOM and to formalize the responsibilities and mechanisms for student internship sustainment and operation.

SOUTHCOM, located in Miami, Fla. and responsible for military operations within South and Central America as well as the Caribbean, will work with FAU to pursue mutual objectives in humanitarian assistance and disaster response, international development, human rights, science and technology and security. 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.

As part of the latest MOU, FAU and SOUTHCOM will work jointly to coordinate activities that will include subject matter expert exchanges, forums, conferences and seminars, community based capacity strengthening, humanitarian assistance, disaster response and information exchange. Through collaborative measures, FAU and SOUTHCOM will work to mitigate negative impacts of underdevelopment, instability, poverty and recurrent natural disasters in the areas of responsibility for SOUTHCOM to improve living conditions in these areas, which are critical to long-term regional security.....

NS Mayport—

Naval Station Mayport to construct new Triton hangar on base

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/data/military/naval-station-mayport-to-construct-new-triton-hangar-on-base/453285985>

First Coast News © June 30, 2017

Naval Station Mayport will be one of five new homes of an unmanned aircraft known as Triton. A \$36 million contract has been awarded to build a new hangar to Orlando-based Hensel Phelps Construction.

The Triton program will base aircraft at five strategically selected sites around the world.

Mayport was selected as the first basing site and will establish threshold requirements for Initial Operational Capability (IOC) for Triton in 2019. The facility will provide anti-terrorism/force protection features in compliance with regulations and Department of Defense minimum anti-terrorism standards.

Site improvements will include grading, paved parking for approximately 160 vehicles, access roads, curbs, sidewalks, landscaping, fencing and signs, jet blast field fencing, box culverts, concrete access apron, concrete taxiway, wash rack and launch and recovery paving.

The facility is expected to be completed by September 2019.



Eglin AFB EOD School—

New names enshrined at annual EOD Memorial event

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/233067/new-names-enshrined-annual-eod-memorial-event>

DVIDS© May 8, 2017

Photo By [Samuel King](#) | Chief Master Sgt. Martin Cortez and Lt. Col. Emil Rebik salute.

Dressed in the bright whites, deep blues and dense blacks of their service uniforms, Airmen, Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers came together once again May 6 to honor and remember their fallen explosive ordnance disposal brethren during the annual memorial ceremony at the Kauffman EOD Training Complex here.

Approximately 500 people ventured to the EOD Memorial Wall this year, as six new names were added to the engraved lists that now contains 326 people. The 2017 event marked the ceremony's 48th year.

The schoolhouse's commander, Navy Capt. Charles Andrews, welcomed the EOD technicians, family and community to the ceremony and explained why they were drawn back to memorial each year.

"The nation will always need individuals willing to fight for a cause greater than themselves," he said. "Today we pay tribute to 326 EOD technicians who gave the ultimate sacrifice and we pay respect to their families."

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. John Richardson, the ceremony's guest speaker, shared heartfelt senti-



ments to the families of fallen technicians in attendance. He recounted the heartbreaking stories behind each of the new Soldiers' and Sailors' names added this year.

He related the words of the EOD technicians' ethos to each of the new fallen servicemembers to be memorialized and how they lived and died fulfilling that oath.

"No force has continually displayed the qualities of its ethos, courage, bravery, sacrifice, love of hu-

manity and humility more than the men and women of the EOD community," he said. "The names memorialized here welcome home of their brothers. They are the guardians of our sacred freedom."

Each year, a wreath is placed in front of each branch of service's list of names before they are read aloud. After each list is completed with the phrase "We remember," and the names are saluted by an enlisted and officer EOD member.

The families of the EOD technicians added to the wall each year receive a folded flag that was flown over the memorial.

The names added this year were:

Army Master Sgt. Biddle Izard Jr., Army Tech. Sgt. James Eberle, Senior Chief Petty Officer Scott Dayton, Chief Petty Officer Jason Finan, Ensign Charles Grice Sr., and Seaman Robert Burr.

The ceremony concluded with an honor guard rifle volley and the playing of Taps. Afterward, families and EOD technicians both past and present descended upon the Wall for pictures, to touch the engraved brass name or just remember a fallen hero.



Spotlight on: EOD School at Eglin Air Force Base

The Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal is a Navy-managed command, jointly staffed by Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps personnel.



The command is tasked with the mission of training officers and enlisted personnel of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, certain Department of Defense

civilian personnel and select international military students. They are all taught the most current procedures for the location, identification, render safe, recovery, technical evaluation, and disposal of conventional surface and underwater ordnance, both foreign and domestic.

The school is staffed with 212 active duty, 45 civilian and 154 contract personnel from all four branches of service and trains approximately 1800 students annually.

The course is broken down into 10 separate training divisions: CORE, Demolition, Tools and Methods, Biological and Chemical, Ground Ordnance, Air Ordnance, Improvised Explosive Devices, Nuclear Ordnance, WMD and Underwater. For Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps students the school consists of 143 academic training days and for Navy students 200 academic training days.

EOD History

Prior to World War II, the Navy had no formal Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) program. Incidents and accidents which would now be handled by Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, were then handled by the best qualified ordnance personnel.

Early in World War II, because of the high casualty rate, it became obvious to the British that a need existed for a corps of skilled technicians to render safe or dispose of an increasing number of unexploded ordnance items which presented hazards to their people and operations.



Shortly before U.S. entry into World War II, an agreement was reached with the British whereby a nucleus of U.S. Naval officers and enlisted personnel would work with the British units in the field and subsequently bring the skills back home. When this group returned, the decision was made to provide formal Explosive Ordnance Disposal training in the United States. In June, 1941, the first Mine Disposal Class was convened at the Naval Gun Factory, Washington, DC. In December of the same year, the Bomb Disposal School was also established at the same location.

The Bomb Disposal School was later moved to American University. The Advanced Mine School stayed at the Gun Factory (Washington Navy Yard) until it moved to the Naval Receiving Station, Anacostia in 1942. The School was renamed to the Mine Disposal School on October 21, 1943. In November 1945 the two schools were combined and established at the Naval Powder Factory, Indian Head, Maryland.

In 1947, responsibility for Explosive Ordnance Disposal training for all services was delegated to the Navy, and officers and enlisted of all services were added to the staff. This relationship flourished, and as the performance of the newly formed Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians improved, the demand for their unique talents increased. By 1958, facilities required to meet these increased requirements were met by the dedication of Surface and Nuclear Training Buildings. Subsequently, a half million gallon diving pool (underwater training facility) was constructed greatly expanding the capability of the school to train Naval Officers and enlisted personnel in the peculiarities of EOD diving.

In late 1971, the Department of Defense consolidated the EOD Training and Technology Programs under the single managership of the Navy. This action, along with improving the training of the EOD technicians, resulted in the establishment of district organizations by the other services at NAVSCOLEOD and the creation of the DOD EOD Technical Training Acceptance Board.



Basic EOD



Did You Know?

11 Facts About Military Families

1. Military spouses tend to be under 35 and are largely female.
2. Only 5% of military spouses are men.
3. Nearly 20% of service members in Iraq and Afghanistan experience acute stress, depression, and/or anxiety. Getting thank-you notes has a positive impact on soldiers' moods.
4. Military families relocate 10 times more often than civilian families -- on average, every 2 or 3 years.
5. Service members are more likely to be married at a younger age and have young children at home compared to their civilian counterparts.
6. Since 2001, more than 2 million American children have had a parent deployed at least once.
7. More than 900,000 children have experienced the deployment of one or both parents multiple times.
8. Children in military families experience high rates of mental health, trauma, and related problems. About 30% reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 weeks during the past 12 months. Nearly 1 in 4 reported having considered suicide.
9. 37% of children with a deployed parent reported that they seriously worry about what could happen to their deployed caretaker.
10. Multiple and prolonged deployment also has an effect on spouses, with 36.6% of women having at least one mental health diagnosis compared to 30% of women whose husbands were not deployed.
11. Bereavement experts report that for each active duty military loss, an average of 10 people are significantly impacted. In the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, an estimated 68,360 family members have been significantly impacted.



Posters of the Day:



THIS IS A HERO.

Not a sports player. Not a politician. Not a faddish popular figure.
A hero faces death for others, with no thought of personal gain or glory.
This is the face of a true hero.



FORTITUDE

"Never give in—never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small...never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Worth repeating -- The Florida Defense Support Task Force has just contracted for an update of the 2012 Spectrum Report Assessment of Florida's Military Installations. This update -- to be completed over the next few months -- will help us better prepare for any possible Department of Defense realignments. As you know, the Principi Group has visited many of Florida's bases over the past few years and met with community leaders and base commanders. Because of these many visits, the Principi Group will not be re-visiting every base in Florida, but rather target only a few bases for a re-visit. As soon as we receive the final schedule, we will share that with the communities so that you can help facilitate visits. Please do not be offended if your installation is not one of the bases to be re-visited. As before, the final report will be exempt from public disclosure. However, once the report is completed, the Task Force will share the results in a controlled environment with local defense community leaders. Your relationships with the base and local community are especially important to keep this effort moving forward. We sincerely appreciate all you do on a daily basis to support the military bases and improve the quality of life for military members and their families in the Sunshine State.



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



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

August 16, 2017

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

NEWS

DEO Releases FY 2017-2018 Defense Infrastructure and Defense Reinvestment Grants – These awards were announced last week during the Base Commanders meeting, so it is public record. However, the Governor’s Office and DEO have not yet made an official press release on this yet.

Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program Fiscal Year 2017-2018			
County/ Applicant	Major Military Installation(s)	Project Title/Purpose	Award Amount
Bay Defense Alliance, Inc.	NSA Panama City, Tyndall AFB	Preserving and Enhancing Military Missions at Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) and Naval Support Activity (NSA) Panama City	\$125,000
City of Jacksonville	NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport	Strategy, Analysis, and Support for Force Growth of Military in Jacksonville, FL	\$100,000
Clay County Economic Development Corporation	Camp Blanding JTC, NAS Jacksonville	Aggressively Strengthen and Diversify the Non-Defense Economy while Promoting the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC)	\$112,000
Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast	Cape Canaveral AFS, Patrick AFB	Protect and Enhance Florida Space Coast's Military Missions	\$85,000
Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County FL	Duke Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field	Team Eglin Leveraging Proven Partnerships in an Era of Change Program	\$85,250
Greater Pensacola Chamber	Corry Station, NAS Pensacola, Saufley Field	Promote U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Growth in the Pensacola Region and Enhance and Protect Existing Military Mission and Commands	\$125,000
Orlando Economic Partnership, Inc.	NSA Orlando	Support Continued Growth and Diversification of the Team Orlando Partnership	\$62,700
Santa Rosa County	NAS Whiting Field	Protect and Enhance Existing Military Missions	\$26,950
Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, Inc.	MacDill AFB	Strengthening MacDill Air Force Base (AFB)	\$44,100
The Miami-Dade Beacon Council, Inc.	Homestead ARB, US SOUTHCOM	Military Miami-Dade	\$84,000
Total DRG Request FY 2017-2018			\$850,000



**Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2017-2018**

County/ Applicant	Major Military Installation(s)	Project Title	Award Amount
Clay County Development Authority	Camp Blanding JTC	Force Security Structure	\$300,000
Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast	Cape Canaveral AFS, Patrick AFB	Traffic Feasibility Study	\$150,000
Santa Rosa County	NAS Whiting Field, Navy Outlying Field Pace	Joint Land Use Plan Acquisition Funding	\$300,000
Total DIG Request FY 2017-2018			\$750,000

Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – The Florida Chamber held their 4th annual Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando on August 8, 2017. The event was well attended and included comments from Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and Secretary Anthony Principi as well as panels of the future of military and defense in Florida that included participation by Kellie Joe Kilberg among others. FDSTF and FDA members attended the summit. To view many of the key speakers, go to <http://www.flchamber.com/2017-military-defense-and-veterans-opportunities-summit-videos/>.

Governor’s Base Commander Meeting– The Governor’s Base Commander meeting took place on August 9th at Homestead ARB. The meeting is a great forum for Base Commanders to provide information and raise issues directly to the Governor. Several items were brought to the Governor and Agency Heads that the FDSTF and FDA have been working including south Florida issues with rent and toll road costs. Bruce Grant and Terry McCaffrey attended and briefed at the meeting .

Potential House Alternative to BRAC – Representative Smith of Washington filed a bill titled “Military Infrastructure Consolidation and Efficiency Act of 2017”. The bill is an alternative approach to BRAC. According to the 102 page bill, “The purpose of this title is to provide a fair and transparent process that will allow the Department of Defense – (1) to consolidate, close, or realign military installations within the United States; and (2) as a result of such consolidation, closure, and realignment, to realize efficiencies and savings that can be reinvested into critical military readiness and modernization initiatives.” See full text of bill attached.

FDSTF FY 2019 Grant Cycle – The next grant application cycle for Task Force grants runs through Thursday, August 31, 2017. The newly updated fillable-field application is available at the Task Force website (https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FY-2018-2019-FDSTF-Grant-Funding-Application-Form_distributed.pdf).

First Congressional District Defense Industry Roundtable – Congressman Matt Gaetz is hosting a defense industry roundtable at the Doolittle Institute, 73 Eglin Parkway, Suite 112, JG Plaza at Uptown Station, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548 beginning at 11:45 on August 28, 2017.

2017 Florida Military Friendly Guide – The new version of the Military Friendly Guide has been mailed to Base Commanders and local defense/FDA leaders. You should be receiving them by the end of this week. If you need additional copies, please contact Terry McCaffrey. The guide is available on both the FDA and Task Force web sites:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/2017-Military-Friendly-Guide.pdf>

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Speaking with “One Voice”, a unified voice. This is a comment Secretary Anthony Principi emphasized during his comments at the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Military Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit. With the uncertainties of how the Department of Defense will realign installations and missions and what funding will follow those initiatives, it is important we all understand the military installations, missions and communities in our state and how best to support their sustainment and growth. Many may believe that any new mission is good, however, a new mission may in fact cause a domino effect in realigning existing missions. Not all missions are the same nor do they replace the funding, infrastructure and people from existing missions. It is important our military communities have talking points on their installations and missions. Where is your capacity for growth and enhancements? What are the compatible missions for your installations? What funding does your community seek for sustainment of the installations or missions? As many communities have implemented the low hanging fruit on P4 partnerships, how can we be innovative on the next rounds or P4s projects to reduce costs at installations? I’m asking each of you think about how you tell the stories of your military installations and the missions. How can the rest of the state assist you in telling that story? It is through sharing your story that the rest of us can speak with one voice regarding this important industry in our state.

Take a moment and think about your elevator story regarding your installations and missions. Is everyone in your community and region telling the same story? Do they understand the economic impacts from the military to businesses to schools and the ancillary organizations that are in your communities’ due to that installation(s)? Have you met with all of your elected officials regarding the installations, the missions and how best to support the men and women who protect our freedoms? Please don’t take it for granted that your elected officials understand or are supportive.

As we move forward with the agenda for our November meeting, let me know if you have an item for the main agenda or for one of our working groups, Mission Sustainment and Family Support.

I hope you are enjoying your August. Thank you for all that you do for the men and women who serve in uniform and their families. We are the ***most military friendly state in the nation***. Let’s work together in telling our story as well as to be innovative in support of our installations and missions.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg



FDA Website
www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 15th

FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida—Holiday Inn Orlando East—UCF Area

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better. “

----Harry S Truman



News from the Bases

BRAC —

Principi Questions Wisdom of Jettisoning BRAC Commission

Dan Cohen, “On Base”, 7/9/2017

<http://mailchi.mp/defensecommunities/president-softens-stance-on-border-wall-funding-253041?e=28cebe069c>

Anthony Principi, who chaired the BRAC Commission during the last round of base closures, on Tuesday warned local officials in Florida about the pitfall of eliminating the BRAC commission from the selection process, in response to a proposal by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Jack Reed (D-R.I.) to revise the BRAC statute. The commission provides a critical opportunity for communities to make the case to retain their installation, he told the Florida Chamber Foundation’s Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando. The commission has the ability to add and subtract bases after communities testify as part of a process that is “transparent, apolitical and independent,” he said, reported the [Tampa Bay Times](#).

“I hope Congress doesn’t undercut that aspect of previous BRAC Commissions,” Principi said.

Notwithstanding his concern about a possible change in the BRAC process, he said Florida’s military installations are well positioned ahead of a new round of base closures. With the headquarters for U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB is secure, Principi said in a telephone interview. “They have modern buildings ... and they are key players in Pentagon operations around the world and thus extremely unlikely to be moved.”

Despite MacDill’s assets, nothing is certain when it comes to BRAC. “You are never without risk and never sure, so nothing can be taken for granted,” he said.

MacDill and other Florida bases in good shape to weather closing efforts, says former BRAC boss.

Howard Altman, Times Staff Writer, Wednesday, August 9, 2017 10:17am

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/macdill/macdill-and-other-florida-bases-in-good-shape-to-weather-closing-efforts/2333031>

The man who led the last round of military base closings offered good news and a warning to MacDill Air Force Base and the state's 19 other military installations Tuesday.

Thanks to strong military-civilian partnerships, the presence of three major commands and key missions performed at its military facilities, Florida is in good shape to weather a new round of base closings, said Anthony Principi, speaking at the Florida Chamber Foundation's Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando.

But the state shouldn't rest easy, warned Principi, a military veteran and former Veterans Affairs secretary who led the last Base Closing and Realignment Commission, held in 2005.

The leadership of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee is floating the idea of calling for a new round of base closings in 2021, but with a big difference from previous versions.

Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., and ranking member Jack Reed, D-Rhode Island, are proposing closing bases without the kind of commission that Principi once led. Such a move, Principi said, would eliminate an important way for communities to make a case to keep their bases.

BRAC members, he said, have the ability to add and subtract bases after hearing community input. And they can do it in a way that is "transparent, apolitical and independent."

NS Mayport — US Coast Guard—

Motto: "Fortune Favors the Bold"

Technical Specifications

- Homeport: Mayport, Florida
- Length: 210 feet 6 inches
- Beam: 34 feet
- Maximum Speed: 17 knots
- Maximum Range: 6,900 nautical miles
- Crew Size: 12 Officers, 63 Enlisted

Primary Missions

- Law Enforcement
- Search and Rescue
- Homeland Security





2016 and 2017 Operations (As of 8/1/17)

- 243 Days Away from Homeport
- Sailed 34,000 miles patrolling Atlantic/Pacific Ocean, Caribbean Sea
- Transited the Panama Canal (four times)
- Interdicted 8,700 kilograms of cocaine worth \$289 million
- Apprehended 33 suspected drug smugglers and two human smugglers
- Interdicted, rescued, and cared for 400+ migrants

Awards

- Coast Guard Atlantic Area Overall Operational Readiness Excellence Award
- Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award (Runner Up - Large Cutter)
- Coast Guard 2016 Minor Caliber Gunnery Award
- Coast Guard 2016 Enlisted Person of the Year (Seaman Gregory Jacquet)
- Coast Guard 2016 Independent Health Service Technician of the Year (HS2 Scott Hughes)



Mayport Naval Station has changed a lot over the years. Littoral ships are the next chapter in its history.

<http://jacksonville.com/news/military/2017-08-12/mayport-naval-station-has-changed-lot-over-years-littoral-ships-are-next>

A lot has changed at Mayport Naval Station since Bob Reeder first arrived as an enthusiastic young sailor in 1972. Other than a three-year tour, he's worked at the Navy base at the mouth of the St.

Johns River ever since.

Back in 1972 part of the wharf was made of sand, and Reeder was assigned to the cruiser USS Albany. Now Reeder is 71 and still working as the deputy port operations officer where he watches ships come and go just outside his office window.

At his desk he has a roster of ships that were assigned to the basin in 1987 with about 30 vessels — including the aircraft carriers USS Forrestal and USS Saratoga. As the port master, his job is to make sure the ships fit in the basin like puzzle pieces so they can get the services they need while in port.....



Bob Reeder
Deputy Port Operations
Officer at NS Mayport

(Photo Courtesy of Bob
Mack, Florida Times-
Union)

Orlando —

Putnam pitches land deals to protect state's military bases

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/putnam-pitches-land-deals-protect-state-military-bases/R1dD6C7ImfoP7bX0vc5i5L/>

By Jim Turner, News Service of Florida

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, a Republican candidate for governor, said Tuesday the state needs to increase spending for land preservation to help protect military bases from closure.

Putnam voiced displeasure that state lawmakers did not provide more money during the current budget year for conservation efforts. Lawmakers set aside \$10 million for the state's Rural and Family Lands Protection Program and nothing for the Florida Forever land-acquisition program.

"Hopefully, they'll fix that problem next year," Putnam said.

Putnam, speaking in Orlando at a Florida Chamber Foundation event focused on state support for the military and veterans entering the workforce, said he views the use of conservation dollars as a means to protect land around military bases - an allowed use of the money. That could reduce chances the federal government will close bases through a process known as Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC.

"Natural resource policy can also be economic development policy," Putnam said. "Natural resource policy can also be military and BRAC-proofing policy. It can also be encroachment policy. So while you're protecting any number of species and watersheds and habitat and creating outdoor

recreation opportunities, you're also protecting Eglin (Air Force Base in Okaloosa County), Pinecastle (bombing range in the Ocala National Forest) and Avon Park (Air Force Range) training opportunities.".....

NS Whiting Field—

Airport noise issues continue to cause controversy in Fairhope

<http://www.gulfcoastnewstoday.com/stories/airport-noise-issues-continue-to-cause-controversy-in-fairhope,52039>

By Cliff McCollum -- Posted Friday, August 11, 2017 12:25 pm

A group of Fairhope residents have started a petition and Facebook group about continuing noise from the Fairhope airport.

“The residents of Fairhope that live within the flight zone and beyond the H L Sonny Callahan Airport are very concerned about neighborhood safety, and insist that the FAA require pilots using the Airport to follow the federal regulations with regard to required minimum altitude,” the petition states. “For safety reasons, the law states that all aircraft must stay at least 1,000 ft. above residential neighborhoods except when necessary for takeoff and landing.”

As of Monday morning, the petition had 119 supporters and the group’s Facebook page, Fairhope Citizens Against Airport Noise, had 95 members.

