

Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force

Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #90 on Thursday, January 21, 2021

The Florida Defense Support Task Force held a publicly noticed meeting at the Holiday Inn Panama City at 9:45 AM CST – 12:18 PM CST. For Agenda: See Page 3

Task Force Members Present:

Representative Thad Altman, Chairman
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF, (Ret)
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.

Task Force Members Present via ZOOM:

Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret)
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret)
Representative Wyman Duggan
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret)
Senator Tom Wright

Task Force Members Absent:

Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida

Speakers Present:

Chris Moore, Bay Defense Alliance
Dr. Peter Adair, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City via ZOOM
LTC Jason Hunt, FLNG, on behalf of MG James Eifert, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida via ZOOM
Colonel Greg Moseley, Tyndall AFB via ZOOM
Major Jordan Criss, Tyndall AFB via ZOOM
Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Chair via ZOOM

Others Present in Person:

Matt Chesnut, Space Florida
Jim Damato, Simple Sense
Debi Graham, Greater Pensacola Chamber/West Florida Defense Alliance
Tim Jones, FDA Vice Chair
Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance
Sal Nodjomian, Matrix Design Group
Carol Roberts, Bay County Chamber of Commerce
Andrew Rowell, Bay County Chamber of Commerce/MAC
David Tubridy, Bay Defense Alliance
Craig Williams, Bay Defense Alliance/Office of Congressman Neal Dunn

Others Present via ZOOM:

Katie Allan, Bay Defense Alliance
Jim Browne, Bay Defense Alliance
Reessa Buckels, NSA Panama City
Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Ken Crowe, Florida State University

Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast
Kathleen Ferguson, The Roosevelt Group
Brian Files, Jacksonville, Florida
Teri Gabreski, Bay Defense Alliance
Brooke Gilbert, Bay Defense Alliance
Sarah Hayenga, Homestead Air Reserve Base
Trudy McCarthy, EDC of the Space Coast
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance/FDA Mission Sustainment working Group Chair
Amy Phillips, Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
Sheila Poland, EDC of the Space Coast
Kay Rasmussen, Okaloosa EDC/Tri-County Defense Support Initiative/Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative
Matt Schellhorn, Navy Region Southeast
John Skaggs, NSA Panama City
Lindsey Swindle, Office of Senator Tom Wright
Teri Wanamaker, FDA Family Support Working Group Chair
The Florida Channel

Staff Present:

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI)
Ray Collins, Executive Director, FDSTF
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant/Grants Manager, Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI)



**Florida Defense Support Task Force – Meeting #90
Panama City / Zoom Meeting
AGENDA for January 21, 2021**

ZOOM MEETING ID: 850 298 6640
PASSCODE: Jan@21
OR
DIAL IN #: (646) 558 8656
PASSCODE: 874013

KEY:
(I) = Information
(D) = Discussion
(A) = Action

All Times are listed in Central Standard Time (CST)

- 8:00 – 9:00 CLOSED SESSION..... Chairman **(D)**

- 9:30 – 9:35 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 9:35 – 9:45 Local Community Welcome..... Chris Moore **(I)**
- 9:45 – 9:55 NSWC Panama City Division..... CAPT Back **(I)**
- 9:55 – 10:05 Gulf Coast Tech Bridge Program..... Holly Gardner **(I)**

- 10:05 – 10:15 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I) / (D)**
 - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
 - TF Grants and Contracts Status Michelle Griggs **(I)**

- 10:15 – 12:05 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
 - 10:15 – 10:30 Task Force Member Reports
 - 10:30 – 10:40 Tyndall AFB Update..... Col. Peters / Maj. Criss **(I)**
 - 10:40 – 11:10 Task Force Member Reports (*continued*)
 - 11:10 – 11:20 Florida Defense Alliance Update..... Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
 - 11:20 – 11:30 Washington Office Update..... Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
 - 11:30 – 11:45 Florida Programs to Mitigate Encroachment..... Ray Collins **(I) / (D)**
 - 11:45 – 11:55 Presentation of Draft 2021 Progress Report and Work Plan... Ray Collins **(A) / (D)**
 - 11:55 – 12:05 Mil & Def Update..... Beth Medina **(I)**

- 12:05 – 12:15 Public Comment..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

February 18, 2021	Zoom Meeting/Conf Call	March 18, 2021	Tallahassee (<i>Session</i>)
April 15, 2021	Zoom Meeting/Conf Call (<i>Session</i>)	May 20, 2021	Tallahassee FDA <i>Session</i>)
June 2021	NO MEETING		

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman began the meeting at 9:45 AM CST.