The Facebook page has several videos posted that show planes flying near the airport that purport to show low flying aircraft, though several comments on the video question if the planes are landing or if the video has been zoomed in to make the aircraft appear closer than they actually are.....

Spotlight on: US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)



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.

Mission

U.S. Southern Command leverages rapid response capabilities, partner nation collaboration, and regional cooperation within our Area of Responsibility in order to support U.S. national security objectives, defend the Southern approaches to the United States, and promote regional security and stability.

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)

U.S. Southern Command is responsible for all Department of Defense security cooperation in the 45 nations and territories of Central and South America and the Caribbean Sea, an area of 16 million square miles.

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.

SOUTHCOM COMPONENTS



US Army
South



SOUTHCOM TASK FORCES



Commander – Admiral Kurt Tidd

Admiral Kurt Tidd was the 35th Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Prior to that, he was the Director for Operations (J3), Joint Staff.

At sea, Tidd commanded U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet. Afloat, he also commanded Carrier Strike Group 8 aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), during a combat deployment supporting coalition forces in Operation Enduring Freedom. From 2004 to 2005, Tidd commanded Persian Gulf maritime operations as Commander, Middle East Force and Commander Task Force 55. Previous sea duty assignments include: Commander, Destroyer Squadron 50; Commanding Officer, USS Arthur W. Radford (DD 968); and Executive Officer aboard USS Leftwich (DD 984). Tidd was Operations Officer aboard USS Deyo (DD 989); Flag Lieutenant to Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group 8; Boilers Officer aboard USS America (CV 66); and, Communications Officer and Main Propulsion Assistant on USS Semmes (DDG 18).

Ashore, Tidd served as the Joint Staff Vice Director for Operations. He spent three years on the National Security Council Staff as Director for Strategic Capabilities Policy, and as a Director for Combating Terrorism. He was the founding Deputy for Operations on the Chief of Naval Operations' War on Terrorism Operations Planning Group "Deep Blue" established following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Tidd was the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations (N3) at U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/U.S. 5th Fleet, Manama, Bahrain. At the Pentagon, he was in the Navy Staff Strategy and Policy Division (N51) and was the Political-Military Analyst in the Secretary of the Navy's Office of Program Appraisal. Tidd was the strategic planner on the Chief of Naval Operations' Executive Panel (N-00K), and at North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium, he was Aide to the U.S. representative, NATO Military Committee.

Tidd graduated in 1974 from Porter-Gaud School, Charleston, S.C. and was commissioned from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978, with a degree in Foreign Area Studies. Selected in 1984 as an Olmsted Foundation Scholar, Tidd is a French linguist with a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Bordeaux, France. He has been awarded the Legion of Honor by the government of France. He is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and was a Federal Executive Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States.



Did You Know?

August 16th is National Airborne Day



August 16, 1940 marked the first official Army parachute jump, validating the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by parachute.



The history of airborne forces began after World War I, when Brigadier General William Mitchell first conceived the idea of parachuting troops into combat. Eventually, under the leadership of Major William Lee at Fort Benning, Georgia, members of the Parachute Test Platoon pioneered methods of combat jumping in 1940. In November 1942, members of the 2nd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, conducted America's first combat jump, leaping from a C-47 aircraft behind enemy lines in North Africa. This strategy revolutionized combat and established airborne forces as a key component of our military.

During World War II, airborne tactics were critical to the success of important missions, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy, the Battle of the Bulge, the invasion of Southern France, and many others. In Korea and Vietnam, airborne soldiers played a critical combat role, as well as in later conflicts and peacekeeping operations, including Panama, Grenada, Desert Storm, Haiti, Somalia, and the Balkans. Most recently, airborne forces were vital to liberating the people of Afghanistan from the repressive and violent Taliban regime; and these soldiers continue to serve proudly around the world in the global coalition

against terrorism.

The elite airborne ranks include prestigious groups such as the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, "Sky Soldiers," 82nd Airborne Division, "All American," and the "Screaming Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). Airborne forces have also been represented in the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions and numerous other Airborne, glider and air assault units and regiments. Paratroopers in the Army's XVIII Airborne Corps, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment and other Special Forces units conduct swift and effective operations in defense of peace and freedom.

Airborne combat continues to be driven by the bravery and daring spirit of sky soldiers. Often called into action with little notice, these forces have earned an enduring reputation for dedication, excellence, and honor. As we face the challenges of a new era, I encourage all people to recognize the contributions of these courageous soldiers to our Nation and the world.



Poster of the Day:



WHEN THE PEOPLE

LOOK LIKE ANTS
PULL

WHEN THE ANTS
LOOK LIKE PEOPLE
PRAY

motifake.com

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.

Florida Defense Alliance Leadership

Chair – Kellie Jo Kilberg

Vice Chair – VACANT

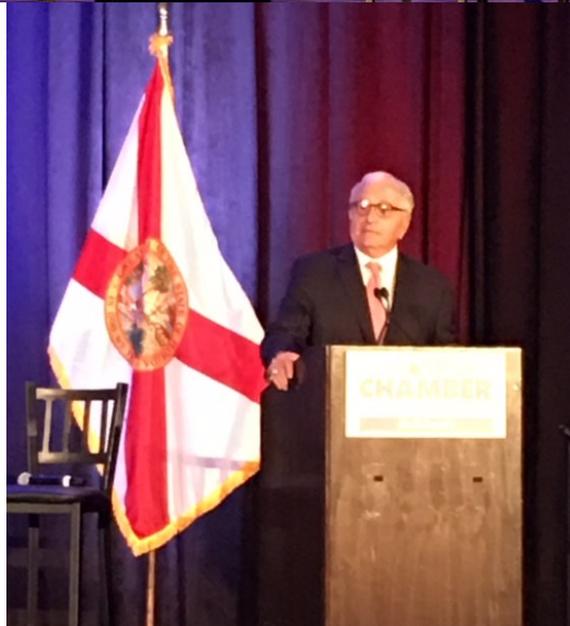
Mission Sustainment Working Group Chair – Jeff Fanto

Family Support Working Group Chair – Rita Smith

Executive Board

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

Photos from the Florida Chamber Foundation's Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit in Orlando, Florida on August 8, 2017





Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

August 30, 2017

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

NEWS

1st Congressional District Defense Industry Roundtable – On August 28th, Congressman Matt Gaetz hosted a defense industry roundtable to discuss issues pertaining to defense industry contracting.

Gulf Range Enhancement Position Paper – The tri-county Defense Support Initiative published a paper last week supporting the Air Force Gulf Range Enhancement including developmental phases supporting increased range enhancement and sustainment along with instrumentation capabilities and capacity. This paper can be found on the DSI web site.

Building Healthy Military Communities -- From ADC -- Pentagon looks to state, community resources to improve force's health, readiness: DOD has launched a pilot program in seven states to link service members with community, state and federal resources that can support improvements in their health and readiness. With increasing numbers of personnel living off-base, along with the military's greater reliance on reserve and National Guard members, the *Building Healthy Military Communities* program aims to close the gap between on-the-ground resources and geographically dispersed service members and their families, reports [DOD News](#). The initiative's first phase began last year with the hiring of coordinators in the seven pilot states — Florida, Indiana, Oklahoma, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi and New Mexico — to develop state-specific strategic plans, said U.S. Public Health Service Capt. Kimberly Elenberg, director of Operation Live Well. The next phases include reaching out to service members and their families to better communicate the availability of resources, and using mobile health technologies to improve linkages with resources. The pilot may expand to other states, Elenberg said. Florida's Coordinator is Lynn Brannon.

Lynn Have Fuel Depot Near Tyndall AFB Sold – The Lynn Haven City Commission authorized the acquisition and subsequent sale of the former fuel depot property, from the U.S. Air Force to developer Marina Island LLC, for \$2.45 million. Plans to turn the property into Lynn Haven Marina Village, a community center including family housing and a hotel, have been in the works for years. This transfer has taken 18 years since Bay Defense Alliance Vice President Jerry Smithwick began working on the project. Ultimately as a result of federal legislation, more than 2 million dollars will go to Tyndall AFB for infrastructure projects. The closing was celebrated this week in the presence of Dep Asst. secretary SAF/I.E. Jennifer Miller, USAF general counsel Sam Rupe and support contractor Hillary Bassett, all of whom worked on the project since the beginning. Wing Commander Col Michael Hernandez and Support Group Commander Col Matt Jeffson attended as well. Florida State university has been granted 40 Acres for development of underwater CSI and marine science programs to be determined. This type of disposition often takes 10+ years and requires a coordinated effort between local defense support groups, military leadership, the congressional delegation and community political leaders.

FDSTF FY 2019 Grant Cycle – The next grant application cycle for Task Force grants runs through Thursday, August 31, 2017. The newly updated fillable-field application is available at the Task Force website : (https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FY-2018-2019-FDSTF-Grant-Funding-Application-Form_distributed.pdf).

2017 Florida Military Friendly Guide – The new version of the Military Friendly Guide has been mailed to Base Commanders and local defense/FDA leaders. You should have received them by now. If you need additional copies, please contact Terry McCaffrey. The guide is available on both the FDA and Task Force web sites: <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/2017-Military-Friendly-Guide.pdf>



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 15th

FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida—Holiday Inn Orlando East—UCF Area

FDA Website

www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/

QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

Secretary of Defense James Mattis –

When asked what keeps him up at night, he answered:

“Nothing. I keep other people awake at night.”



News from the Bases

MacDill AFB –

Despite age, tanker aircraft 'invaluable' to America's military mission, commander says

<http://www.fox13news.com/news/local-news/275568278-story>

By: Chris Boex, FOX 13 News

America's newest and most advanced fighter takes to the skies every day, but the F-22 Raptor can't get very far without some of the oldest planes in the Air Force. This week, that juxtaposition played out 26,000 feet above the Gulf of Mexico.

A flight of six cutting-edge Raptors thirstily gulped down fuel from a 54-year-old KC-135 Stratotanker during an all-Sunshine State training mission. The sleek, aggressive-looking F-22s from Tyndall Air Force Base paused during their mock dogfights to take turns pulling up behind the bulbous KC-135, each taking only a few minutes to load up with 6,000 pounds of fuel before peeling away into the August haze.....



A cutting-edge F-22 Raptor prepares to pull away from a 54-year-old KC-135 Stratotanker during a training mission over the Florida Panhandle, August 21, 2017.
Photo: Chris Boex / FOX 13 News.



NAS Key West —

Naval Aviation Hits Historic Milestone

By Troy Clarke, Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Public
http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=101806

KEY WEST, Fla. (NNS) -- The Navy completed the debrief for the 100,000th sortie using the Tactical Combat Training System (TCTS) Aug. 2, at Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West, marking the most sorties flown on naval ranges using the system.

The sophisticated TCTS - in use for more than a decade - is the high velocity learning tool managed by Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona for the Navy and Marine Corps. It provides live monitoring and control during mission execution, plus a fully instrumented event reconstruction debrief, similar to "coaching tape" debriefs in pro football.....



KEY WEST, Fa. (Aug. 1, 2017) Lt. Drew Kocher and Lt. Cmdr. Brad Williams, both assigned to the "Fighting Swordsman" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 32, landed on Naval Air Station Key West's Boca Chica Field after completing Tactical Combat Training System's 100,000th pod-tracked sortie since the system began tracking using GPS technology in 2006. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Cody R. Babin/Released)

NSA Panama City —

NSWC PCD command changes hands

<http://www.newsherald.com/news/20170728/nswc-pcd-command-changes-hands>

By COLLIN BREAU, News Herald Reporter

News Herald © July 28, 2017

The Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) got a new commander Friday.

The Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC) tenant unit, which serves as the base's scientific research and development center, hosted a change of command ceremony, with incoming Cmdr. Capt. Aaron Peters taking over from outgoing Cmdr. Capt. Phillip Dawson III, who is retiring after 29 years of active-duty service.....

NSWC PCD hosts military training event

<http://www.newsherald.com/news/20170817/nswc-pcd-hosts-military-training-event>

News Herald © August 17, 2017

By COLLIN BREAUX, News Herald Reporter

The future of Navy technology was on display this week at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD).

NSWC PCD, the tech research and development lab for Naval Support Activity Panama City, hosted the Advanced Naval Technology Exercise (ANTX) Battlespace Preparation in a Contested Environment, which combined aspects of a trade show and training exercise. During the event, which began Tuesday and ended Wednesday, NSWC PCD scientists and engineers joined others to test new tech in the waters near the base.

The event also brought together defense contractors, Pentagon officials and media from across the county to learn more about the machines. Contractors and NSWC PCD engineers stood at separate tents to show off the still-developing equipment, which ranged from seabed warfare vehicles to aerial and underwater drones.....

Lynn Haven sets fuel depot sale date

<http://www.newsherald.com/news/20170726/lynn-haven-sets-fuel-depot-sale-date>

<http://www.newsherald.com/photogallery/DA/20170823/PHOTOGALLERY/823009977/PH/1?start=2>

By COLLIN BREAUX News Herald Reporter

News Herald © August 23, 2017

The land that once housed an Air Force fuel depot is now one step from beginning a new life as a water-centric Lynn Haven community.

The Lynn Haven City Commission on Tuesday authorized the acquisition and subsequent sale of the former fuel depot property — from the U.S. Air Force to developer Marina Island LLC — for \$2.45 million. Plans to turn the property into Lynn Haven Marina Village, a community center including family housing and a hotel, have been in the works for years.

Bluewater Development Group, previously selected as the project developer, since has joined with Marina Island to develop the project.....

NAS Pensacola —

Officials mark completion of solar fields

Northwest Florida Daily News © August 22, 2017

<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20170822/officials-mark-completion-of-solar-fields>

PENSACOLA — The three largest combined solar facilities on Department of Defense property went online Tuesday after a ceremonial “flip the switch” event.

Executives from Gulf Power and Coronal Energy joined officials from the Air Force and Navy for the event at Naval Air Station Pensacola’s Naval Outlying Landing Field (NOLF) Saufley.

Ground was broken in November 2016 on the huge project that spans 940 acres across three Navy and Air Force sites in Northwest Florida. Saufley Field hosts the largest of the three installations: a 366-acre, 50 megawatt solar-generating facility.

The two other solar facilities at the Eglin Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Whiting Field's (NOLF) Holley Field became operational earlier this summer. All three combined will have about 1.5 million solar panels capable of generating up to 120 megawatts of electricity, enough energy to power nearly 18,000 homes annually.....



Spotlight on: Marine Corps Support Facility at 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.



The Cutting Edge of Logistics

The importance of prepositioning programs to the defense of our nation has been demonstrated numerous times since their inception; highlighted during contingency operations DESERT STORM and IRAQI FREEDOM, but also most visibly, during nearly a dozen other smaller scale contingencies and humanitarian/disaster relief operations. As the hub of the Marine Corps' prepositioning programs the Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island (MCSF-BI) serves as the home of Blount Island Command (BICmd) and its worldwide mission supporting Marine expeditionary forces. BICmd'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.

BICmd is on the leading edge of logistics initiatives such as Contractor Logistics Support (CLS), use of LEAN/6-Sigma continuous process improvement tools, and is certified in ISO 9001 and 14001. Blount Island offers a variety of advantages to the Department of Defense not readily available at other sites to include:

- Private Slipway with 5 large vessel berths located only 7 nautical miles from the St. Johns river outlet.
- Close proximity to Marine Corps' logistics center in Albany, GA.
- Access to a large industrial base and Navy support structure in Jacksonville, FL.
- A fully operational facility ~ time tested in war and peace.
- Excellent road and rail network.
- 33+ acres of staging immediately adjacent to the 1000' pier and maintenance area.
- Overflow staging and maintenance capacity ~ an excellent site for MPS offload and throughput training.
- A highly skilled and efficient work force with unique core competencies relative to maintenance and prepositioning.
- Genuine public and private business community support.

Global Readiness

The key to successful employment of a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) that falls in on the Maritime Prepositioning Ships (MPS) Program or Marine Corps Prepositioning Program – Norway (MCPN) equipment is the availability and readiness of the prepositioned equipment and supplies. BICmd works closely with the supported expeditionary force commander to exceed ISO 9001 goals of 98% attainment, 98% readiness, and 98% data accuracy of the prepositioned combat capability sets. BICmd's focus will

always be on the combat readiness, visibility, and attainment of prepositioned equipment and supplies.

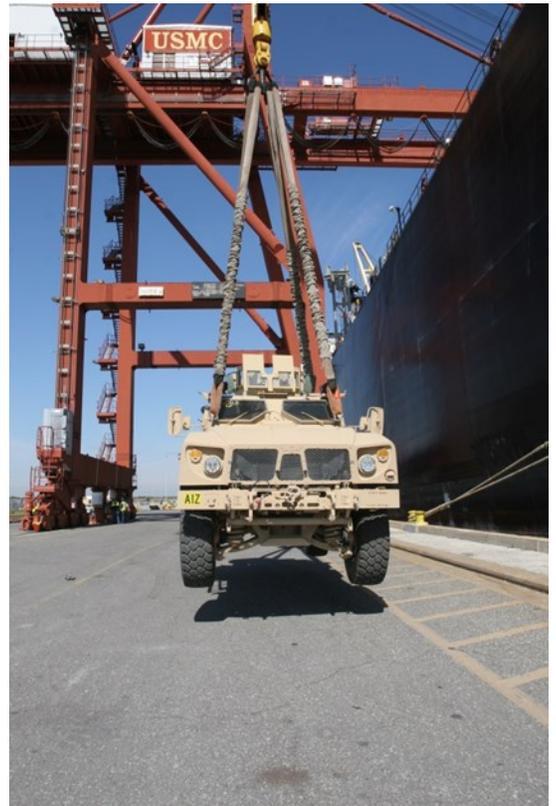


**Commanding Officer
Colonel Andrew J. Bergen**

Colonel Bergen is a native of Elmwood Park, New Jersey. He is a graduate of Fordham University and a Logistics Officer. His command billets include Motor Transportation Platoon Commander, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, 2nd Marine Division; Series and Company Commander, "K" Co, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, MCRD San Diego; Commanding Officer of "B" Company, 1st Transportation Support Battalion; Commanding Officer of Combat Service Company 117, CSSG-11; and Commanding Officer of Combat Logistics Battalion 11. His staff billets include Operations Officer, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, MCRD, San Diego; Operations Officer, Brigade Service Support Group 1, 1st FSSG; Prepositioning Officer and Section Head POE-40, Expeditionary Plans and Policies, HQMC; Deputy G-4, 1st Marine Division; Joint Headquarters Exercises Branch Head and Executive Officer to the Deputy Commander for Military Operations, United States Africa Command; and Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, 1st Marine Division.

His operational experience includes Operations Sea Signal, Guardian Retrieval, Noble Obelisk, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan).

He is a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College (Non-Resident), the Norwegian Defense Command and Staff College, and the United States Naval War College. He holds a Master's Degree in Security Studies.





MARINES

THE FEW. THE PROUD.®

Did You Know?

US Marine Corps Trivia

The Marine Corps' first amphibious raid was only weeks after its creation when Marines successfully stormed a British weapons cache in the Bahamas.

The Marines' first land battle on foreign soil was in Libya, where 600 Marines stormed the city of Derna to rescue the crew of the USS Philadelphia from pirates.

Fewer than 100 people have received the title of honorary Marine, a title that can only be bestowed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Here are a few of their names and ranks in order of seniority:

- Chuck Norris
- Brig. Gen. Bob Hope
- Master Sgt. Bugs Bunny
- Cpl. Jim Nabors, star of Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.
- Gary Sinise

"Hurry up and wait" is what happens when each leader down the chain of command tells his or her Marines to be there 15 minutes prior to the senior's directive. This is why Marines arrive early to their destinations.

The license plate of the Commandant of the Marine Corps reads "1775."

Marines in uniform are not authorized to put their hands in their pockets.

Only female Marines are authorized to carry umbrellas in uniform.

The Marine Corps mascot is an English bulldog named Chesty, after Marine Lt. Gen. Louis B. "Chesty" Puller, the only Marine to earn five Navy Crosses.

Even though the Corps is an amphibious force, swim qualification is one of the few annual qualifications that doesn't count toward a Marine's promotion to the next rank.

Every year, Thai Marines instruct U.S. Marines in a day of jungle-survival training as part of the annual exercise Cobra Gold. The training culminates with the U.S. Marines participating in a Thai warrior ritual that involves cutting a cobra's head off and drinking its blood.

Marine Corps Col. John Glenn was the first *American to orbit the Earth.

Marines are often called jarheads because of their high-and-tight haircuts, but some Marines take this cut to the extreme. Unauthorized haircuts include the horseshoe and the mohawk.

Marine recruits are finished eating the moment their drill instructor is finished. This is why Marines eat so fast.

Because MCRD Parris Island was the first of the two depots, Marines who attend MCRD San Diego are often called "Hollywood Marines" by Parris Island Marines. Hollywood Marines don't have a name for Parris Island Marines because they feel bad about the sand fleas.



Posters of the Day:



OOOH RAH!

Oooh Rah is not just a catchy little term that should be used lightly. It's a feeling of emotion that comes from deep within and is used only when the amount of motivation in your gut has been built up so high it has no other choice but to explode through your vocal cords and crack the very air which tries to contain it.

—Sgt Scott Stranger, MB 8th & I, Washington, D.C., 1995

Υ Σ Μ Χ "THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF UNITED STATES MARINES"

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FRATER.NALORDER](https://www.facebook.com/fraternallorder)

"Once a Marine, always a Marine."

MSgt. Paul Wayshner, USMC

Long after the uniform has been laid aside, the last order has been given, the final salute returned, the last handshake shared, and the occasional tear brushed away by a determined hand. Long after that, it still runs in your veins. Lives on in your mind. Dominates your will. Long after that you feel the call. The esprit that can only be shared among brothers. Among individuals bonded together by the truest of ideals.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine."



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! We send our wishes for a safe and happy Labor Day!

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



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

September 14, 2017

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

NEWS

Secretary Principi and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment, Lucian Niemeyer highlight BRAC Panel – On September 5th, the Heritage Foundation hosted a panel on BRAC. Some highlights:

- The key benefit of a new round of base closures would not be the potential to trim operations costs by shedding unneeded infrastructure but rather the opportunity to realign the Pentagon’s basing strategy with an updated national defense strategy defense officials are now crafting,
- A new BRAC round also would offer the department an opportunity to ensure its basing decisions reflect “new technologies, new methods of warfare, emerging capabilities and fifth-generation weapons systems,” Niemeyer said during a panel discussion hosted by the Heritage Foundation.
- “The sole and primary reason [behind DOD’s desire for a BRAC round is] Congress allowing us the ability to look at our basing, to make prudent decisions on where to station forces in order to optimize their effectiveness,” he said.
- A new round would allow the department to better align its forces with training ranges and weapons systems. “We need to look at how we do ultimately station those forces at locations that they can do more effective, more efficient and a wider array of full-spectrum training close to where they actually live and where their families are,” Niemeyer said.
- Niemeyer acknowledged that some would label such an approach to a BRAC round as transformational, but he stressed that DOD’s aim would be to increase the readiness and lethality of its forces. “I think really what we’re looking at is a round that will allow us to take a national defense strategy, look at how that informs military value. Because coming out of our national defense strategy we’ll have a clear indication of what the military value needs to be for installations and applying that military value to the stationing of forces,” he said.

A webcast of the discussion is available at:

<http://www.heritage.org/defense/event/discussion-brac-responsibly-adjusting-dods-infrastructure-meet-current-and-future>

September 8th ADC Town Hall/Conference Call on BRAC – ADC held a town hall/conference call with Cord Sterling from Senator McCain’s staff, John Quirk from Senator Reed’s staff and Assistant Secretary Lucian Niemeyer and over 200 participants on the phone. The discussion centered around the McCain amendment to the NDAA. Here are some highlights:

- All believe we are closer than ever to an approved BRAC.
- The BRAC process proposed in the McCain amendment is new and eliminates the BRAC commission.
- Proposed process: 1) DOD puts together analysis based on force structure/infrastructure needs. 2) DOD sends through POTUS to Congress. 3) GAO does a review (in lieu of BRAC Commission) 4) Congress then takes up recommendations, reviews and votes.
- New process would show great concern for cost controls, ensure pay back within 10 years, and cap costs at \$5 billion.

- Possibility of an initial mini-BRAC in 2019 as a pilot process.
- Intent is to shorten the process timeline so communities are not kept waiting for results. Shorten the pain period.
- No mothballing of bases would be allowed.
- GAO would most likely allow community input during their review.
- Intent of process is for communities to have direct access to their respective Congressional members rather than to a BRAC Commission – since it is the Congressional members who vote on the results. Intent is to have Congress do their job and more of a voice in the process than the BRAC Commission.
- DOD needs both National Security Strategy (NSS) and then National Military Strategy (NMS) to make decisions on force structure needed to address threats. Neither NSS nor NMS yet completed.
- DOD needs updated basing strategy to fully optimize bases.
- To DOD, BRAC process provides best method to evaluate military value and ensure DOD does all it can to enhance lethality of armed forces.
- In day-to-day operations, DOD does not necessarily see a great deal of excess in military and at military installations.
- Many communities look at BRAC as more of an opportunity than a threat.

NOTE: This amendment is still very preliminary. The views above come from only the Senate staffers and DOD. ADC promised to send us the actual McCain amendment so we could read it for ourselves. Will send it on when we receive it.

Governor Scott signs POW / MIA Proclamation – Gov. Rick Scott has signed the 2017 POW/MIA Recognition Day Proclamation . Friday, September 15, 2017 is POW/MIA Recognition Day in Florida.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

A week ago, I was in Daytona Beach presenting to the American Planners Association-Florida Chapter, and today, I'm hoping everyone is okay and working through the overwhelming destruction from Hurricane Irma. For the most part, our installations in the state received minor damage, however, many of the families that live off base may be cleaning up a mess. NAS Key West is still accessing their situation, and of course our National Guard and many of the other military services are assisting with the rescue and recovery process. A big, "THANK YOU" to those individuals out there in these dangerous conditions making a difference for so many around the state and in the Caribbean.

In addition, I would like to thank Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Deputy Director of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, who gave us a great opportunity to participate in a panel on Sustaining Florida's Military Readiness at the annual conference of the American Planners Association-Florida Chapter. Lt. Colonel Charles "Buck" MacLaughlin, USAF (Retired), Avon Park Air Force Range and Lt. Colonel Jeff Fanto, USAF (Retired), Eglin Air Force Base joined us on the panel. This association and their members are important to educate about our encroachment challenges if we want to move forward on our proactive approach to addressing these opportunities as we retain, enhance and grow the capacity of our military installations and missions. We will be working with Jennifer to submit articles on encroachment and other topics on a quarterly time-line to keep the planners up-to-date on our installations and missions' needs.

Until next time, be safe as you, clean-up from the storm and flooding. Bless our military, first responders and all the volunteers giving so much during and after the storm.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 15th

FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida—Holiday Inn Orlando East—UCF Area

FDA Website

www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/



From left: Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Kellie Jo Kilberg, Buck MacLaughlin and Jeff Fanto at the American Planners Association Florida Chapter Conference.



QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“A good plan executed today is better than a perfect plan executed at some indefinite point in the future.”

—General George S. Patton

News from the Bases

Jacksonville —

Navy not ready to bring nuclear carrier to Mayport as newer ships change course

<http://jacksonville.com/news/military/2017-09-01/navy-not-ready-bring-nuclear-carrier-mayport-newer-ships-change-course>

Florida Times-Union © September 1, 2017

By Joe Daraskevich

The prospect of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier coming to Mayport Naval Station on a permanent basis in the near future is a long shot based on the direction of the Navy and the current climate of the military. Instead a much smaller variety of ships meant to operate close to shore with versatile mission packages are starting to arrive at Mayport to fill out the basin. The Navy insists the new squadron of littoral combat ships and the trio of vessels that make up Mayport's amphibious ready group are a satisfactory replacement for the carriers and frigates that used to float at the pier.....



NSA Panama City —

NSA PC base buffer purchase finalized

<http://www.newsherald.com/news/20170901/nsa-pc-base-buffer-purchase-finalized>

News Herald © September 1, 2017

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection recently finalized the purchase of 8.4-acres for base buffering of the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Panama City for \$1.67 million dollars, the department said in a press release Friday.

“The acquisition of this property will prevent further incompatible development adjacent to NSA Panama City and prevent potential major interruptions to their military mission,” David Clark, DEP’s Division of State Lands director, said in the release. “It will provide additional security and a buffer to one of the more sensitive areas on the installation.”

The parcel is designated as a Tier 1 priority parcel in the Department of Economic Opportunity/ Florida Defense Support Task Force’s Military Base Protection Program. The program allows the state of Florida to acquire property around Florida’s military bases and assists bases if development challenges arise, the release stated.....

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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 Baker**

Captain Bobby Baker was commissioned in May 1993 at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York and served as an Army Aviator until 19996. He transferred to the Navy in 1996, completed Navy flight school and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1999. He served with the Gunslingers of VFA-105 and completed two deployments embarked on USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) flying sorties in support of Operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom. Later, Baker completed the TOPGUN Adversary course. He completed two deployments embarked in USS Enterprise (CVN 65) in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. In 2010, 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). He also 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.







Did You Know?

Florida Keys Trivia

- * The Florida Keys are composed of Key Largo limestone and coral.
- * The Florida Keys consists of 1700 islands.
- * Key Largo, Florida is nicknamed the "Scuba Diving Capital of the World".
- * The Spanish Explorer Juan Ponce de Leon first visited the area that would become the Florida Keys in the year 1513.
- * The Florida Keys declared their independence by seceding from the United States in 1982.
- * Key West was originally named "Cayo Hueso" which means Isle of Bones. It was named Cayo Hueso due to the many Indian remains scattered across the island.
- * The Florida Keys have been home to Ernest Hemingway, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams and other famous people.
- * The first permanent settlers arrived in the Florida Keys in 1822. They salvaged shipwrecks and fished for their survival.
- * The original "African Queen" steamboat can be viewed in Key Largo, Florida.

- * The Florida Keys are approximately 223 miles long.
- * Cuba is 90 miles from Key West which is closer than Miami.
- * Addresses in the Florida Keys are designated as MM (mile markers). MM 0 begins in Key West and goes to MM 106 on the north end of Key Largo.
- * There are 42 bridges that connect the Florida Keys.
- * The 1935 Labor Day Hurricane remains the greatest Keys disaster, destroying property and killing hundreds of people. In all, over 400 people were killed, nearly all in the Keys.
- * The Loggerhead turtle is the most common sea turtle found in the Keys.
- * Key West is the southernmost city in the continental United States.
- * Islamorada, Florida is nicknamed the "Fishing Capital of the World".
- * There are over 600 species of fish in the coral reefs of the Florida Keys.
- * The longest bridge in the Florida Keys is 7 miles long. Appropriately named the "7 Mile Bridge".
- * John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park was the first undersea park in the United States.
- * The "Christ of the Abyss" statue is the most photographed underwater attraction in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Poster of the Day:



SURVIVAL

What does not destroy me makes me strong
~Friedrich Nietzsche~



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those residents of Key West and other parts of the state impacted by Hurricane Irma. As you know, the Keys were particularly hard hit by Irma and are just now assessing the extent of the destruction there. Floridians are a strong and resilient lot and will come back stronger in the aftermath of the storm. We send out our best wishes for speedy recovery to all those touched by this natural disaster. As always, we extend a sincere thanks to all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance who do such great work across this great state. You are the reason that Florida is 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 – Rita Smith

Executive Board

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



Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

September 27, 2017

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

NEWS

NAS Key West: All personnel and family members assigned to Naval Air Station Key West were authorized to return to the installation as of Sept. 22, now that power, water and sewer services have been restored. Only essential personnel had been allowed to return previously after Hurricane Irma made landfall about 18 miles from the base on Sept. 10. A small number of families living in the base's public-private venture housing will need to be relocated, however, reported Navy Region Southeast.

Governor Scott Supports Servicemembers who Supported Florida – Many military members are enrolled in education programs in Florida and cannot return to class as recovery work is ongoing. Governor Scott has sent a letter to the Presidents of Florida's State Universities and Colleges encouraging them to accommodate absence for students who responded and are continuing to respond to Hurricane Irma.

Florida National Guard Excels During Hurricane Irma – The Florida Air and Army National Guard performed brilliantly in the preparation, response and continued recovery of Hurricane Irma. Almost the entire state militia was engaged while also hosting thousands of neighboring and distant states' Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines Guard units as well as active duty forces who responded to help from Jacksonville to Key West. Florida Guardsman and active duty forces from Florida have also been helping all across the islands of the Caribbean that took direct hits from Irma while still a CAT5 storm.

CareerSource Okaloosa Walton Announces Veteran's Spouse Employment Program -- CareerSource Okaloosa Walton's Board of Directors is announced the award of a grant to provide employment readiness and placement services exclusively to Veteran's spouses. The Veteran's Spouse Employment Program will provide Veteran's spouses with comprehensive assessments, labor market information, resume assistance, interviewing skills workshops, transportation assistance, participation incentives, supportive services, skills-based job matching, and job placement assistance. The Veteran's Spouse Employment Program is open to veteran's spouses who reside in Okaloosa or Walton County, are U.S. citizens, or are eligible to work in the United States. For more information, please visit careersourceokaloosawalton.com; or contact Keysha Lott at 850.833.7587, ext. 207 or klott@careersourceow.com.

2017 Principi/Spectrum Assessment of Florida Military Installations Completed – This report, also referred to as the 2017 Re-SWOT, was delivered to the Florida Defense Support Task Force last week. The Task Force members will review this report over the next few weeks.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Last week, I presented to the Florida Defense Task Force. My request was to fund the tools needed by our communities and our state to enhance, grow and protect our military installations and missions. This includes funding all three State Land Acquisition programs: Florida Forever, Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, and Military Base Protection Non-Conservation Lands Program, as well as funding our two grant programs: Defense Reinvestment Grants and Defense Infrastructure Grants. Enterprise Florida has the expertise on staff to coordinate and keep us all focused on the end game. The military and defense team (Bruce Grant, Terry McCaffrey, Marcy Sanders and Michelle Griggs) are our go to experts when opportunities and challenges arise in our communities and on our installations. They are the voices of calm to connect us with the right person(s), regional, state or federal agencies or other organizations to find a solution. What I do know is our defense organizations need to be agile and have speed to meet the ever-changing movement of our military installations and missions. We know consolidation will have to happen. Does the consolidation enhance our installations or weaken it? Do we gain a star or lose a star? What capacities do our installations have for new, compatible missions? Do our local governments, regional planning councils and business communities understand what is needed to enhance, grow or maintain our installations and missions? Take time to meet with our team of experts and review the most recent reports from The Principi Group and The Spectrum Group. Have those discussions now so we can all stay focused on what is important: enhancing, growing and protecting the military installations and missions we have here in Florida.

Congratulations to our Family Support Working Group Chairwoman Rita J. Smith and her team at CareerSource Okaloosa/Walton for receiving a grant to assist spouses of veterans. This was an outcome of the November 2016 FDA meeting. The data collected over the next year will assist us in understanding the opportunities and challenges for spouses of veterans in obtaining job and career opportunities. We thank CareerSource Florida for this pilot grant.

My final thought for the day: STAY FOCUSED! There is a lot of noise out there that can take you away from the big picture of helping your neighbors and your communities. STAY FOCUSED on the partnerships that will assist in reducing costs at our installations. STAY FOCUSED on protecting our installations and missions from the SIXTEEN types of encroachment. STAY FOCUSED on assisting our military families, military civilian workers and veterans. STAY FOCUSED on sharing our military and defense stories and bringing in the next generation to have our passions in protecting the very military that protects our rights and freedoms. I say thank you to each and every one of our brave men and women in the military and our veterans for protecting our rights and freedoms in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Do your part and STAY FOCUSED on making your communities better for everyone. Stop, truly listen and understand. Turn off your social media, stop watching TV, take a break from the negative noise and get out in your communities and make a positive difference. Just STAY FOCUSED!

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 15th

FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida—Holiday Inn Orlando East—UCF Area

QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

“Believe you can and you're halfway there.”

“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”

“Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Are you a Veteran's Spouse Looking for Employment?

If so, the Veteran's Spouse Employment Program (VSEP) may be able to help!



Available Services:

- ♦ Creating a Resume
- ♦ Interviewing Skills
- ♦ Job Development and Placement
- ♦ Labor Market Information
- ♦ Career Assessments
- ♦ Career Counseling

**Earn Incentives
While You Participate!**

**ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES MUST MEET
THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA*:**

- ♦ Proof of Citizenship or Right to Work in the U.S.
- ♦ Reside in Okaloosa or Walton County
- ♦ Proof of being a Veteran's Spouse
- ♦ Must be 18 years of Age or Older
- ♦ Registered for Selective Service, if applicable

*WIOA Veterans Spouses Statewide Funds

For more information, please contact our Veteran's Spouse Employment Program Career Advisor to learn more about this opportunity!

Keysha Lott

(850) 833-7587 Ext. 207

klott@careersourceow.com



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network

www.careersourceokaloosawalton.com



CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Telecommunications Relay Service are available using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

CareerSource Okaloosa Walton is pleased to announce a recently awarded 16-month grant which offers a new opportunity for our local military community - the Veteran's Spouse Employment Program. For years CSOW has successfully delivered employment services to Spouses and Dependents of active-duty military members as well as Veterans and Transitioning Military Members. Now via this grant we can also offer those same intensive employment services to Spouses of Veterans who live in Okaloosa and Walton Counties. The Veteran's Spouse Employment Program (VSEP) offers the opportunity for eligible participants to earn incentives while receiving intensive employment services, such as: resume development or enhancement, interviewing skills, career assessments and counseling, Labor Market Information, job development and placement.

Spouses of Veterans who are interested in receiving intensive employment services should contact Keysha Lott at the Ft. Walton beach CareerSource Center (850-833-7587 Ext. 207).

News from the Bases

Military Support Organization Backs Florida Forever Program

By KATE PAYNE • 9-21-2017

<http://news.wfsu.org/post/military-support-organization-backs-florida-forever-program>

The Florida Defense Alliance says state lawmakers are putting military bases at risk, by not buying up conservation lands. The group sees Florida Forever as a way to stem development around the installations. The program is also a top priority for environmentalists. Both hope to restrict development around sensitive areas.

But the legislature has zeroed out its funding for three years running. Now Representative Holly Raschein of Key Largo says her district's bases are feeling the pressure of development.

"I commit to you, and I think I can bring Representatives Trumbull and Ingram on with me, that we are going to take this up. And we're going to have to rewrite the budget after this storm season. But land acquisition and those things are very, very important," Raschein said.

This year she says she'll be pushing the national security argument for Florida Forever.

"Putting it under the umbrella of supporting our bases brings a unique value to that argument. There's the environment side, but then there's the supporting our base side that I really think will ring true," she said. Military support organizations argue land buffers around bases make them more valuable and less vulnerable to closures.

Lawmakers routinely funded Florida Forever at \$300 million a year before the Great Recession. But in recent years the program hasn't survived budget talks.

Florida Defense Task Force Meets in Panama City

By: Kelly Grosfield Posted: Sep 21, 2017 07:35 PM EDT Updated: Sep 21, 2017 07:35 PM EDT

<http://www.mypanhandle.com/news/florida-defense-task-force-meets-in-panama-city/816097191>

BAY COUNTY, Fla. - After 6 years, the Florida Defense Task Force is back in Bay County. The September meeting for the force was held early Thursday morning at the Holiday inn of Panama City.

Due to the high military presence in the Panhandle, the task force discussed concerns and how to make military operations run smoother.

In addition, each area reported how their base did during Hurricane Irma. Representatives from all over the state talked about the damage they had and the excellent response of first responders and armed forces members during this tough time.

The main focus of the meeting was bringing those communities from all over Florida together.

"Our goal is to penetrate every community and make them a part of what we're doing and if we do that as a Florida community combined, we will have a better chance of standing up to any challenge that might want to take a mission away from us. We want to increase our mission and not lose it. That's our purpose," said Senator Douglas Broxson, Task Force Chairman.

The next task force meeting will be held October 19th in Jacksonville.

NAS Key West —

Key West Navy Families Temporarily Relocate To Jacksonville Following Evacuation

By KELTON GIVENS • 9/19/2017

<http://news.wjct.org/post/key-west-navy-families-temporarily-relocate-jacksonville-following-evacuation>

Many Navy families who had to evacuate from Key West before Hurricane Irma are finding a temporary home in Jacksonville.

More than 1,800 people from Naval Air Station Key West are being temporarily reassigned to either Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Naval Station Mayport or to facilities in Atlanta.

NAS Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Director Carolyn McCorvey said an Emergency Family Assistance Center at the base is helping not only the Key West evacuees but also local families affected by Hurricane Irma.

The Emergency Family Assistance Center has representatives from medical, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, American Red Cross, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Greater Jacksonville USO, Child Development Center/Child Youth Program, Personnel Support Detachment Jacksonville, FEMA and the Salvation Army all partnering to help with relief.....

Patrick AFB —

Air Force senior leaders thank Team Patrick-Cape for Irma recovery efforts

By 45th Space Wing Public Affairs / Published September 21, 2017

<http://www.patrick.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1319994/air-force-senior-leaders-thank-team-patrick-cape-for-irma-recovery-efforts/>

The Under Secretary of the Air Force, Matthew Donovan, and the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, Gen. Stephen W. Wilson, thanked Airmen for their Hurricane Irma recovery efforts Sept. 20, 2017, at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

“We came here to thank Airmen for their selfless service to their nation during Hurricane Irma,” said Donovan. “We are incredibly proud of their sacrifice.”

Donovan and Wilson were briefed on the full spectrum of efforts from the time leading up to the storm through the 45th Space Wing’s recovery phase.

“What really enabled us to do what we did with opening up the airfield and welcoming back everyone to base was the incredible people in our Crisis Action Teams and our mission partners,” said Col. Walter Jackim, 45th Space Wing vice commander.....



Homestead ARB—

CRW Airmen provide rapid global mobility during Hurricane Irma relief efforts

Story by Tech. Sgt. Liliana Moreno, 621st Contingency Response Wing, 09.15.2017

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/248502/crw-airmen-provide-rapid-global-mobility-during-hurricane-irma-relief-efforts>

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. – As Hurricane Irma set sights on the Caribbean Islands and headed straight toward U.S. mainland, thousands of residents were ordered to evacuate the area.

The 621st Contingency Response Wing, at the request of civil authorities, placed multiple alert teams on standby to support ongoing Hurricane Irma relief efforts in the Caribbean and the U.S. to help protect the lives and safety of those in affected areas.....

MacDill AFB—

MacDill AFB squadron rescuing hospital patients from Caribbean island

<http://www.abcactionnews.com/news/local-news/macdill-afb-squadron-rescuing-hospital-patients-from-caribbean-island>

ABC Action News © September 25, 2017

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. - The people of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean islands are getting help from the US Air Force. Rescue missions are being launched from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa to St. Croix, and other islands could get help soon as well. The priority so far for the 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has been people with serious medical conditions, like people with kidney disease who are on dialysis. Even before the most recent trip to St. Croix returned, a crew on MacDill AFB was preparing for their next trip of bringing hospital patients to mainland U.S.....





Spotlight on: NAS Whiting Field



History

In July 2017, NAS Whiting Field celebrated its 74th year of continuous operation. What was once a field of weeds has become the backbone of the Navy's flight program. During its history, Whiting Field has served as a prisoner-of-war camp for German soldiers, home of the famed Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team and home of the Navy's first jet training unit. Before the field was officially commissioned, personnel were already beginning to train "the world's best aviators." Squadron 3-B of Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Saufley

Field, Pensacola, Florida, began operations on July 1, 1943. Squadron 3-B was later joined by Squadron 3-A of Chevalier Field to form Training Squadron THREE. In only 14 weeks, Whiting Field came into being to fulfill the need for pilot training commands in WWII. Commissioning ceremonies for Naval Auxiliary Air Station (NAAS) Whiting Field were held on July 16, 1943, in the South Field Hanger. At 11 a.m. that day, Rear Admiral George D. Murray, Commandant of the Naval Air Training Center, welcomed some 1,500 persons and introduced Mrs. Kenneth Whiting, the widow of Naval hero, Captain Kenneth Whiting, for whom the station was named. The commissioning of NAS Whiting Field took place at a crucial time in American history. Only six days before the commissioning, the invasion of Sicily had occurred. Throughout World War II, NAS Whiting Field's mission was to train aviators for the fleet.

Today

Naval Air Station Whiting Field is 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**

Captain Todd A. Bahlau is a 1991 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. He later received a Master of Science Degree in Management from Troy State University in June 1992 and was designated a Naval Aviator on February 4, 1994. CAPT Bahlau's first operational assignment was with the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HSL-46) in Mayport, Florida, and he deployed onboard USS MONTEREY (CG 61) and USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47).

He later served as a Flight Instructor and in 2000 he reported as the Assistant Air Operations (USW) Officer. In June 2002, CAPT Bahlau returned to HSL-46 and onboard the USS WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (DDG 81) in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In July 2007, CAPT Bahlau returned to HSL-40 in Mayport, Florida, as the Executive Officer (XO). He assumed command of the "Dragons" in June 2009 and led his squadron in the training of future USN, USMC, and USAF pilots in the T-6A Texan II aircraft. Following his command tour, CAPT Bahlau served in Kabul, Afghanistan. After completing the Naval War College, CAPT Bahlau reported to the United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska where he served as the Director of Operations for the Joint Functional Component Command for Global Strike.





Capt. Mark Murray turned over command of Training Air Wing FIVE to Col. David Morris USMC Sept. 15 during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Pensacola's National Naval Aviation Museum. Morris assumed command of the Navy's largest training wing.





Flipping the switch on the new solar array at NAS Whiting Field.



DID YOU KNOW?

Interesting Facts About the Vietnam War

1. Nearly two-thirds of the American men serving the war were *volunteers*.
2. During World War II, there were reportedly 40 days of combat in 4 years while during Vietnam war, there were 240 days of combat in 1 year on average.
3. John F. Kennedy was the first US President assassinated during a year of war since the US Civil War.
4. Vietnam war, which lasted for approximately 20 years, is the longest war in the entire U.S history.
5. After the war, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines stayed free of communism.
6. Vietnam veterans are less likely to be in prison – only one-half of one percent of them have been jailed for crimes and have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.
7. Duct Tape was used during the Vietnam War to repair helicopter rotor blades.
8. A 'liquid land mine' was invented during the Vietnam War, which was poured on the ground to form a mine, and best of all, it self-deactivated in 4 days, keeping kids safe from unfound mines
9. Slinkys were used in the Vietnam War as mobile radio antennas. They would sling the Slinky over branches and extend the range of their radios.
10. At the end of the Vietnam War, the USS Midway crew pushed \$10 million worth of helicopters into the sea so that a Cessna full of evacuees could land on the deck.

Posters of the Day:



U.S.N.

'DEATH BEFORE SHORE DUTY'



US NAVY

Deterrence is an activity, but destruction is a profession.

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

As we recover from Hurricane Irma, our thoughts and prayers go out to those residents of Key West and other parts of the state who have been most severely impacted. The Governor, the National Guard, first responders, volunteers and many Floridians have done a superb job preserving life and property and helping get Florida back on its feet. Their contributions to the state have been tremendous. We send out our best wishes for speedy recovery to all those touched by this natural disaster. As always, we extend a sincere thanks to all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance who do such great work across this great state. You are the reason that Florida is 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 – Rita Smith

Executive Board

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



Florida Defense Alliance Chair, Kellie Jo Kilberg, speaking at the Florida Defense Support Task Force meeting in Panama City, Florida on September 21, 2017



Photos from the Exchange Club of Niceville and the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast as they hosted the fourth annual Field of Valor flag display honoring 360 U.S. Military Service Members from Floridians who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan since September 11, 2001.





Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

October 11, 2017

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

NEWS

Governor Scott Hosts 2017 Latin American Summit – On October 2, 2017 Governor Scott hosted the 2017 Latin American Summit in Miami to discuss the important relationship Florida shares with the region. The Latin American Summit brought together world leaders to improve current partnerships and build new relationships that will better serve the interests of Florida families, generate economic prosperity and enhance democracy and human rights throughout Latin America. Attendees included ADM Tidd, Commander, USSOUTHCOM and RADM Peter Brown, Commander, 7th Coast Guard District among other senior military leaders.

Encroachment Protection in Jacksonville -- On September 28th and 29th the City of Jacksonville and the United States Navy closed on 16 real estate transactions for restricted use easements (RUE) on parcels in the Military Influence Zone (MIZ) of OLF Whitehouse and NS Mayport. These transactions, many requiring over up to 2 ½ years of effort, utilized over \$430,000 in Defense Infrastructure Grant funding and \$1.3 million in Navy REPI funds. Many other vital parcels are under discussion for FY 2018 acquisition in the MIZ of NAS Jacksonville and OLF Whitehouse.

Possible Mission Encroachment near Navarre – There has been a move to reopen a manmade pass from the intercostal to the Gulf of Mexico near Navarre that was briefly opened and then closed by Hurricane Betsey in 1965. Since its natural closure and due to it being completely undeveloped and remote, the USAF has utilized the space as a transit lane for operational live weapons testing. The Air Force has openly opposed the dredging and reopening of a channel in the area and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Gen David Goldfein, has sent a letter to Senator Nelson asking for his support.

Florida Forever Gets Support in Senate – Sen Rob Bradley proposed a bill (SB 370) that would annually designate \$100M to the state's Land Acquisition Trust Fund for the Florida Forever program. There is currently no House companion bill. Florida Forever funds are critical to supporting defense encroachment land acquisition as match for Federal Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) funds. Florida has approximately \$11.5M of REPI funds waiting match for important encroachment projects around the state.

Heritage Foundation Release 2018 Report – The Heritage Foundation published its 2018 Index of U.S. Military Strength. The 450 page report is very thorough and its overall impression is well summed up in the first paragraph of the preface: “Since the inaugural 2015 Index of U.S. Military Strength, subsequent editions have demonstrated an unsettling trend, and the 2018 Index leaves no room for interpretation: Our military has undoubtedly grown weaker. Service chiefs confirm these findings in testimony and reports to Congress. Yet, despite widespread agreement, critical maintenance and modernization efforts continue to be deferred

and underfunded. Personnel and platforms decline in number as threats proliferate. The result is a force of growing age and declining capability, tasked with greater responsibilities but apportioned fewer resources.” For the entire report, go to https://partner-mco-archive.s3.amazonaws.com/client_files/1507200710.pdf

Potential Encroachment at Homestead ARB (HARB) – A developer in south Florida is pushing to expand the Urban Development Boundary out toward the base that would allow incompatible development. The application area abuts the installation boundary and is partially overlaid by multiple airfield hazard and noise zones. On October 4, 2017, the Homestead City Council held a special public meeting that approved a resolution opposing the Miami Dade expansion and in support of HARB. FDA is working on a letter of support from Governor Scott.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Installation Innovation Forum --- ADC will be holding their annual Installation Innovation Forum February 12-14, 2018 in San Diego. Please Note -- Early registration (lower cost) ends October 31st. For more information on this event, see: <https://installationinnovation.org/>

FDA Legislative Agenda – There are a number of military-friendly initiatives being proposed to the Florida Legislature for consideration. Please contact Kellie Jo Kilberg for more information and to explore ways you can be of assistance.



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 15th

FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida—Holiday Inn Orlando East—UCF Area
For Reservations Call (407) 658-9008, Group Code: Enterprise Florida
Room Rate \$114

QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

“Of all the branches of men in the forces there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the submariners.” --- Winston Churchill

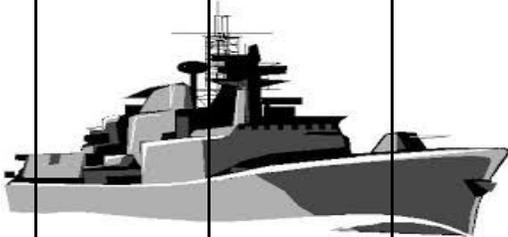
“We shall never forget that it was our submarines that held the lines against the enemy while our fleets replaced losses and repaired wounds.” --- Chester W. Nimitz

“No one has done more to prevent conflict - no one has made a greater sacrifice for the cause for Peace - than you, America's proud missile submarine family. You stand tall among our heroes of the Cold War.” --- Colin Powell



News from the Bases

Jacksonville — November Week of Valor Event Calendar

			1	2	<p>3</p> <p>POW/ MIA MEMORIAL INC. DEDICATION AND OPENING HOUSE CEREMONY, 13365 SIMPSON WAY 32221 (CECIL FIELD), 11 A.M.</p> <p>VETERANS ART EXHIBIT, CITY HALL ATRIUM, TBD</p>	<p>4</p> <p>NAS JAX AIR SHOW, 6801 ROOSEVELT BLVD 32212 (NAS JAX), 10 A.M.</p>
	<p>5</p> <p>6TH ANNUAL SALUTE TO VETERANS 5K, 2 INDEPENDENT DR. 32202 (JACKSONVILLE LANDING), 8 A.M.</p> <p>NAS JAX AIR SHOW, 6801 ROOSEVELT BLVD 32212 (NAS JAX), 10 A.M.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>JAX CHAMBER 15TH ANNUAL MILITARY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON, 225 E. COASTLINE DR. 32202 (HYATT REGENCY RIVERFRONT), 11:30 A.M.- 1:30 P.M.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>UNF VETERANS DAY TRIBUTE, 1 UNF DRIVE 32224 (UNF STUDENT UNION), 10 A.M.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>BE CREDIT-WIZE SEMINAR, 303 N. LAURA ST. 32202 (MAIN LIBRARY), 1 P.M. & 5 P.M.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>VA MENTAL HEALTH FORUM, 5054 SOUDEL DRIVE 32208 (LEGENDS CENTER), 9 A.M.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>SEMPER FIDELIS SOCIETY OBSERVANCE, 4535 N. MAIN ST. 32206 (EVERGREEN CEMETERY), 4 P.M.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>JAGUARS VS. CHARGERS MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME, 1 EVERBANK FIELD DR. 32202 (EVERBANK FIELD), 1 P.M.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>WOMEN VETERANS RESOURCE SYMPOSIUM, UNF, TBD</p>	<p>14</p> <p>JOB AND RESOURCE FAIR, 5243 NORMANDY MALL 32205 (NORMANDY MALL), 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.</p>	15	16	17	

MacDill AFB —

Bringing 50 Back

<http://www.macdill.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1331374/bringing-50-back/>

By Airman 1st Class Ashley Perdue, 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs / Published October 02, 2017



U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Ricardo Lopez (right), commander of the 50th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS), accepts the guidon from Col. Lisa Nemeth, commander of the 6th Operations Group, at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., Oct. 2, 2017. The 50th ARS was established in Tampa Bay during World War II and has been an essential part of numerous conflicts around the globe. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ashley Perdue)

Members of MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, welcomed home the 50th Air Refueling Squadron, one of the most decorated units in Air Force history, during an assumption of command ceremony Oct. 2, 2017.

The 50th Red Devils were born in Tampa Bay during a time of war in 1942, five years before the Air Force was established, and have been recognized for their meritorious service ever since.

“I tell people the 50th is ranked number five in the Air Mobility Command and top 50 in the Air Force, so they can wrap their minds around the fact that this is not just another unit, this is the 50th AS!” exulted Stephen Ove, the historian of the 6th Air Mobility Wing. **“Within a year of being activated, they were involved in the largest amphibious invasion for the U.S. at that time, which was the invasion of Sicily, as a part of the Army Air Corps.”**



MacDill Involved in Hurricane Relief Efforts -- Last Thursday Team MacDill's Joint Communications Support Element boarded a Nevada Air National Guard C-130 Hercules full of supplies and flew to San Juan to support the relief effort.

Congresswoman Kathy Castor greeted the 45th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, one of the first crews from Team MacDill to support Puerto Rico relief efforts as they returned home last Friday, September 29, 2017.

Summit coming to Tampa to help bridge military tech gaps

<http://www.tbo.com/news/military/macdill/summit-coming-to-tampa-to-help-bridge-military-tech-gaps/2339607>

Tampa Bay Times © October 3, 2017

By Howard Altman

U.S. Special Operations Command, which spends billions every year on goods and services for special operators, is one of the biggest magnets for industry and innovation in the Tampa Bay area.

That attraction will play out once again at this week's Defense Innovation Summit, being held Oct. 3-5 at the Tampa Convention Center. Organizers bill it as the nation's largest tech matchmaking program, linking the Pentagon to private sector innovators and funders to help fill technology gaps.

This is the fifth year for the event, but its first time in Tampa.....

CentCom hoping Logwerx brings innovation to logistics

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/macdill/howard-altman-centcom-hoping-logwerx-brings-innovation-to-logistics/2339810>

Tampa Bay Times © October 4, 2017

By Howard Altman

Army Maj. Gen. Edward Dorman III, the guy in charge of U.S. Central Command's logistics directorate, has the tough job of making sure troops in the CentCom region have food, ammunition, fuel and other supplies.

So he's taking a page out of the playbook of U.S. Special Operations Command, his neighbor at MacDill Air Force Base, and creating what he hopes is a quicker way of getting those troops what they need.

Dorman calls it Logwerx.....



SOCOM Leaning on ThunderDrone Initiative to Acquire New Unmanned Systems Capabilities

<http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/10/3/2017>

National Defense Magazine © October 3, 2017

By Vivienne Machi



A drone is piloted during the ThunderDrone tech expo at SOFWERX.

Through a series of prototyping efforts — known collectively as ThunderDrone — U.S. Special Operations Command hopes to discover new unmanned capabilities that could benefit the warfighter, the command's acquisition director said Oct. 2.

Industry, laboratory and academic partners, and individual citizens have completed the early rounds of SOFWERX's first ThunderDrone rapid prototyping event in Tampa, Florida, said James "Hondo" Geurts. SOFWERX — an initiative that facilitates fast prototyping and technology experimentation between SOCOM and non-traditional partners — is hosting the event in a rented indoor test range near its headquarters in the Ybor City neighborhood of Tampa.

The command is looking to leverage the recent explosion of commercial unmanned air, ground and underwater systems technology to quickly field needed capabilities among special operators deployed globally, Geurts said in an interview with National Defense.....



 **ENTERPRISE
FLORIDA**SM

Homestead ARB—

Special Operations Forces Getting the Job Done in Caribbean

<http://www.militaryspot.com/news/special-operations-forces-getting-job-done-caribbean>

MilitarySpot.com © October 3, 2017



Three weeks after having landed on the island of St. Martin, Special Operations Command South service members transitioned their relief operations to Joint Task Force-Leeward Islands today in Caribbean areas devastated by hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Since Sept. 11, SOCSOUTH members and assigned forces – as part of a larger task force –

have assisted locating and evacuating American citizens, coordinated for the distribution of life-saving goods, sustained satellite communications systems, and directed vital nighttime airfield operations, while maintaining much needed on-the-ground situational awareness.....

NOTU—

On Friday, September 29, 2017, Captain Jason D. Wartell, a Merritt Island native, assumed total responsibility, authority, and accountability of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) at Port Canaveral, FL from Captain John A.

Sager. Capt. Sager has commanded the unit since 2014. Vice Admiral Terry Benedict oversaw the transfer of power.



 ENTERPRISE
FLORIDASM

Spotlight on: Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU)

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.



**Commanding Officer
Captain Jason D. Wartell**

Captain Jason D. Wartell, of Merritt Island, Florida, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1993. He completed a Master of Science degree in Nuclear Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1995.

A career submarine warfare officer, Captain Wartell served on USS Tunny (SSN 682), USS Hawkbill (SSN 666), USS Honolulu (SSN 718), and USS Alaska (SSBN 732) prior to assuming command of USS Nebraska's blue crew in April 2011. In addition to five fast-attack submarine deployments and a deployment with the embarked flag staff on USS Enterprise (CVN 65), he conducted three strategic deterrent patrols aboard USS Nebraska.

His ashore assignments included tours at U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia, Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit in Charleston, South Carolina, and most recently at the Naval Board of Inspection and Survey in Norfolk, Virginia where he served as Director, Submarine Inspections, and oversaw the material readiness inspections of 40 submarines and the acceptance trials of 4 new Virginia Class submarines. He assumed command of Naval Ordnance Test Unit September 29, 2017, at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

NOTU FACTS

- The command originated at Cape Canaveral 70 years ago. Initially created in 1948, it was a component of the U.S. Joint Long Range Proving Ground, Cape Canaveral.
- In 1956, the command was reorganized under a Commanding Officer and designated as Naval Ordnance Test Unit.



- By 1963, 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 along with the UK Strategic Mission under the Polaris Sales Agreement signed by President John F Kennedy.
- NOTU's primary mission is integrated ground testing & evaluation of the Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) System. The current FBM system is the Trident II D5 missile system deployed on US Navy OHIO-Class submarines.
- The Navy's Trident II D5 system, a submarine launched ballistic missiles, is 70% of our Nation's Strategic Deterrent TRIAD that also includes ICBMs and strategic bombers.
- The United Kingdom deploys the Trident II D5 system provided through the Polaris Sales Agreement, an agreement between the US and the UK. The Trident II D5 system, deployed on UK VANGUARD-class submarines is 100% of the UK deterrent.
- Mission requirements include flight testing of the Trident II D5 system from the sea. During at-sea flight testing conducted on the East Coast, an unarmed Trident II D5 missile is launched from an SSBN submerged off the coast of Eastern Florida. The launch operation is overseen and evaluated by the NOTU team and is designed to ensure the effectiveness and reliability of the Trident II D5 missile system. NOTU personnel also travel to the West Coast of the United States to conduct flight test missions at the Pacific Range Complex.
- Throughout the history of the FBM program, NOTU has been a part of the process. Development of the first FBM, the Polaris system, included work here at NOTU in the late 50s and early 60s. NOTU has provided development and launch testing of all five generations of the FBM system including Polaris A1, A2, A3, Poseidon and Trident, and will support the next generation FBM program.
- NOTU's secondary mission is port operations of the Navy Port at Port Canaveral. The Navy's port at Port Canaveral is the second busiest Navy Port in the Navy's Southeast Region. The Southeast region includes all Navy ports from the northern border of North Carolina to the Texas coast in the Gulf of Mexico. NOTU personnel operate and manage the port, supporting vessels of the US military and its allies. Army, Coast Guard and Navy vessels - including MSC ships and SSNs - along with a Dutch submarine visited Port Canaveral in FY17.
- The Navy's desire for a deep-water port at Cape Canaveral has been instrumental to development of military and commercial port capabilities at Port Canaveral. The Department of Navy originally asked Congress to create a deep-water port in 1878, and it was rejected due to being considered of little economic value. DON made six more requests for a port to be developed at Canaveral until approval in 1929. Port Canaveral was originally dredged in support of the approved request in 1951-1955.
- The future of FBM integrated ground testing & evaluation, the Strategic Weapons System Ashore (SWSA), is being built here at NOTU.



- SWSA will support the current FBM program tying together existing systems for current test and evaluation done on US OHIO-class and UK VANGUARD-class submarines.
- SWSA will support future FBM integrated test and evaluation for the development and in-service engineering needs of systems in for the US
- COLUMBIA-Class submarines and the UK DREADNOUGHT-Class submarines.



- COLUMBIA is the Department of the Navy's #1 acquisition Priority, and SWSA is designed to support the COLUMBIA program during acquisition and throughout the life-cycle of the class. The COLUMBIA-Class submarine is designed to be operational into the 2080s, therefore SWSA is expected to support FBM test and evaluation into the 2080s. This long term effort maintains current and brings additional high paying permanent jobs to the Space Coast.



DASO 27 - photo of a 2016 Demonstration and Shakedown Operation, a test of the Trident II D5 missile system, conducted on the Eastern Range. During the DASO test an unarmed Trident II D5 missile is launched from an SSBN submerged off the coast of Eastern Florida. The launch operation is overseen and evaluated by the NOTU team and is designed to ensure the effectiveness and reliability of the Trident II D5 missile system. The Trident II D5 system comprises 70% of the Nation's strategic deterrent.





USSWVA - photo of the USS WEST VIRGINIA (SSBN 736) as it passes by the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse entering the channel at Port Canaveral. The Navy's port at Cape Canaveral is the second busiest Navy Port in the Navy's Southeast Region. The Southeast region includes all Navy ports from the northern border of North Carolina to the Texas coast in the Gulf of Mexico. NOTU personnel manage the Navy Port at Cape Canaveral, supporting vessels of the US military and its allies. Army, Coast Guard and Navy vessels—including MSC ships and SSNs - along with a Dutch submarine visited Port Canaveral in FY17.



DID YOU KNOW?

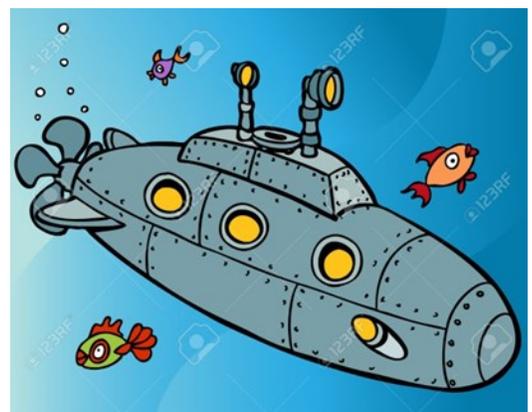
Submarines

The word 'submarine' was first used in the 17th century as an adjective meaning 'underwater'.

The first submersible boat was built by the German doctor Magnus Pegel in 1605.

Then first working submarine was built in 1620 by Cornelius Drebbel. It was propelled by oars.

The Beatles' Yellow Submarine is the only song with 'submarine' in the title to reach number one in the UK charts.



USS Nautilus, the first nuclear submarine, was launched in 1954.

The first submerged circumnavigation of the world was completed by USS Triton in 1960.

Submarine Q & A:

1. How long can a nuclear submarine remain submerged?

The limits on **how long they can stay underwater** are food and supplies. **Submarines** generally stock a 90-day supply of food, so they **can spend three months underwater**. The diesel-powered **submarines** (not now used by the Navy) had a limit of several days **submerged**.

2. What does a nuclear submarine do?

The main difference between conventional **submarines** and **nuclear submarines** is the power generation system. ... They either generate electricity that powers electric motors connected to the propeller shaft or rely on the reactor heat to produce steam that drives steam turbines (cf. **nuclear** marine propulsion).

3. Which countries have submarines?

Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBN)

- China – Type 094 submarine, Type 092 submarine.
- France – Triomphant class.
- Russia – Typhoon, Delta, and Borei classes.
- United Kingdom – Vanguard class.
- United States – Ohio class.
- India – Arihant class.



4. Who invented the first nuclear powered submarine?

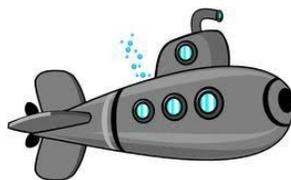
Hyman G. Rickover

5. How many submarines does the US Navy have?

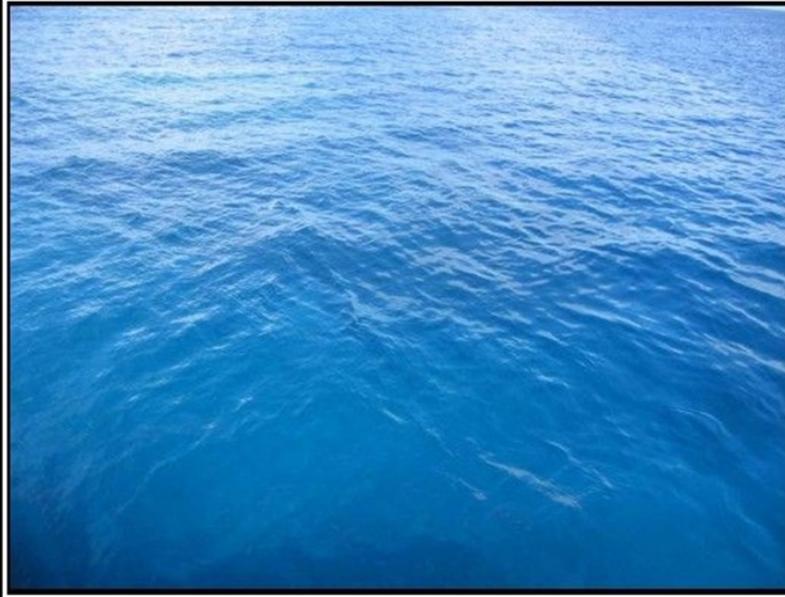
The US Navy has a total of **18** Ohio-class submarines which consist of **14** ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), and **four** cruise missile submarines (SSGNs). The SSBN submarines are also known as "Trident" submarines, and provide the sea-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad.

6. How many nuclear warheads are on a submarine?

SSGNs (guided missile submarines) can also launch Tomahawk torpedoes, with 22 of their **24** tubes capable of launching 7 Tomahawks each, for 154 total, depending on how the SSGN is configured. SSBNs (ballistic missile submarines) can carry up to **24 missiles**, which can be configured with up to **8 nuclear warheads** each.



Posters of the Day:



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SUBMARINERS

EITHER ALL COME TO THE SURFACE
OR NO ONE DOES

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FLORIDA**SM

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 – Rita Smith

Executive Board

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





ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

October 25, 2017

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

NEWS

FDA Meeting in Orlando November 15th – The Florida Defense Alliance will hold its semi-annual on Wednesday, November 15th from 0830-1630 at the Holiday Inn Orlando East – UCF Area. Please contact Michelle Griggs to register and order lunch if desired.

Secretary Zinke Announces Largest Oil & Gas Lease Sale in U.S. History – Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department is proposing the largest oil and gas lease sale ever held in the United States --76,967,935 acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. The proposed region-wide lease sale, offering an area about the size of New Mexico, is scheduled for March 2018 and includes all available unleased areas on the Gulf's Outer Continental Shelf, surpassing last year's region-wide lease sale by about one million acres. "In today's low-price energy environment, providing the offshore industry access to the maximum amount of opportunities possible is part of our strategy to spur local and regional economic dynamism and job creation and a pillar of President Trump's plan to make the United States energy dominant," Secretary Zinke said. "And the economic terms proposed for this sale include a range of incentives to encourage diligent development and ensure a fair return to taxpayers."..... Based on the maps connected to this announcement, it appears that the lease sale excludes all portions of the Gulf east of the Military Mission Line. Link to the press release: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-announces-largest-oil-gas-lease-sale-us-history>
Link to the actual notice of lease sale: <https://www.boem.gov/Proposed-Notice-of-Sale-250-Package/>

Potential Encroachment at Homestead ARB (HARB) – A developer in south Florida is pushing to expand the Urban Development Boundary out toward the base that would allow incompatible development. The application area abuts the installation boundary and is partially overlaid by multiple airfield hazard and noise zones. On 10-4-2017 the Homestead City Council held a special public meeting that approved a resolution opposing the Miami Dade expansion and in support of HARB. Both Governor Scott and Rep. Holly Raschein have already sent letters supporting the base ([link to letters](#)). On November 8, 2017, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners will meet to render a decision.

Florida Senate and House Committee Meetings – Both Florida Chambers held their first committee meetings concerning Military and Veterans Affairs during the week of October 9-13. Judge Pat Maney (former FDSTF member) made a presentation on Veterans Courts and started his remarks with an acknowledgment of the role of the FDSTF in supporting military and veterans in Florida. The House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee also met and among other business approved *HB107*, Veteran Identification, which would create a standalone Veterans ID card available for all resident veterans in Florida. Bruce Grant and Terry McCaffrey attended both committee meetings.

New Secretary of Defense Guidance – SecDef James Mattis released a two page memo (see link below) on October 5th stating his top three priorities. These included: “First, restore military readiness as we build a more lethal force”, “Second, strengthen alliances and attract new partners” and “Third, bring business reforms to the Department of Defense”. He stated that he expects everyone to “pursue actively these three lines of effort”. Guidance can be read at: <https://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/GUIDANCE-FROM-SECRETARY-JIM-MATTIS.pdf>

Both Florida Senate and House of Representatives Resolve to Support Gulf Ranges – Senator Doug Broxson, Chair of the Florida Defense Support Task Force and Representative Mel Ponder have filed resolutions that outline the importance of the Gulf Range Complex and resolve to maintain the Military Mission Line and the moratorium on Oil Drilling east of the line to ensure military testing and training are not limited by new oil exploration and drilling. Text of these resolutions:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/550/BillText/Filed/PDF>
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/319/BillText/Filed/PDF>

FL Department of Health (FDOH) Armed Forces Licensing – Last year the FL Legislature passed the “Occupational Opportunity Act” that ensured the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) provide members of the Armed Forces and their dependents fee-waived professional licenses for a large list of professional careers. The DoD is pushing states to open even more areas including medical professions. Florida is ahead of the nation in this area too. FDOH already offers fee waivers, temporary licensure and expedited licensure for military members and their spouses. For more information, go to: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/licensing-and-regulation/armed-forces/index.html>

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Installation Innovation Forum – ADC will be holding their annual Installation Innovation Forum February 12-14, 2018 in San Diego. Please Note -- Early registration (lower cost) ends October 31st. For more information on this event, see: <https://installationinnovation.org/>

National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) 43rd Annual Air Armament Symposium – NDIA will hold its 43rd Annual Air Armament Symposium at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in Ft. Walton Beach. The theme will be “Cyber Resilience in Air Armaments”. For more information, go to: <http://www.ndia.org/events/2017/10/31/c113-gc-chapter-air-armament-symposium>

FDA Legislative Agenda – There are a number of military-friendly initiatives being proposed to the Florida Legislature for consideration. Please contact Kellie Jo Kilberg for more information and to explore ways you can be of assistance.

New Member of the Florida/Principi Group Team – Lieutenant General (retired) Glenn Spears has joined the Principi Group and will be working alongside Major General (retired) Keye Sabol. General Spears is currently a member of the Spectrum Group.

BRAC-Related News From ADC:

DOD'S ESTIMATE OF EXCESS CAPACITY DROPS MODESTLY USING OLDER FORCE LEVELS: An updated analysis of excess capacity by the Pentagon incorporating force structure levels from fiscal 2012 reveals a somewhat smaller amount of unneeded infrastructure than a March 2016 study that relied on projected force levels in fiscal 2019. Nineteen percent of infrastructure across the department is excess under the new study, compared to the 22 percent estimate released last year. Estimates of excess capacity drop



slightly for each of the services as well using FY 2012 force structure levels:

- Army: 29 percent vs. 33 percent
- Navy: 6 percent vs. 7 percent
- Air Force: 28 percent vs. 32 percent

The new analysis stems from a requirement in the FY 2017 defense authorization bill for DOD to recalculate its earlier estimates using the military's FY 2012 force structure, which is moderately or significantly larger in many cases than the FY 2019 projections. House Armed Services Chair Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) criticized the 2016 analysis because it was based on "a military far smaller than anyone thinks is wise," he said at the time.

Compared to last year's analysis, the FY 2012 force levels are significantly larger for the active Army — 44 brigade combat teams vs. 30 — and moderately larger for the Air Force — 5,587 aircraft vs. 5,332. Force structure is mostly unchanged for the Navy and Marine Corps, although the number of active-duty Marines is significantly higher in 2012 — 202,000 vs. 182,000.

With its estimates of excess capacity falling only modestly, the new analysis primarily reinforces the conclusion that DOD has significant levels of unneeded infrastructure in a variety of installation categories for the Army and Air Force.

The new study employs the same methodology as the earlier one, comparing various facility measures to changes in force structure, using 1989 as a baseline. Because DOD had a significant amount of excess in 1989, the results of the analysis are conservative, the report states. The parametric analysis is analytically sound, it adds, because it is "only designed to indicate whether excess capacity exists in the aggregate, not to identify excess capacity at individual installations or make decisions about closing or realigning specific bases."

NEXT STEP AFTER CAPACITY ANALYSIS IS BRAC, MATTIS SAYS: With a new analysis of excess capacity showing that 19 percent of DOD's infrastructure is excess to its needs — even using force structure levels mandated by Congress — the department believes there is a strong rationale for lawmakers to approve a new round of base closures. In fact a major theme of the report is that an even more effective means for figuring out how much of the military's infrastructure could be eliminated is to conduct an installation-by-installation capacity analysis that can only occur after Congress has authorized a BRAC round.

"While the report clearly shows excess capacity, it does not provide the detail necessary to identify specific infrastructure for elimination, instead only providing an indicator of the categories of excess," it acknowledges. A BRAC round would allow officials to consider operational requirements and military value in a process "that treats all bases equally and places primary emphasis on military value," the report states.

In the cover letter to defense committees accompanying the report, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis makes the case that the new national defense strategy the Pentagon is crafting needs to be supported by an updated basing strategy. "Since the last BRAC round we have developed new methods of warfare, new technologies and expanded needs for warfighter training that require us to assess the military value and effectiveness of our domestic military infrastructure," he states.

The BRAC process would provide opportunities for military forces to be more effective as well as for savings to be applied to higher priorities. "It is the only fair, objective and proven process to evaluate bases using military value as the primary consideration," Mattis says.

NEW EXCESS CAPACITY ESTIMATES REVEAL SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES: The modest drop in DOD's service-wide estimates of excess capacity that resulted from using force structure levels that were larger in many cases than those used in a previous analysis masked more significant shifts for some installation categories across all four services. Overall, the [new analysis](#) (see below for link), which relied on force structure levels from fiscal 2012 rather than projected levels for FY 2019, showed only a small drop in the amount of unneeded infrastructure for each of the military departments, with the Army's falling from 33 to 29 percent, the Navy's dropping from 7 to 6 percent, and the Air Force's moving from 32 to 28 percent.

The most striking change was in DOD's estimate for Air National Guard installations. Last year's analysis showed that 24 percent of Air National Guard bases' property was excess; the new one indicates the category has no excess. The other notable change for the Air Force was the estimated increase in excess parking apron space for education and training installations from 7 to 15 percent under the new analysis.

The excess capacity estimate for naval bases rose from 22 to 28 percent, which isn't particularly surprising since the number of combat ships dropped slightly in the new analysis. For Marine Corps bases, the updated estimate reveals a moderate decline in excess infrastructure, from 27 to 19 percent.

The most significant change for the Army was for maneuver installations, with the estimate of unneeded infrastructure in that category falling from 42 to 32 percent.

Link to new excess capacity analysis: https://www.defensecommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Excess_Capacity_October_2017.pdf

REFORMING BRAC PROCESS COULD OVERCOME CONGRESSIONAL RESISTANCE: With the likelihood slim that lawmakers approve the Pentagon's request for a new round of base closures in the fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill, Congress and DOD should take a variety of actions to reform the BRAC process, according to a [new paper from the Heritage Foundation](#) (link is below). One recommendation would make it easier for the Defense Department to use 10 U.S.C. Sec. 2687, the only authority it has to close or realign bases when a BRAC round is not in force, by giving Congress less time to review proposed actions. Congress also should also limit the statute's applicability to closures affecting at least 500 civilian personnel; it currently requires the defense secretary to give Congress 60 days to review proposed closures of facilities with at least 300 civilian workers. Those changes would provide DOD more flexibility to carry out minor actions outside of a BRAC round and allow the department to focus on major closures and realignments when it carries out the next BRAC round, writes policy analyst Frederico Bartels.

Bartels recommends several other actions to strengthen the BRAC process:

- Allow DOD to prepare detailed assessments of excess infrastructure outside of the BRAC process, and perform them every two years; this step would help overcome BRAC critics' argument that the department lacks adequate data to justify a new round of base closures;
- Establish reduction targets for each round to help guide DOD's recommendations; this step would help avoid a recurrence of the 2005 round which emphasized transformation over eliminating excess infrastructure; and
- Create a permanent BRAC staff at DOD.

Link to the Heritage Foundation report: <http://www.heritage.org/defense/report/guidelines-better-and-necessary-round-brac>

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

There are many things I know about the members of the Florida Defense Alliance. They are a group of individuals dedicated to understanding the business sector known as our military installations, missions and defense contractors. It is a business sector like no other as this sector involves the men and women who give all to protect the United States of America. We are a passionate group watching out for these great warriors.

The FDA members work at the local, regional, state and national levels to address the needs of our military from the 16 different types of encroachment to the installations, to transportation, education, healthcare, workforce, housing to the needs of the family. It's a complex sector that requires all of us to stay engaged watching the moving parts which could do harm to any of our installations and missions.

Developing partnerships to share our stories as well as developing the P4s to reduce costs at our installations will be key as we move forward in growing, enhancing and protecting our military installations and missions. Ivan Bolden, Chief, Army Partnerships, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Installation Management, will be with us at our FDA meeting in Orlando on November 15th. Take a minute and email me your questions, challenges and possible opportunities you may have for P4s. I will forward this information to Mr. Bolden so he is prepared with solutions or alternative options to consider. Lynn Brannon, Florida State Coordinator with Building Healthy Military Communities, will share an update with us regarding the gaps and the partnerships required to address these opportunities. We will also discuss the legislative opportunities for the 2018 session. I hope you have November 15th on your calendar and will join us in Orlando.

Congratulation to the City of Jacksonville and United State Navy for closing on 16 real estate transactions for restricted use easements on parcels in the Military Influence Zone of OLF Whitehouse and NS Mayport. This encroachment protection is vital in ensuring the missions at OLF Whitehouse and NS Mayport. The City leveraged Defense Infrastructure Grant funding with Navy REPI funds. It is important to understand that these transactions can take more than 2 years if not longer due to the many different governmental agencies involved. The City of Jacksonville is preparing for the Fiscal Year 2018 with discussions on acquisitions of other vital parcels.

Staying Focused, Engaged, Flexible and having a vision with a strategy plan is important as other states and communities use Florida as a model in addressing the needs of the military. We cannot rest on our laurels and need to be innovative and forward thinking in growing this military and defense sector. Until next time, Stay Focused and Proactive in your communities.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 15th

FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida—Holiday Inn Orlando East—UCF Area

For Reservations Call (407) 658-9008, Group Code: Enterprise Florida

Room Rate \$114





DRAFT Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda

Orlando, Florida (As of: October 9, 2017)

November 15, 2017

0800-1700 EST

0800 - 0820	Welcome Remarks/Introductions	Kellie Jo Kilberg
0820 - 0830	Washington DC Update/ Re-SWOT	General David Huntoon
0830 - 0845	FDSTF Update/Legislative Update	Terry McCaffrey
0845-0915	Partnership Update	Ivan Bolden
	Break	
0930 - 1000	Building Healthy Military Communities	Lynn Brannon
1000 - 1030	Team Orlando	General Tom Baptiste
1030 - 1100	Cyber Update	
1100 - 1130	Veterans Florida	Bobby Carbonell
1130 - 1245	Working Lunch	
1245 - 1430	Working Groups Meet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Sustainment • Family Support 	Jeff Fanto Rita Smith
1430 - 1515	Working Groups' Report / FDA Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Sustainment • Family Support 	Jeff Fanto Rita Smith
1515 - 1600	Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties • East Central Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Brevard and Orange Counties • West Central Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Highlands, Polk, Tampa and Pinellas Counties • Northeast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Duval and Clay Counties • Northwest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa and Bay Counties 	Local Defense Partners
1600 - 1700	Defense Grants Workshop	DEO
	Next Meeting Planning	Kellie Jo Kilberg
	Closing Comments/Adjourn	Kellie Jo Kilberg



QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“Americans in 1950 rediscovered something that since Hiroshima they had forgotten: you may fly over a land forever; you may bomb it, atomize it, pulverize it and wipe it clean of life—but if you desire to defend it, protect it, and keep it for civilization, you must do this on the ground, the way the Roman legions did, by putting your young men into the mud.”

— T.R. Fehrenbach, *This Kind of War: The Classic Military History of the Korean War*



News from the Bases

Homestead ARB —

Special Operations Command South held its annual 9/11 Memorial Run that "Honors the Fallen by Challenging the Living". Service Members, Civilians, Family and Friends here today honored and remembered all the individuals who lost their lives during the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. SOCSOUTH has held this remembrance run annually since 2006. While this event is usually held around 9/11, this year the command held the event weeks after, because the majority of Southern Floridians were evacuated due to hurricane Irma. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sergeant Lionel Castellano)

Homestead Airmen participated in a base-wide Wingman day at Homestead Air Reserve Base Oct. 14. During the day Airmen went to sexual assault prevention and suicide prevention trainings, participated in team-building exercises and played sports. These trainings encouraged Airmen to share their personal stories of acceptance, endurance and resilience to better help others going through similar struggles.





Team Orlando —

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer visits CFRP and NCS Hosts Rep. Stephanie Murphy's MS&T Advisory Board

Posted on October 18, 2017 in General News

Stephanie Murphy (FL-7) met with her MS&T Advisory Board at the NCS Offices. The Advisory Board consists of MS&T industry CEO's of Central Florida based companies (or companies with a large presence in Central Florida) and NCS' CEO and President Tom Baptiste. Central Florida is the epicenter of the modeling and simulation industry and Rep. Murphy's District contains the Central Florida Research Park, home of NSA Orlando and the Naval Air Warfare Training Systems Division (NAWTSD), the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), the Marine's Program Manager for Training Systems (PM TRASYS), the Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation (AFAMS), and eight other federal agencies.

The Congresswoman is a strong advocate for the MS&T industry. As a member of the House Arms Service Committee, she provides a unique perspective of the benefits and importance of MS&T to our military. On October 19, Rep. Murphy accompanied House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (MD-5) on a visit to the Research Park where they visited AVT Simulations and Astronics Test Systems.





Avon Park Air Force Range—

First woman commander of the 23rd Wing at Moody Air Force Base

<http://www.walb.com/story/35851285/first-woman-commander-of-the-23rd-wing-at-moody-air-force-base>

WALB News 10 © July 10, 2017, By Damon Arnold, Reporter

It was a historic day at Moody Air Force Base, as the 23rd Wing got its first ever female commander. Colonel Jennifer M. Short officially took over as commander of the 23rd Wing this morning. The 23rd wing is home to the Air Force's legendary "Flying Tigers," which consists of six groups...with 30 squadrons of more than 5,000 Airmen and over a 1,000 civilian employees. Short said she is excited to become a member of not only Moody Air Force Base, but also Valdosta.

"Their incredibly welcoming. I mean, just going to Target and going through the line folks are "Hey welcome to Valdosta" and the folks here at the 23rd Wing again just an incredible welcome as my family and I came into town and have been so help to make sure that we can get settled and have everything that we need and their all excited to get to know us and include us and everything. It was just the warmest welcome we could have had," said Short.....

Note: Avon Park Air Force Range falls under the command of Colonel Short.



Spotlight on: Avon Park Air Force Range

The Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR), is a 106,000-acre United States Air Force air-to-ground training complex located in Polk and Highlands Counties approximately 65 miles east of Tampa and east of the city of Avon Park. In addition to two tactical ranges and two conventional ranges, APAFR also has an 8,000 ft runway with aircraft arresting cables and is approved for VFR operations.

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.

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.



**Commander
LTC Daniel Edgar**

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel "DITKA" Edgar is the Commander of the 598th Range Squadron, Avon Park Air Force Range (AFR), Florida. Lieutenant Colonel Edgar graduated from the Pennsylvania State University in 2001 and completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin AFB, Texas, in 2003. He has had A-10 assignments with the 75th Fighter Squadron at Pope AFB, NC; the 25th Fighter Squadron at Osan AB, Korea; the 81st Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem AB, Germany; the 358th Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ; and the 74th Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, GA. He earned a Master Degree from the prestigious American Military University.

Lieutenant Colonel Edgar has served in numerous assignments from squadron thru numbered Air Force level. He is a senior pilot with over 2,500 flying hours in the A-10. Lieutenant Colonel Edgar has 164 combat sorties and 634 combat hours during Operations Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Unified Protector in Libya.



FLORIDA DEFENSE ALLIANCE

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

DID YOU KNOW?

US Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt (commonly referred to as the Warthog)

General characteristics

Primary function: close air support, airborne forward air control, combat search and rescue

Contractor: Fairchild Republic Co.

Power plant: two General Electric TF34-GE-100 turbofans

Thrust: 9,065 pounds each engine

Wingspan: 57 feet, 6 inches (17.42 meters)

Length: 53 feet, 4 inches (16.16 meters)

Height: 14 feet, 8 inches (4.42 meters)

Weight: 29,000 pounds (13,154 kilograms) Maximum Takeoff Weight: 51,000 pounds (22,950 kilograms) Fuel Capacity: 11,000 pounds (7,257 kilograms)

Payload: 16,000 pounds (7,257 kilograms)

Speed: 450 nautical miles per hour (Mach 0.75)

Range: 2580 miles (2240 nautical miles)

Ceiling: 45,000 feet (13,636 meters)

Armament: one 30 mm GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun; up to 16,000 pounds (7,200 kilograms) of mixed ordnance on eight under-wing and three under-fuselage pylon stations, including 500 pound (225 kilograms) Mk-82 and 2,000 pounds (900 kilograms) Mk-84 series low/high drag bombs, incendiary cluster bombs, combined effects munitions, mine dispensing munitions, AGM-65 Maverick missiles and laser-guided/electro-optically guided bombs; infrared countermeasure flares; electronic countermeasure chaff; jammer pods; 2.75-inch (6.99 centimeters) rockets; illumination flares and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

Crew: one

Unit cost: \$18.8 million



- 1) The A-10 is the only US Air Force production aircraft solely designed for close air support of ground forces.
- 2) The A-10's cockpit is surrounded by a 1,200 pound titanium "bathtub" to protect the pilot.
- 3) The A-10 carries the heaviest automatic cannon ever mounted on an aircraft, the 30 mm GAU-8/A Avenger. The gun is approximately 16% of the aircraft's weight.
- 4) The wing and tail leading edges are made with a honeycomb panel design, making them more resistant to battle damage.
- 5) Many A-10s have a false canopy painted on the belly of the aircraft to confuse enemy forces about the attitude of the aircraft.
- 6) The front landing gear is offset to allow room for the 30mm cannon.
- 7) The ailerons are significantly larger than most aircraft, making the A-10 highly maneuverable at slow speeds.
- 8) The main landing gear wheels stick out from the nacelles even when they are retracted, causing less damage to the aircraft if it has to land gear-up.
- 9) The aircraft is designed to fly with one engine, one tail, one elevator, and half of one wing missing.
- 10) The high-mounted engines are angled upward 9 degrees to prevent the aircraft from pitching down.
- 11) The 30 mm gun shoots depleted uranium shells at a rate of *3,900 rounds per minute*.
- 12) The A-10's first air-to-air victory was in 1991 – it shot down a helicopter with the GAU-8 cannon.
- 13) In total, over 700 A-10s have been produced. And with tens of thousands of missions flown over 37 years, it's the most successful close air support aircraft of all time.



Posters of the Day:



A-10 THUNDERBOLT

When you absolutely, positively must have something destroyed.

fakeposters.c



CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

When Army strong isn't quite strong enough

motifake.com

FLORIDA
DEFENSE
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FLORIDA

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the FDA meeting in Orlando in November! Please send in your registration to Michelle Griggs 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 keep Florida 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 – Rita Smith

Executive Board

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





ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

November 8, 2017

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

NEWS

FDA Meeting in Orlando November 15th – The Florida Defense Alliance will hold its semi-annual on Wednesday, November 15th from 0830-1630 at the Holiday Inn Orlando East – UCF Area. Please contact Michelle Griggs at (850) 298-6640 to register and order lunch if desired.

Development Proposal Near Homestead Air Reserve Base Withdrawn – A developer in south Florida who was pushing to expand the Urban Development Boundary out toward the base withdrew his application last week. The area that would have been developed abuts the installation boundary and is partially overlaid by multiple airfield hazard and noise zones. It will now NOT appear in front of the Planning Advisory Board or Board of County Commissioners next week. Thanks to the support of Governor Scott, Rep. Raschein and great work of the South Florida Defense Alliance, this encroachment threat to HARB has been turned back.

New Report – US Should Have Three Theater Strategy and More Funding for DOD -- To cope with multiple growing threats around the globe, the United States should add \$533 billion to the Obama administration's last five-year spending plan, increase the active end strength of the Army and Marine Corps by 60,000, and replace its two-war force planning tool with a three-theater strategy, according to a new report by The American Enterprise Institute. The plan calls for significant investments in Europe, the Asia Pacific and the Middle East by:

- reintroducing three permanently deployed armored cavalry regiments to secure the eastern border of NATO;
- significantly bolstering spending on Missile Defense Agency programs to deescalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula by dramatically reducing the credibility of a North Korean first strike; and
- spending \$20 billion above Obama-era plans in Army and Marine Corps artillery, along with purchasing 168 light attack aircraft and 48 additional MQ-9 Reaper drones by the Air Force to free up Navy carriers, Marine aviation assets, and high-end Air Force fighters and bombers to deter potential adversaries.

“The dangers of the geopolitical situation demand immediate, dramatic and sustained efforts to support a force designed to deter and defeat adversaries across three sprawling regions — each with unique needs and service demands,” writes AEI resident fellow Mackenzie Eaglen in an op-ed about the think tank’s plan to repair and rebuild the military.

The plan calls for increasing base defense spending to \$679 billion in fiscal 2018 and allocating \$136 billion over the next five years to restoring readiness. The report calls for large increases in defense spending and force structure build up to cover operations in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

<http://www.aei.org/publication/how-to-repair-and-rebuild-americas-military/>
<http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Repair-and-Rebuild.pdf>

Comprehensive Navy Review Released – On November 2nd, Admiral Richardson, the Chief of Naval Operations, released the results of the Comprehensive Review conducted following the collisions of two of our surface ships - USS FITZGERALD and USS JOHN S. McCAIN - with merchant vessels this past summer.

"Our Navy, from the most junior sailor to the most senior commander, must value achieving and maintaining high operational and war fighting standards of performance," Richardson said at a press conference held at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. "And these standards must be embedded in our equipment, our individuals, our teams and our fleets. The Navy is absolutely committed to doing everything possible to prevent a tragic loss like this again. We should never allow an accident like this to take the lives of such magnificent young sailors and inflict such painful grief on their families, the Navy and the nation. We must get this right. And we will. We own this. And we're moving out."

"The vast majority of our Sailors are conducting their missions effectively and professionally - protecting America from attack, promoting our interests and prosperity, and advocating for the rules that govern the vast commons from the sea floor to space, and in cyberspace," continued Richardson. "This is what America expects and deserves from its Navy."

A link to that report can be found at http://s3.amazonaws.com/CHINFO/Comprehensive+Review_Final.pdf.

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Installation Innovation Forum – ADC will be holding their annual Installation Innovation Forum February 12-14, 2018 in San Diego. For more information on this event, see: <https://installationinnovation.org/>

FDA Legislative Agenda – There are a number of military-friendly initiatives being proposed to the Florida Legislature for consideration. Please contact Kellie Jo Kilberg for more information and to explore ways you can be of assistance.

BRAC News from ADC:

DOD LOOKS TO BRAC TO REINFORCE NEW DEFENSE STRATEGY, NIEMEYER SAYS: A new BRAC round would offer the Pentagon the best opportunity to implement the new national defense strategy officials currently are crafting, Lucian Niemeier, assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment, told reporters on Friday. "There's a pretty clear indication that's emerging in the building that if we're going to be able to carry that out, having an updated basing strategy will ultimately make that [national strategy] more lethal, more effective," Niemeier said.

In addition to generating savings by shedding unneeded infrastructure, a round of base closures would allow DOD to adjust its basing strategy to take advantage changes in warfighting and training, reported CQ. "We have the opportunity to take a look at what emerging technologies, what new methods of warfare, what does that mean as far as ideally basing those, to be able to maximize training, and also to maximize operations," he said.

In the absence of a BRAC round, the department would be hampered in any effort to reshape its approach for using its bases. "We really don't have a lot of significant options that would offer up the level and degree of savings and possibly enable us to update our basing strategy outside the BRAC process," Niemeier said. "We'll continue to pursue those [existing options], but it's tough."



THE WINDOW FOR BRAC MAY HAVE CLOSED: The Pentagon may have missed its best opportunity to gain Congress' approval for a new BRAC round after Defense Secretary Jim Mattis failed to fully support the proposal when it appeared the Senate would vote on language earlier this year authorizing a round of base closures in 2019, Cord Sterling, a staff member for the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Thursday at ADC's Defense Policy Forum.

"This was the year for DOD to push it if they wanted it. Next year is an election year. Next year it becomes exponentially harder," Sterling said. Sterling's remarks came in response to a question from the moderator as to whether Senate Armed Services Chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.) planned to offer an amendment to next year's defense authorization bill permitting the department to hold a BRAC round, as he did this year. Stronger engagement by Mattis on the issue could have made a difference, Sterling said.

The defense secretary's willingness to wage a public battle for BRAC will play a major role in determining whether McCain goes forward next year with a similar amendment. "If we do it, it will have to be something that is strongly pushed and supported [by the Pentagon]," Sterling said. "This year, DOD wasn't really there."

Of course, getting a BRAC authorization through the House and Senate was never going to be easy, even if Mattis had advocated more vociferously for a new round. Sterling noted that members remained wary of DOD's argument that one-fifth of its infrastructure is excess, even after the department recently updated its 2016 analysis using higher force structure levels.

"Members are growing increasingly skeptical about the numbers," he said. "If there is so much excess capacity, why are they building so much?"

DOD EAGER TO ADDRESS NEED FOR NEW BRAC ROUND, NIEMEYER SAYS: Acknowledging that the political calendar may not be ideal to attracting congressional support for BRAC next year, Lucian Niemeyer, assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment, said the burden would be on DOD to convince Congress of the rationale for a new round of base closures. "It's up to us to make the case," Niemeyer told *On Base* following his remarks Thursday at the Defense Policy Forum.

Niemeyer, who took office two-and-a-half months ago, said he planned on pursuing a two-pronged strategy once the department releases its new national defense strategy. One argument would demonstrate the potential for DOD to save \$2 billion annually following a BRAC round that eliminated a portion of its unneeded infrastructure. The other, perhaps more far-reaching argument, would focus on the opportunity presented by a BRAC round to better align its basing strategy with the Pentagon's updated defense strategy. A new basing strategy could be expected to both enhance readiness and increase the lethality of the force, he said.



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

The Florida Defense Alliance not only advocates for the active military members, their spouses, installations and missions; but also for veterans who fought for our freedom, and we celebrate their service. Veterans Day is this Saturday, November 11th, and began as Armistice Day, celebrating the first anniversary of the end of World War I. The United States has celebrated Veterans Day as a national holiday since 1938. Many of our communities hold celebrations all month long.

Florida is home to more than 1.6 million veterans. Florida's Governor and our Legislature have recognized the importance of giving back to those who have sacrificed for us, and their commitment has resulted in Florida becoming the most veteran-friendly state in America.

Over the last 20 years, the Florida Legislature has passed many pieces of legislation to assist our veterans. Many of these reforms, have been implemented and include property tax and professional license fee exemptions, education and employment assistance, and drivers' license extensions for Florida veterans. We will continue to work with all of partners to reach out and recognize our veterans and find ways for them to build economically stable lives when they return home.

The Florida Defense Alliance is pleased to honor and thank the brave servicemen and women for their service and who have chosen to build their lives and raise their families in Florida.

We look forward to seeing you next week in Orlando at our FDA meeting on November 15th at the Holiday Inn Orlando East – UCF Area. **Thank you to George Cheros and the National Center of Simulation for sponsoring our refreshments throughout the day!!**

Until next time, reach out and thank veterans in your community.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

FDA Website: www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/



2017 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 15th

FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida—Holiday Inn Orlando East—UCF Area. For Reservations Call (407) 658-9008, Group Code: Enterprise Florida. Room Rate \$114

Semi-Annual Meeting Agenda

Orlando, Florida (As of: November 6, 2017)

November 15, 2017

0830-1630 EST

0830 - 0845	Welcome Remarks/Introductions	Kellie Jo Kilberg
0845 - 0900	Washington DC Update / Re-SWOT	General David Huntoon
0900 - 1000	Partnership Update	Ivan Bolden
1000 - 1015	Break	
1015 - 1030	Team Orlando	George Cheros
1030 - 1100	Cyber Update	Dr. Michael Macedonia
1100 - 1115	Building Healthy Military Communities	Lynn Brannon
1115 - 1130	FDSTF Update / Legislative Update	Terry McCaffrey
1130 - 1145	Veterans Florida	Bobby Carbonell
1145 - 1200	DEO Grants Update	Julie Dennis
1200 - 1215	Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Update	Lt Col R. Steven Murray
1230 - 1430	Working Groups Meet / Working Lunch Mission Sustainment Family Support	Jeff Fanto Rita Smith
1445 - 1515	Working Groups' Report / FDA Discussion Mission Sustainment Family Support	Jeff Fanto Rita Smith
1515 - 1615	Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update South Florida Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties East Central Florida Brevard and Orange Counties West Central Florida Highlands, Polk, Tampa and Pinellas Counties Northeast Duval and Clay Counties Northwest Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa and Bay Counties	Local Defense Partners
1615 - 1630	Next Meeting Planning	Kellie Jo Kilberg
	Closing Comments/Adjourn	Kellie Jo Kilberg



QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

“The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war”. --- Douglas MacArthur

“The veterans of our military services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment”. ---Judd Gregg

“The U.S. Military is us. There is no truer representation of a country than the people that it sends into the field to fight for it. The people who wear our uniform and carry our rifles into combat are our kids, and our job is to support them, because they're protecting us”. ---Tom Clancy



News from the Bases

MacDill AFB —

JB MDL civic leader sustains community partnerships

<http://www.amc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1355765/jb-mdl-civic-leader-sustains-community-partnerships/>

AMC © October 27, 2017

By Thomas Kistler , Air Mobility Command Public Affairs / Published October 27, 2017

ORLANDO, Fla. – Dana Lancellotti received the Tampa Bay Trophy during the 49th Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium here Oct 26, 2017.

The Tampa Bay Defense Alliance presents the trophy annually to an individual civic leader exhibiting sustained and enduring service to the community, Air Mobility Command and the Air Force.

"Dana has been a tremendous and selfless supporter of the military, Air Mobility Command and joint-service missions," said Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II, AMC commander. "Her leadership in the community and with the military has directly led to ensuring our Airmen and families are cared for, feel valued, and are actively integrated into the community we serve."





Air Mobility Command Commander Gen. Carlton D. Everhart II presents Dana Lancellotti with the Tampa Bay Trophy at the 2017 Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium Oct. 26, 2017. The symposium brings together Air Force leadership, industry experts and academia, with current and former mobility Airmen. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Rito Smith)

MacDill held the Honorary Commander Induction Ceremony October 13th. Lisa Monnet was inducted as an Honorary Commander to the 6th Air Mobility Wing, paired with the 310th Airlift Squadron.



Members of MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, welcomed home the 50th Air Refueling Squadron, one of the most decorated units in Air Force history, during an assumption of command ceremony Oct. 2, 2017. The 50th Red Devils were born in Tampa Bay during a time of war in 1942, five years before the Air Force was established, and have been recognized for their meritorious service ever since.



Eglin AFB —

Natural defense – how the US military is embracing solar power

<http://www.businessreviewusa.com/technology/6121/Natural-defense-how-the-US-military-is-embracing-solar-power>

USA Business Review © November 3, 2017

By Leila Hawkins

The biggest solar panel installation in Florida went live this summer, an initiative that will drastically cut CO2 emissions by powering tens of thousands of homes with natural energy.

Coronal Energy, part of the Panasonic Group, is a North American provider of renewable energy solutions. Traditionally, its customers have been utility companies like Southern California Edison and Duke Energy, but in recent years, in keeping with the growth of the renewable energy industry, it has seen an increasing amount of sales to electricity power plants like its own.

In August this year, the organization completed its largest project to date, the “jewel in the crown” as Chief Commercial Officer Danny Van Clief calls it. This is the Gulf Coast Solar Center Portfolio, a massive construction of almost 1.5mn solar photovoltaic panels that will deliver enough energy to **power 18,000 homes in northwest Florida.....**

Combat Hammer brings fighter jets to the Emerald Coast

<http://www.thedestinlog.com/news/20171101/combat-hammer-brings-fighter-jets-to-emerald-coast>

The Destin Log © November 1, 2017

By Jim Thompson

EGLIN AFB — More than two dozen boats will swarm Choctawhatchee Bay through Friday and again next week, serving as targets for a host of military aircraft from around the country participating in Combat Hammer, an annual weapons system evaluation exercise at Eglin Air Force Base.



Parts of Combat Hammer will also be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico, with fighter aircraft releasing munitions about 20 miles south of Destin from 8 a.m. to noon each day.

Conducted by Eglin’s 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, this year’s Combat Hammer will include F-22 Raptor jets from the 94th Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, 16 Fighting

Falcons from the 55th Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina and A-10 Thunderbolt close air support jets from the 75th Fighter Squadron at Georgia's Moody Air Force Base.....

Team Orlando —

Military cluster in Orlando is now BRAC-proof, retired general says

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/brinkmann-on-business/os-bz-team-orlando-simulation-buildings-20171102-story.html>

Orlando Sentinel © November 2, 2017

By Paul Brinkmann

The cluster of military and federal offices known as Team Orlando is now virtually immune to any future base closure efforts, according to retired Gen. Thomas Baptiste.

After years of effort and \$42 million from the state of Florida, Team Orlando now has an additional 207,000 square feet of space where the federal agencies can work rent-free and maintenance-free. The state will own the buildings, while University of Central Florida maintains them.

The state closed recently on a final building to house the military operations, at 12000 Research Parkway, also known as Two Resource Square, for \$19.1 million. The idea is to keep the high-paying tech jobs in the Orlando cluster, which is focused on computer simulation, training and also cyber-defense or anti-hacking activities — and insulate it from being sent elsewhere under a potential future round of Base Closure and Realignment Commission.....

Corry Station—

\$18 Million Contract Awarded for Expansion of Pensacola's Corry Station

<http://pulesegulfcoast.com/2017/07/18-million-contract-awared-for-expansion-of-pensacolas-corry-station>

Drew Buchanan, July 7, 2017

Business—Metro Pensacola—Military & Defense

Pensacola's Corry Station is experiencing growing pains. So much so, that the dormitory facilities at the nation's leading cyber warfare schoolhouse are overcapacity and overflowing with students.

Incoming servicemembers attending training at the installation are required to live in on-base housing, which is currently served by several multi-story dormitories. According to Navy officials, currently, rooms in the dorms often have three students assigned instead of two. This exceeds criteria, can make learning difficult, and is not good for student health. Quality of life can also suffer, affecting academic performance and preparation for the fleet.

An \$18 million contract was recently granted to allow Corry Station to construct a new multi-story "A" school unaccompanied housing facility on the base, deemed crucial to the air station's mission



Pensacola's Corry Station Celebrates Opening of New \$5 Million Youth Center

<http://pulsegulfoast.com/2016/04/pensacolas-corry-station-celebrates-opening-new-5m-youth-center>

Pulse Staff and Drew Buchanan, April 29, 2016

Education—Metro Pensacola—Military & Defense

School age military children will find plenty to keep them busy when a new \$5.1 million youth center opens next week on Naval Air Station Pensacola's Corry Station

The 11,000-square-foot facility, which can accommodate 125 children, includes four colorful activity rooms, a teen center and a homework technology center along with an outdoor playground and a covered recreation/basketball area.

NASP Commanding Officer Capt. Christopher Martin and other officials got an early look at the newly completed center during a ribbon-cutting ceremony recently.

Martin was impressed with the interior design of the building and the outdoor recreation options that are available.

"This is an awesome facility," he said.

Jack Reed, operations officer for Naval Air Station Pensacola's Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR), agreed.

"This is a great facility, not only for the warfighter but for their family members as well," Reed said. "It really encompasses what MWR and the Navy is all about."

The new facility will also benefit younger children, Martin said, because the NASP Corry Station Child Development Center (CDC) next door will be able to reconfigure the previously shared space and increase its ability to care for children ages newborn to 5 years



Spotlight on: Corry Station

Corry Station is part of NAS Pensacola





Commander Christopher D. Eng
Commanding Officer
Information Warfare Training
Command

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.

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 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 chartered 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.



Other Tenant Units at Corry Station:

- Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC)
- Navy's Center for Language, Regional Expertise, and Culture (CLREC)
- U S Army Reserve - 350th Civil Affairs Command
- U S Air Force - 316th Training Squadron, Operating Location -Alpha
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)



The Commons at Corry Station





Senator Marco Rubio meets with leadership from the Center for Information Warfare Training and Information Warfare Training Command Corry Station during a visit to Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station. Captain Christopher T. Martin, Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola looks on. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Taylor L. Jackson/Released)



Cmdr. Christopher Eng, Commanding Officer, Information Warfare Training Command Corry Station, speaks during a Sept. 11 remembrance ceremony at Naval Air Station Pensacola's Corry Station. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Taylor L. Jackson/Released)



Blue Angels fly over at a Corry Station formation.



U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) visited Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola and Corry Station on May 31, 2017, where he joined enlisted sailors for lunch. (Photo via Sen. Marco Rubio's Office).

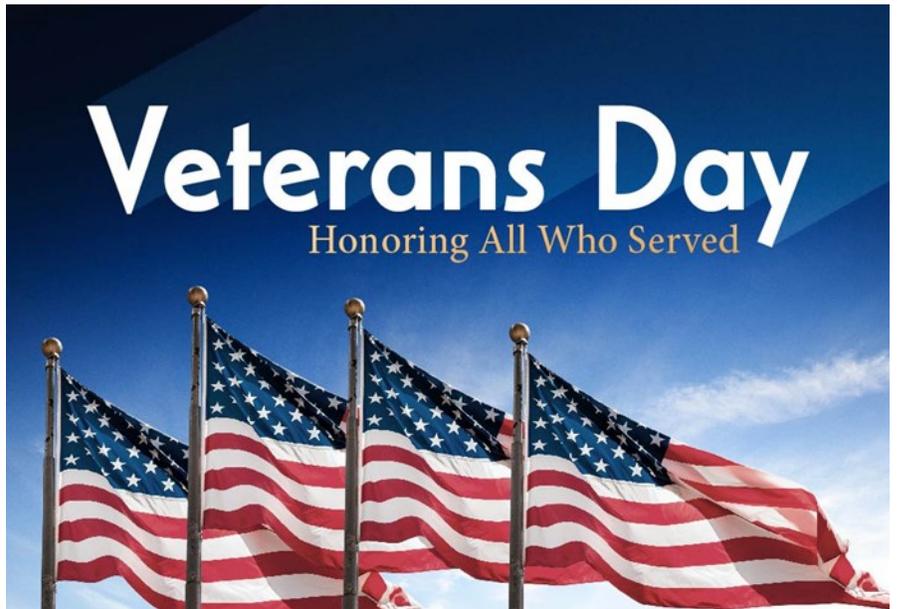
NASP Corry Station has a state of the art outdoor sports complex that offers a well-lit, Olympic size synthetic track with field-turf infield. The new field-turf infield will host as one flag football field, as well as, one regulation soccer field. Center for Information Training command building in the back ground.



DID YOU KNOW?

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”



In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended

to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans' service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



Poster of the Day:



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Happy Veterans Day! Thank you to all the dedicated members of the Florida Defense Alliance for all you do on a daily basis to support your military communities and keep Florida the most military friendly state in the nation! Your work on behalf of Florida's military installations and missions truly makes a difference. The relationships you build with our base personnel are keys to solving problems and assisting our service members and their families. Keep up the great work!



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





ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

November 22, 2017

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

NEWS

FDA Meeting in Orlando Last Week – The Florida Defense Alliance held its semi-annual meeting in Orlando last week. The meeting was well-attended by over 50 FDA members from across the state. Agenda items included updates from Washington, a partnership briefing from the military’s subject matter expert Ivan Bolden, cyber security updates from UCF, information on Building Healthy Military Families (BHMC) and grants information from DEO. Working groups met in the afternoon with great results. See pictures below.

FDOT Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Military Access Study – FDOT has updated their SIS study on access to military installations. They presented the study at a meeting in Panama City on Monday, November 6, 2017. According to the executive summary, “The 2016 Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Policy Plan update continues the provisions for designating as SIS the facilities connecting Florida’s largest and most strategic military installations to the SIS Highway and Rail corridor network.” The study provides transportation analysis and several recommendations. This study is posted on the FDA web site at: <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Floridas-Strategic-Intermodal-System-Military-Access-Facility-Study.pdf>

Gov. Scott Announces \$178 Million Investment for Florida’s Active Military, Veterans and Their Families – On Monday Nov 13, 2017, Governor Scott announced support for several defense friendly programs. According to a Press Release from the Governor’s Office Governor Scott said “I am proud to announce today that I will propose a \$178 million investment to help make sure Florida continues to be the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation for years to come. Our military, first responders and law enforcement members make the courageous decision to put their lives on the line every day to protect our country, families, and communities and I look forward to working with the Legislature during the upcoming session as we continue to do all we can to support these heroes. I will also fight this year to give voters the chance to approve a proposal to be included in our state’s constitution that gives free tuition to the families of our fallen law enforcement, first responders and military members.” Included in the \$178M announcement is \$2.0M to fund the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Article at: <http://www.flgov.com/2017/11/13/gov-scott-announces-178-million-investment-for-floridas-active-military-veterans-and-their-families/>

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Contains Florida Provisions – The U.S. House of Representatives passed the FY18 NDAA conference report by a strong bipartisan vote of 356-70. Input from Florida survived in the FY 2018 NDAA conference debate. Congresswomen Stephanie Murphy included several key provisions in the final, compromise measure to make it easier for small businesses to obtain contracts and grants from the Department of Defense and other federal agencies, to grow Florida’s modeling, simulation, and training community, and to improve the treatment of our men and women in uniform. Additionally, Congressman Matt Gaetz secured a \$30M amendment submitted by Congressman Neal Dunn that will support

Gulf Range Enhancement. Congressman Gaetz noted that “The big fight to save the test range is to prevent oil exploration. Congress is unlikely to destroy something it’s already invested in.” A good summary can be found at: https://armedservices.house.gov/sites/republicans.armedservices.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/FY18%20NDAA%20Floor%20Summary%20Draft%20vFinal.pdf

To view the entire 2,427 page FY 18 NDAA Conference Report, go to this link: <http://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20171113/HRPT-115-HR2810.pdf>

Patrick Air Force Base 2017 Technology Expo – Patrick Air Force Base will host the 2017 Technology Expo Wednesday, Dec. 6 at The Tides Club, located at 1001 N. Highway A1A. The Expo is open and free to all DoD, government and contractor personnel. Attendees will have the opportunity to talk with companies about what products they use, ask questions about new technology, and discover programs that will assist be beneficial to their mission. To register, contact **Jade Ruiz at FDAE** jade@fdaexpo.com or go to <https://fdaexpo.com/register.php?id=233#.Wg8AXtWnHIU>

I/ITSEC Conference: Nov 27 – Dec 1 in Orlando -- The Interservice/ Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) is the world's largest modeling, simulation, and training conference. I/ITSEC consists of peer-reviewed paper presentations, tutorials, special events, professional workshops, a commercial exhibit hall, a serious games competition, and STEM events for teachers and secondary students. I/ITSEC is organized by the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA), which promotes international and interdisciplinary cooperation within the fields of modeling and simulation (M&S), training, education, analysis, and related disciplines at this annual meeting. The NTSA is an affiliate subsidiary of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). For information on the conference, go to: <http://www.iitsec.org/attend/agenda-details>

News from ADC:

PENTAGON PROPOSES TURNING OVER DOD-RUN SCHOOLS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES:

The Defense Department has proposed turning over operation of the 47 schools it operates in seven states in the continental United States to local school districts as part of a Trump administration initiative to cut spending and shrink the federal workforce. The plan, which would not impact DOD-run schools overseas, was one of several reforms the department sent the Office of Management and Budget in September, reports Military Times. If the plan is approved by the White House, DOD would first test it at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., which has an elementary school and a middle/high school.

The department’s fiscal 2017 budget included about \$600 million to operate DOD Education Activity (DODEA) schools on 15 installations in the U.S., including five schools in Cuba and Puerto Rico which presumably would not be affected by the proposal. “This could cause an uproar in the affected communities, and understandably so,” said Eileen Huck, deputy government relations director for the National Military Family Association. “Military families take their kids’ education very seriously. The DODEA schools are an important part of the communities where they are operating.”

COMPROMISE DEFENSE BILL WOULD EXPAND ARMY BY 8,500 SOLDIERS: The armed forces would add more than 20,000 personnel, including 7,500 active-duty soldiers, under the \$692 billion fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill hashed out by House and Senate negotiators. Last week’s conference agreement includes \$626.4 billion in the defense base budget, which exceeds the spending cap permitted under the Budget Control Act by nearly \$78 billion, raising the question as to whether all of the plans in the annual



policy bill will be funded in the defense appropriations bill. Lawmakers still have not reached a deal on top-line spending levels for FY 2018, with talks primarily taking place at the staff level, reported CQ. And while GOP leaders have said they are aiming to clear an omnibus spending bill to fund the government before the existing continuing resolution expires Dec. 8, many lawmakers expect Congress to pass another short-term stopgap with time quickly running out.

The House is set to vote on the conference agreement today, while the Senate's schedule is less certain. Under the compromise measure, the Army would add a total of 8,500 soldiers, with the end strength for the National Guard and Reserve each rising by 500. For the other services, the conference agreement calls for end strength increases above FY 2017 levels of:

- Marines — 1,000 active-duty;
- Navy — 4,000 active-duty and 1,000 Reserve sailors; and
- Air Force — 4,100 active-duty, 900 Air National Guard and 800 Reserve airmen.

Conferees did not include a Senate provision trimming housing benefits for dual-military couples, leaving the basic allowance for housing program unchanged, reported [Defense News](#).

MILITARY FAMILIES REMAIN ISOLATED FROM GREATER COMMUNITY, SURVEY FINDS:

Just over 50 percent of military families feel isolated from their local civilian communities, a sentiment that is both harming the well-being of military families and retention by DOD, according to Blue Star Families' latest [Military Family Lifestyle survey](#). The majority of military families reside in the community, and want greater opportunities to meet people, make friends and expand their professional networks, the survey's executive summary stated. Military families' mobile lifestyle hampers their ability to integrate into the civilian community, it noted, as local support networks have to be rebuilt with each move.

This year's survey also underscored military families' concerns about the impact of service on children. For the first time in the eight-year history of the survey, children's education and impact of deployment on children ranked as top five concerns for both service members and military spouses. Two-thirds of military families said they could not reliably find the childcare they need and 56 percent of respondents indicated DOD does not provide adequate support to help children cope with the unique challenges associated with military life.

The survey also found that military families' concern about time away from family due to deployments had surpassed issues over pay and benefits for the first time, reported [Stars and Stripes](#).



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of the year. No matter how busy, it's a wonderful time to reflect on how blessed I am. I am blessed for each of you who give of your time for the Florida Defense Alliance. Your positive participation provides the inspiration and encouragement to press on to collaborate on building partnerships to address the many opportunities before us to assist our military installations, missions, active service members, retirees, veterans and family members. You will probably never know the impact of your encouragement at FDA, in your communities and with family and friends.

Last week, we had an engaging meeting in Orlando. There are many items on our "to do" list before the next meeting. I want thank those who have emailed me to get more involved on specific areas to move our agenda forward. As we move forward in connecting Florida's military installations and missions to the National Military Strategy, it is important that we enhance our story telling to be compelling and relevant. We cannot rest on past successes. We need to be innovative in our partnerships to leverage and maximize resources and programs. Move beyond BRAC and look at the larger picture on how your community and the state can make a difference in reducing costs, enhancing energy resiliency and addressing encroachment.

In closing, I am grateful for our EFI Military and Defense team who keep us focused on the big picture. I am thankful the great team of volunteers who step up with their time and resources in this partnership and the individuals who are deeply committed to making a difference and many times doing it quietly. You are the beacon of positive energy in making Florida the "Most Friendly Military State" in the nation.

May you and your family have a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving Day Holiday. May this Thanksgiving week provide you peace and encouragement for the future.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg

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2018 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 21st

FDA Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida



QUOTATION OF THE DAY:

“ In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.”

---- Theodore Roosevelt

News from the Bases

Eglin AFB —

Gaetz steering \$30 million to Gulf Test Range

By Jim Thompson | Posted Nov 16, 2017 at 12:01 AM, Updated Nov 16, 2017 at 7:43 AM

<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20171116/gaetz-steering-30-million-to-gulf-test-range>

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Efforts by Congressman Matt Gaetz to ensure the military test range in the Gulf of Mexico remains a viable personnel training and munitions testing area got a boost this week when the U.S. House included his proposed \$30 million investment in military test ranges in the National Defense Authorization Act.

The Gulf Test Range is used by a wide range of military units, including Eglin Air Force Base's 33rd Fighter Wing and 96th Test Wing, and the Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field. The range accommodates high-altitude supersonic air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing and space launches.

The \$30 million placed into the NDAA, which could be available as early as December with congressional approval, “is absolutely essential to ‘BRAC-proof’ the military mission in Northwest Florida,” Gaetz said Wednesday.....

Eglin could be host of MQ-9 Reaper wing

By NEWS HERALD STAFF REPORT

<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20171110/eglin-could-be-host-of-mq-9-reaper-wing>

Eglin Air Force Base is among four Air Force bases that could host a wing of MQ-9 Reapers.

“The Air Force has selected Eglin AFB, Florida; Shaw AFB, South Carolina; Tyndall AFB, Florida; and Vandenberg AFB, California, as candidate locations to potentially host a full MQ-9 wing to include both a launch and recovery element and a mission control element, as well as a maintenance group and operations support personnel,” Tyndall spokesman Don Arias said. “The yet-to-be announced preferred location is to have up to 24 MQ-9 aircraft assigned. The final basing decision will be made by the secretary of the Air Force after the requisite environmental analysis is complete.”

Patrick AFB —

308th welcomes new commander

<http://www.dobbins.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1364038/308th-welcomes-new-commander/>

By Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice, 920th Rescue Wing Public Affairs

The 308th Rescue Squadron, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, welcomed their new commander during a change of command ceremony Nov. 4, at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. Lt. Col. Timothy Hanks comes to the 920th Rescue Wing from Special Operations Command Central, MacDill AFB, Florida, where he worked as the deputy director of emerging threat.

“Lt. Col. Hanks has strong credentials and will bring the experience required to serve as the 308th RQS commander,” said Col. Michael LoForti, 920th Operations Group commander. “He has served as both a pararescue instructor and combat rescue officer for over 24 years in the Air Force.....”



Lt. Col. Timothy Hanks, right, 308th Rescue Squadron commander, takes the unit guidon from Col. Michael LoForti, 920th Operations Group commander, during the squadron change of command ceremony Nov. 4, 2017 at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Lindsey Maurice)

NAS Pensacola —

Blue Angels Welcome New Commanding Officer

North Escambia.com, November 13, 2017

<http://www.northescambia.com/2017/11/blue-angels-welcome-new-commanding-officer>

U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, held the squadron's change of command ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum on Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Nov. 12.

Cmdr. Eric Doyle relieved Capt. Ryan Bernacchi as Blue Angels commanding officer/flight leader and spoke of his optimism for the future and pride in taking command of the prestigious squadron.



“It is an absolute honor to have the opportunity to lead the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron,” said Doyle. “I am humbled to join such a talented group of dedicated professionals as we head into the team’s 72nd air show season.”

Florida Among Top States Competing For Military Retirees

<http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/florida-among-top-states-competing-military-retirees>

WUSF © November 17, 2017

By Bobbie O'Brien

States are competitive whether they're vying to keep their military bases or to attract new corporate headquarters. And now, there's a new tug of war over military retirees who come with pensions, health care and are a proven workforce. Florida, already a retirement haven, is adding veteran specific programs to entice even more military retirees to the Sunshine State.....



Former Green Beret Scott Neil points to the framework for the glass wall that will separate the American Freedom Distillery from the restaurant under construction.

Jacksonville—

Photos from the City of Jacksonville's Week of Valor Job Fair



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Photos from the Mayor's Veterans Day Breakfast and the Veterans Day Parade



Spotlight on: Naval Air Station Pensacola—Cradle of Naval Aviation

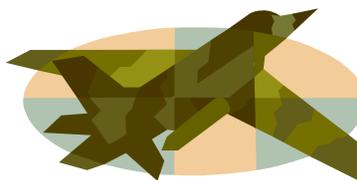


Photos of insignia from plane, hence the rivets.

Naval Air Station Pensacola, situated in Escambia County, is considered the “Cradle of Naval Aviation”. 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 & 23; Center for Information Warfare Training, Corry Station; Navy Medicine Operations Training Center; Naval Recruiting Orientation Unit; Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center, Saufley Field; US Coast Guard Station-Pensacola and the world-renowned Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron. 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. NAS Pensacola attracts in excess of 1 million visitors each year. A continuing attraction for visitors to the Southeast is the National Naval Aviation Museum and the Barrancas National Cemetery. NAS Pensacola employs over 23,000 personnel (>17,000 military and >5,000 civilian) contributing to an economic impact exceeding \$2.2 Billion on the local economy.

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.



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**Commanding Officer
Captain Christopher Martin**

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). Martin 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.



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Entrance to the National Naval Aviation Museum onboard NAS Pensacola



Blue Angels practicing for the Homecoming Airshow in November 2017



Blue Angels practicing precision



Trainees at Naval Air Technical Training Command - Air Traffic Control School





DID YOU KNOW?

20 Interesting Facts About Aircraft Carriers

Here are 20 Interesting Facts About Aircraft Carriers.

1. During WWII, the Japanese navy had submersible aircraft carriers. These carriers were able to carry three aircrafts underwater to their destinations, resurface, launch their planes and quickly dive again before they were discovered.
2. One US aircraft carrier has a more powerful air force than 70% of all countries.
3. French named one of their aircraft carriers after Ferdinand Foch, who interestingly said, "Airplanes are interesting toys, but of no military value".
4. Brazil once tried to sell an aircraft carrier on eBay
5. It costs \$7 million per day to operate the newest class of US Aircraft Carriers, the Gerald R. Ford Class.
6. The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier can operate for 20 years without refueling.
7. During WWII, the US Navy had two freshwater aircraft carriers on the Great Lakes to train its pilots.
8. All the poop generated on the US Navy's newest aircraft carrier will be vaporized by plasma.
9. Besides the USA only 1 other nation has ever built a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, France.
10. China's First Aircraft Carrier was a decommissioned Ukrainian Aircraft Carrier that was sold to a Chinese businessman to be a "Floating Casino" in 1998.

11. The USAF C-130 Hercules can land and take off on an aircraft carrier.
12. While filming Top Gun, Director Tony Scott paid \$25K to turn the aircraft carrier for a five minute shot, so he could have the sun as back-lighting.
13. During WWII, the British had serious plans of making an aircraft carrier primarily out of wood pulp and ice.
14. When in 1960 a Dutch aircraft carrier wanted to dock in Australia, the local seamen's union wouldn't help it dock. The crew solved this problem by tying the planes to the deck with chains and using the aircraft's propeller thrust to dock.
15. In 1970s, the U.S. Air Force had plans to build an aircraft carrier from a Boeing 747, essentially creating a mothership.
16. An aircraft carrier (USS Lexington CV-2), helped power the city of Tacoma, WA for a month in 1929.
17. In 1957, 10 Sydney University students dressed as pirates boarded the aircraft carrier USS Bennington, reached the bridge, and announced over the PA that they had captured the ship.
18. The largest aircraft carrier built in WWII by the Japanese was sunk on its maiden voyage
19. American aircraft carriers can desalinate 400,000 gallons of water per day.
20. The command center structure that rises above the flight deck on an aircraft carrier is called "the island."

Posters of the Day:





NAVAL AIR STRATEGY

HAVE THE BEST PILOTS IN THE WORLD
TOP GUNS IN THE AIR AND
ABLE TO LAND AT NIGHT ON AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER

motifake.com

NOTES FROM THE STAFF

It was great to see everyone at the FDA meeting in Orlando. Great attendance and enthusiasm! FDA held an exceptional 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 Jacksonville. Staff thanks you all for attending the meeting and for the tremendous support you provide on a daily basis to your military bases.

Florida Defense Alliance Leadership

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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



Photos from the FDA Meeting in Orlando, Florida, November 15th



**Ivan Bolden, Chief of Army Partnerships,
Strategic Initiatives Group**



David Huntoon, Kellie Jo Kilberg & Ivan Bolden



**LTG (Retired) David Huntoon,
The Principi Group**



**Dr. Michael Macedonia,
University of Central Florida**



**Lynn Brannon, Building Healthy
Military Communities**





**George Cheros,
The National Center for Simulation**



**Jeff Fanto,
96th Civil Engineer Group, Eglin AFB**



**Julie Dennis,
Department of Economic
Opportunity**



**Rita Smith,
CareerSource Okaloosa Walton**



**Terry McCaffrey,
Florida Defense Support
Task Force**



**Lt Col R. Steven Murray,
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs**



ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Florida Defense Alliance Newsletter

December 20, 2017

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

NEWS

New 2017 Florida Defense Factbook Available – The 2017 Florida Defense FactBook is now available online at: <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Defense-Factbook-2017-1.pdf>. The pamphlet is currently at the printer and will be distributed in January 2018.

Florida Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Meets – The committee met on December 6, 2017 and considered SB 440 by Garcia on Florida Veterans Care Program which authorizes negotiation with the State of Florida and the VA to envision and create a state run system to better support veterans' health care needs; and SB 460 by Gainer on Postsecondary Fee Waivers which eliminates fees for military students using veterans education benefits at Florida colleges and universities. Both bills were forwarded favorably.

Both Florida Senate and House of Representatives Resolve to Support Gulf Ranges – Senator Doug Broxson, Chair of the Florida Defense Support Task Force and Representative Mel Ponder have filed resolutions that outline the importance of the Gulf Range Complex and resolve to maintain the Military Mission Line and the moratorium on Oil Drilling east of the line to ensure military testing and training are not limited by new oil exploration and drilling. Text of these resolutions:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/550/BillText/Filed/PDF>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/319/BillText/Filed/PDF>

Military Friendly Legislation - HB 785 -- House Bill 785 has been filed by Rep. Clay Ingram. This is a military-friendly bill that incorporates many provisions that have been supported by the Florida Defense Alliance and the Florida Defense Support Task Force. The bill can be found at: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName=h0785.docx&DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0785&Session=2018>

NDAA Signed – President Trump signed the 2018 NDAA on December 12, 2017. It is a \$692 billion authorization bill calling for adding more than 20,000 personnel, including 7,500 active-duty soldiers, to the armed forces. The legislation includes \$626.4 billion in the defense base budget, which exceeds the spending cap permitted under the Budget Control Act by nearly \$78 billion, raising the question as to whether all of the plans in the annual policy bill will be funded in the defense spending bill. See more at: <http://mailchi.mp/defensecommunities/president-softens-stance-on-border-wall-funding-253377?e=28cebe069c>.

National Security Strategy (NSS) Released– The strategy was released on Monday and advances a theme of “principled realism” in an “ever-competitive world,” calls for a greater emphasis on the nation’s economic health as a national security issue, along with an “unprecedented” focus on homeland security. The new NSS can be found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905.pdf>

Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Installation Innovation Forum – ADC will be holding their annual Installation Innovation Forum February 12-14, 2018 in San Diego. For more information on this event, see: <https://installationinnovation.org/>

From ADC:

CONGRESS SENDS TWO-WEEK CR TO THE PRESIDENT; THIRD STOPGAP LIKELY NEXT STEP: The House and Senate on Thursday each passed a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open through Dec. 22 and avert a government shutdown after midnight Friday, but the two parties are still no closer to reaching an agreement on topline spending levels needed to craft a year-end spending bill. Following a White House meeting between President Trump and congressional leaders, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) said that no decisions have been made about how to fund the government after Dec. 22 and acknowledged a third CR would be needed, reported CQ.

The new deadline for keeping the government open merely postpones a showdown over a handful of issues, including whether any increase in defense spending above the statutory limit will be matched by an equivalent increase in non-defense spending and whether a fix for “dreamers” — undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children — will be wrapped into a year-end spending deal. Both positions are favored by Democrats.

McMASTER DESCRIBES ELEMENTS OF NEW DEFENSE STRATEGY: National Security Adviser Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster outlined the Trump administration’s new national security strategy over the weekend, describing a tough approach that will address existing and emerging threats across the globe, reported the Wall Street Journal. The security strategy, which will be released in the next few weeks, includes four pillars, he told the audience at the Reagan National Defense Forum — protecting the American people and homeland; advancing American prosperity through growth, trade and expanding the industrial base; “preserving peace through strength” to counter China, Russia, North Korea and Iran; and terrorism in the Middle East.

TEXAS AWARDS \$20M TO SEVEN DEFENSE COMMUNITIES TO BOOST MILITARY VALUE: Seven Texas communities on Wednesday were awarded grants totaling \$20 million by the Texas Military Preparedness Commission for projects supporting active and closed installations. The biggest winner was the city of Corpus Christi, which will receive \$6.0 million for two initiatives. A \$2.7 million project will replace the water supply line for Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, which also houses Corpus Christi Army Depot; the pipeline has not been replaced since the base was commissioned in 1941. Operations at the installation would be jeopardized if the aging, 16-inch pipe were to fail, reported the Corpus Christi Caller-Times. Separately the city was awarded \$3.3 million for upgrades and repairs to perimeter fencing and access control gates for helicopter repair facilities at the depot. Both projects are scheduled to begin next summer with a tentative completion date of Aug. 31, 2019, a required deadline set by the grant program.

BUDGET CUTS, UNCERTAINTY ARE SHRINKING THE DEFENSE BASE, REPORT FINDS: The number of prime contractors serving the Defense Department has dropped steadily since 2011, reducing the size of the marketplace by 17,000 companies, or roughly 20 percent, between 2011 and 2015, according to a new study by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The number of DOD first-tier prime vendors already was declining slowly prior to the defense drawdown that began in fiscal 2011, but the market shock of sequestration and the budget caps accelerated those trends, according to the study’s executive summary released Thursday by the Aerospace Industries Association. The number of prime vendors fell across all in



dustry sectors with the exception of ships and submarines, and space systems.

It is unclear, however, whether the companies that no longer are prime vendors have exited the industrial base entirely or still perform work at the lower tiers, the authors stated. “There is no doubt that a huge portion of the recent turbulence in the defense industrial base has taken place among subcontractors, who are less equipped to tolerate the defense marketplace’s funding uncertainty and often onerous regulatory regime — yet it remains extremely difficult to determine the real impact of these conditions on subcontractors,” the summary says. Read an analysis in Defense News. Executive summary and link to 16 page report at: <https://www.aia-aerospace.org/report/aia-csis-release-executive-summary-of-new-report/>

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

The month of December is always one of reflection for me, to look on the months passed and look forward to what the next year has in store. After reviewing the minutes from our November meeting, I am proud to be a part of this great organization. We’ve come together to look at innovative ways to address the many opportunities to enhance, promote, retain and grow this important sector for our communities and the state of Florida.

In 2018, we will update our Strategic Plan to align with the outcomes of new opportunities and challenges. Florida is home to both water, land and air ranges that we need to protect from any threats to impede the missions of our installations. Lucian Niemeyer, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment, tells Defense News that “rather than emphasizing BRAC’s potential to save \$2 billion annually and unload unneeded infrastructure, the department instead will focus on the opportunity to increase combat effectiveness by realigning missions and re-stationing forces. We believe there are, ultimately, billions out there we could save annually, but just as compelling is the ability to make our forces more lethal by where they train, how they train, where they are co-located,” Niemeyer said. “It’s all about location, location, location.” Florida is the location and we have the assets to research, develop, test and train. We will need to be innovative in our partnerships to add military value and assist with cost reductions. Now we need to step up to ensure our installations are resilient and we have protected our missions against encroachment. This month, the state of Texas awarded \$20 million to seven defense communities to boost military value. This is not the time to sit back; but to step up, look beyond BRAC and envision the installation and missions of the future. There will be an evolution in military installations as Department of Defense adapts to meet new security threats, mission readiness requirements and enhance the resilience of its infrastructure. What are the capabilities to support and grow these missions? Do you know? Have you had that conversation with your installation and missions’ commanders? Have you included your business community and elected officials in these conversations? Be ready to hit the ground running in 2018 as we engage with you to create solutions to our opportunities and challenges.

It is because of support of community partners, like you, that we are able to make a difference for our military and defense communities. Here are warm wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaas and Happy Holidays. Enjoy your time with family and friends. Reach out to the military families and veterans in your community and thank them for their service as well as make sure they are ok.

As we all head off to celebrate the holidays, here’s a good news story. I’m proud to be part of a community that gives back to help an American hero and his deserving family!!



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR (continued)

On December 16, 2017, the national nonprofit organization Building Homes for Heroes® gifted Air Force Captain Nathan Nelson and his family a mortgage free home in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida! The home was built from the ground up by general contractor Randy Wise Homes to meet the needs of Captain Nelson. To date, Building Homes for Heroes® has given homes and new opportunities to more than 100 families like the Nelsons across the nation.

While serving his third tour in Afghanistan, Captain Nelson and his special operations team were under attack by heavy fire when he was exposed to a rocket blast that severely injured the lower half of his body. Captain Nelson was immediately transported to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and after dozens of surgeries and ongoing rehabilitation; he has no movement below his waist and limited use of his hands.

Building Homes for Heroes® builds and gifts mortgage-free homes, and completes home modifications, for veterans and their families, and provides further services along their road to recovery to help them live a promising and fulfilling life ahead. The organization is strongly committed to rebuilding lives and supporting the brave men and women who were injured while serving the country after September 11, 2001, during the time of the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan.

-- Kellie Jo Kilberg



2018 FDA CALENDAR:

Wednesday, March 21st

FDA Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida

QUOTATIONS OF THE DAY:

“The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.”

-- Ray Kroc

“Leaders get out in front and stay there by raising the standards by which they judge themselves - and by which they are willing to be judged.”

-- Frederick W. Smith

“You owe it to your men to require standards which are for their benefit even though they may not be popular at the moment.”

-- GEN Bruce Clarke



Happy
Holidays



News from the Bases

Jacksonville—

The Military Affairs and Veterans Department worked with NAS Jacksonville to honor 8 Medics and Corpsmen at the Jacksonville Jaguars Military Appreciation Game. These individuals had the opportunity to participate in on-field activities and attend the game with their family. MAVD partnered with the Jacksonville Jaguars to ensure that each person received VIP treatment, including lunch before the game and a special visit from Executive Vice President of the Jaguars, Tom Coughlin.



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Jacksonville was recently designated as a Hidden Heroes City. The Hidden Heroes Program, part of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation's Hidden Heroes Campaign, is a growing network of over 100 cities committed to better serving military and veteran caregivers through local services and support. There are over 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers or "hidden heroes" in our country. This includes spouses, siblings, parents, family members and friends caring for wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans. By becoming a Hidden Heroes City, Jacksonville is committed to identifying local military caregivers, recognizing their vital role in the community, and connecting them to a supportive community of their peers. This designation is the important first step to enhancing community resources that support our hidden heroes. Senior Veterans Outreach Coordinator, Ken Johnson, presented Jacksonville's Hidden Heroes City declaration during the *Caring for the Military/Veteran Caregiver Conference* presented by the Community Hospice and Palliative Care. Jacksonville's designation as a hidden heroes city will help raise awareness about the issues military caregivers face and bring critical resources to them. This designation makes Jacksonville a national leader for its commitment to hidden heroes. Pictures are below. (Photo Credit: becphotography)



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The City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department hosted the annual Mayor's Veterans Day Parade Breakfast sponsored by Wounded Warrior Project on Veterans Day. The breakfast was held at WJCT and honored our area's Oldest Veterans. The Jacksonville Children's Chorus – Concert and Touring Choir sang "United We Stand – An American Medley" to honor the service and dedication of our local Military and Veteran community.

Link to the COJ's Veterans Day Breakfast/Parade Pictures: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofjax/albums/72157688335167531>

In observance of the 75th Anniversary of Naval Station Mayport and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Mayor Lenny Curry visited the Jacksonville Vets Weekly Breakfast to show his support and appreciation. During the event, 100-year-old Chief Petty Officer Ellis Pope was recognized for his years of military service. Pope served during WWII and was eventually assigned to NAS Jacksonville in 1945 to establish the Separation Center for enlisted personnel. Link to Mayor's proclamation: [http://www.coj.net/mayor/docs/proclamations/2017/december-2017/10182017-naval-station-mayport-75th-anniversary-\(d.aspx](http://www.coj.net/mayor/docs/proclamations/2017/december-2017/10182017-naval-station-mayport-75th-anniversary-(d.aspx)



Naval Station Mayport marks 75th anniversary

By: Stephanie Brown

December 7, 2017

<http://www.wokv.com/news/local/naval-station-mayport-marks-75th-anniversary/r1sRwz6JpuacKTkFqeT4/>



Photo Credit: Stephanie Brown

Jacksonville, FL - Naval Station Mayport is on the rise, 75 years after it was first established in Jacksonville.

"Now, we're on the positive glideslope again. In the next two to three years, Mayport is going to grow and have a very, very big presence of brand new Navy warships, more sailors, more families, and be back to what I consider the good old days," says US 4th Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Sean Buck.

WOKV was on the USS Milwaukee Thursday to mark the base's anniversary. This ship is one of two new Littoral

Combat Ships that have already come to Mayport, with a third expected next month and more after that. "We're seeing a lot more technologically advanced warships," says

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USS Milwaukee Commanding Officer Commander Ken Lieberman, who also served at Mayport in 2005-06.

Space Coast —

Port Canaveral recommends abandoning cargo rail plan

By Dave Berman, FLORIDA TODAY, Published 6:12 p.m. ET Dec. 5, 2017

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/2017/12/05/port-canaveral-recommends-abandoning-cargo-rail-plan/924974001/>

Port Canaveral plans to withdraw a proposal for a cargo rail route from the port to the mainland. Port Canaveral Chief Executive Officer John Murray on Wednesday will ask port commissioners to vote to approve the withdrawal of the proposal, which now is pending before the federal Surface Transportation Board.

Murray said the port's strategic master plan now being developed "identifies no current or projected economic data that presents a compelling case for the port to pursue rail." The rail plan has been a source of controversy in the community. An early proposal of the plan included a route over the Banana River, which many local residents opposed because of environmental concerns. A later, less controversial port proposal called for a route through Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Now, though, Murray is recommending that the port drop the rail idea altogether.

"The port's rail proposal has been under review by the Surface Transportation Board for some time," Murray said. "As we're approaching the final review stage of our strategic master plan, the Surface Transportation Board has asked the port to clarify its time frame for rail development at the port, currently shown in the year 2040 in the proposed master plan."

Murray noted that the master plan has been in development for nearly two years.

"It's a structured and realistic vision for the port and our future land use," Murray said. "The plan's framework is rooted in a comprehensive analysis of market data and projections for all of our business lines. This plan is an important blueprint for the port's future, projecting the best use for our resources."

Team Orlando —

The 2017 Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation, and Education Conference

From Orange County Commissioner Bryan Nelson, December 7, 2017

<http://theapopkavoice.com/a-conference-to-harness-new-technologies-comes-to-orlando/>

Last week, Orlando hosted the 2017 Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation, and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) at the Orange County Convention Center. Considered to be the world's largest Modeling, Simulation, and Training (MS&T) event, this conference has celebrated over 5 decades



of excellence in its program. This year's program consisted of approximately 21 special events, over 20 highlighted activities, and over 140 technical papers, tutorials, and workshops.

The program's theme this year was "Harnessing new technologies to win in a complex world," where it aimed to bring the latest technologies and concepts to the training community; the value of big data and big data analytics to improve human performance was

the specific focus for the program this year. Bringing background data into the feedback for services can be used to hone skills in real time, provide an enhanced after-action review, and track skills and accomplishments over the lifetime of a warrior or first responder. In addition, big data can also provide digital analysis of best-of-breed training methods, and allow the services to reduce the time to train while contemporaneously improving outcomes.

The conference began on Monday, November 27 with a congressional event highlighting the re-shaped Modeling and Simulation Congressional Caucus led by Congresspersons Representatives Bobby Scott, Stephanie Murphy, Scott Taylor, and John Rutherford. Additionally, there was an opening session with General David Perkins, Commanding General of the Army Training and Doctrine Command and Don Ariel from Raydon Corporation, a significant influence in science-based virtual reality training for soldiers. Furthermore, on Wednesday, November 29, a special event featuring Admiral Bill Moran, the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, took place in which Admiral Moran gave a keynote and then participated in a panel discussion with key Naval senior leaders from the training and acquisition communities.....



Eglin AFB —

Testing in Cyberspace

By Jasmine Porterfield, Team Eglin Public Affairs / Published December 11, 2017

<http://www.eglin.af.mil/News/Article/1392279/testing-in-cyberspace/>

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- The 96th Cyberspace Test Group and its new commander, Col. Bryan Choi, made history as the Air Force's first group of its kind during a ceremony here Dec. 4.



The group serves as the lead organization for developmental testing of command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems; cybersecurity operations; and electronic warfare.

“While the group may be new, we are doing the same types of things we’ve always done, and done well,” said Choi. “We’ve established a more robust foundation to address current and future cyber and information dominance challenges.”

The 96th CTG formed from the 46th Test Squadron here and other test units at six separate geographic locations throughout the U.S. It will also include three subordinate squadrons: the 45th Test Squadron, 46th Test Squadron and the 47th Cyberspace Test Squadron.....



Col. Bryan Choi, new 96th Cyberspace Test Group commander, speaks to the crowd during his new group's activation ceremony Dec. 4 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. The CTG is the eighth group under the 96th Test Wing. (U.S. Air Force photo/Ilka Cole)



Spotlight on: Eglin Air Force Base

Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) spans 724 square miles of land range and is located in Okaloosa County in Northwest Florida.

Spanning multiple wars, Eglin has played a prominent role in airpower history. In 1931, personnel of the Army Air Corps Tactical School (Maxwell Field, Alabama) looking for a site for a bombing and gunnery range, saw the potential of the sparsely populated forested areas surrounding Valparaiso, Florida, and the vast expanse of the adjacent Gulf of Mexico. Eglin AFB was established in 1935 as the Valparaiso Bombing and Gunnery Base. It is named in honor of [Lieutenant Colonel Frederick I. Eglin \(1891–1937\)](#), who was killed in a crash of his [Northrop A-17](#) pursuit aircraft on a flight from [Langley](#) to [Maxwell Field, Alabama](#).



Both as a reaction to the Soviet atomic explosion in 1949 and in recognition that research and development had lagged in the years of lower priority to operational concerns, the Air Force, in early 1950, established the Air Research and Development Command (later Air Force Systems Command). The following year, the Air Research and Development Command established the Air Force Armament Center at Eglin, which, for the first time, brought development and testing together. On 1 December 1957, the Air Force combined the Air Proving Ground Command and the Air Force Armament Center to form the Air Proving Ground Center. The Center built the highly-instrumented Eglin Gulf Test Range and for the next few years, served as a major missile test center for weapons such as the BOMARC, Matador, GAM-72 "Quail," and GAM-77 "Hound Dog."

Eglin Air Force Base is the largest installation in the Department of Defense and houses ten Fields to include Hurlburt Field; Field Nine. Hurlburt Field accommodates the 1st Special Operations Wing (1 SOW), Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), an Air Force major command, and a number of associate units.

Eglin is an [Air Force Materiel Command](#) (AFMC) base serving as the focal point for all Air Force armaments. Eglin is responsible for the development, acquisition, testing, and sustainment of all air-delivered non-nuclear weapons. The base plans, directs and conducts test and evaluation of U.S. and allied air armament, navigation and guidance systems, and command and control systems.



Major units include the 96th Test Wing, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center's Armament Directorate, 33rd Fighter Wing, 53rd Wing, 919th Special Operations Wing, the Air Force Research Laboratory Munitions Directorate, Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School, the 6th Ranger Training Battalion, and 7th Special Forces Group. Severe weather testing of aircraft and other equipment is carried out at the [McKinley Climatic Laboratory](#).

The host unit at Eglin is the [96th Test Wing](#); the Air Forces' largest wing housing all of Eglin's test and support functions. The 96 TW is the test and evaluation center for Air Force air-delivered weapons, navigation and guidance systems, Command and Control systems, and Air Force Special Operations Command systems.

The 96th TW provides expert evaluation and validation of the performance of systems throughout the design, development, acquisition, and sustainment process to ensure the warfighter has technologically superior, reliable, maintainable, sustainable and safe systems. The 96th TW performs developmental test and evaluation across the complete system life cycle for a wide variety of customers including: Air Force Systems Program Offices, the Air Force Research Laboratory, logistics and product centers; major commands; other DoD services and U.S. government agencies (Department of Transportation, NASA, etc.); foreign military sales; and private industry.

Additionally the wing commander serves as the installation commander, supporting Team Eglin with traditional military services as well as all the services of a small city, to include civil engineering, personnel, logistics, communications, computer, medical, security, and all other host services. Critical to the success of Eglin's mission, the 96th TW provides a myriad of base operating support functions like material resources, mobility requirements, and meeting the needs of Eglin personnel.



Brig. Gen. Evan C. Dertien
Commander, 96th Test Wing,
Air Force Materiel Command,
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

Brig. Gen. Evan C. Dertien is the Commander, 96th Test Wing, Air Force Materiel Command, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The 96th Test Wing also supports seven tenant wings and wing equivalent units to include the 33rd Fighter Wing (F-35 Joint Strike Fighter), the Army's 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Joint Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Center and 37 other associate units including the Army's 6th Ranger Training Battalion and the Air Force's 20th Space Control Squadron. As commander, he interacts with local officials across a three-county, 11 city region with a military economic impact of \$2.7 billion annually.

General Dertien served as an operational F-15 pilot and completed three combat deployments. He then served as an F-15 RTU instructor pilot and was selected to attend USAF Test Pilot School. He was also assigned as an initial cadre instructor pilot for the first operational F-22 unit at Langley AFB, Virginia. General Dertien served as a Flight Test Squadron Commander, Vice Wing Commander, Test Wing Commander and Vice Center Commander.

General Dertien is a command pilot with over 3,000 flying hours in a variety of aircraft.

F-35



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DID YOU KNOW?

F-35

The **Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II** is a family of single-seat, single-engine, all-weather stealth multi-role fighters. The fifth-generation combat aircraft is designed to perform ground attack and air superiority missions. It has three main models: the F-35A conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) variant, the F-35B short take-off and vertical-landing (STOVL) variant, and the F-35C carrier-based Catapult Assisted Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (CATOBAR) variant. On 31 July 2015, the United States Marines declared ready for deployment the first squadron of F-35B fighters after intensive testing. On 2 August 2016, the U.S. Air Force declared its first squadron of F-35A fighters combat-ready.



The F-35 descends from the X-35, the winning design of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) program. An aerospace industry team led by Lockheed Martin designed and manufactures it. Other major F-35 industry partners include Northrop Grumman, Pratt & Whitney and BAE Systems. The F-35 first flew on 15 December 2006. The United States plans to buy 2,663 aircraft. Its variants are to provide the bulk of the crewed tactical airpower of the U.S. Air Force, Navy and the Marine Corps over the coming decades. Deliveries of the F-35 for the U.S. military are scheduled until 2037-with a projected service life up to 2070.

The program is the most expensive military weapons system in history, and has been much criticized inside and outside government, in the U.S. and in allied countries.

Some improvements over current-generation fighter aircraft are:

- Durable, low-maintenance stealth technology, using structural fiber mat instead of the high-maintenance coatings of legacy stealth platforms;
- Integrated avionics and sensor fusion that combine information from off- and on-board sensors to increase the pilot's situational awareness and improve target identification and weapon delivery, and to relay information quickly to other command and control (C2) nodes.
- High speed data networking including IEEE 1394b and Fibre Channel. (Fibre Channel is also used on Boeing's Super Hornet.)
- The Autonomic Logistics Global Sustainment (ALGS), Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS), and Computerized maintenance management system (CMMS) are to help ensure aircraft uptime with minimal maintenance manpower.[37] The Pentagon has moved to open up the competitive bidding by other companies. This was after Lockheed Martin stated that instead of costing twenty percent less than the F-16 per flight hour, the F-35 would actually cost twelve percent more. Though the ALGS is intended to reduce maintenance costs, the company disagrees with including the cost of this system in the aircraft ownership calculations. The USMC have implemented a workaround for a cyber vulnerability in the system.[41] The ALIS system currently requires a shipping container load of servers to run, but Lockheed is working on a more portable version to support the Marines' expeditionary operations.
- Electro-hydrostatic actuators run by a power-by-wire flight-control system.
- A modern and updated flight simulator, which may be used for a greater fraction of pilot training in order to reduce the costly flight hours of the actual aircraft.
- Lightweight, powerful Lithium-ion batteries to provide power to run the control surfaces in an emergency.



Posters of the Day:



Editor's Note – Final Score of 2017 Game: Army 14 Navy 13



TRIUMPH

When there is no peril in the fight there is no glory in the triumph. - Pierre Corneille

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NOTES FROM THE STAFF

FDA had a great year in 2017 and is looking forward to an even greater year in 2018! 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. Staff wishes all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

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