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome, Guest Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman welcomed attendees and guests. He thanked the Bay Defense Alliance for hosting the social event the night prior. He asked the TF members and guests both in-person and on ZOOM to introduce themselves, then lead the TF and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. He reminded the TF that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

Local Community Welcome

Chris Moore, Bay Defense Alliance, welcomed the TF and guests to Bay County, the TF's first in-person meeting since early 2020.

Dr. Peter Adair, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City, briefed a command overview to include:

- Naval research and development establishment and who comprises their workforce across the country
- Enduring missions to include U.S. Navy Mine Countermeasures Station, circa 1949 and Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division, circa 2015
- Their vision, mission and capabilities; and FY 2019 – 2023 Strategic Campaign Plan
- What makes them unique:
 - Full Spectrum Mine Warfare to include Tactics
 - Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare
 - Ship to Shore Maneuver to include Air Cushion Vehicles
 - Full Spectrum Diving and Life Support Systems
 - Special Warfare Maritime Mobility
 - Littoral Mission Systems Integration to include UxS
 - Joint Gulf Test Range: open ocean, bays, estuaries, rivers, & harbors
- Information on their employees: they celebrate that their diverse workforce comes from all over the nation, with a wide variety of backgrounds and education
- Their science and technology:
 - Unmanned Systems, Autonomy & Dynamics
 - Magnetism, Optics & Data Fusion
 - Marine Corp S&T
 - Advanced Mining Technologies
 - Physical Acoustics, Sensors & Processing
 - Biotechnology
 - Automatic Target Recognition (ATR)
- Focus of Unmanned Systems Work:
 - Systems Engineering/Analysis to Meet Mission Requirements
 - Common Control (UUVs, USVs, UGVs, UAVs)
 - Autonomy, Sensor Processing, and Automated
 - Target Recognition Algorithms
 - Mission Package Development
 - Mission Planning & Assessment Framework
 - Total System Performance Prediction,
 - Optimization, and Simulation
 - System Test and Evaluation
 - Platform Integration
 - Launch and Recovery
 - System Certification

He also briefed on the Gulf Coast Tech Bridge, Overview and Technical Focus Areas which included:

- Purpose, background, technical focus areas and collaborations
- Tech Bridge Concept: NSWC PCD is partnering with CNMOC and NRL South for a NavalX Tech Bridge along the Gulf Coast
- Coastal Sciences and Technology research areas of interest
- Assured maritime access research areas of interest
- Operational meteorology and oceanography research areas of interest
- Holly Gardner, Director; Dr. Joseph Calantoni, Deputy Director; CAPT Micah Weltmer, CNMOC Gulf Coast Tech Bridge Lead

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

Approval of Minutes

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked if any corrections are needed for the November 19, 2020 minutes. Noting none, a motion to accept these minutes was made by **Major General Richard Haddad**, seconded by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, all were in favor and the November 19, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.*

Task Force Grants and Contracts Status

Michelle Griggs reported grantees were given an extension on the due dates of their quarterly reports due to the holidays.

Two grantees are requesting extensions on which the TF will need to approve today:

DTF Grant #14-05, Economic Development Alliance of Bay County (BayEDA), is requesting an extension until December 31, 2021.

DTF Grant #19-101, Polk County, is requesting an extension until January 31, 2022.

Staff executed a contract with Matrix Design Group in mid-December 2020 to compile an inventory of Florida's Defense Contractors to assist DEO with their Aerospace and Defense Portal.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to extend grants DTF #14-05, Bay County, to December 31, 2021 and DTF #19-101, Polk County, to January 31, 2022. A motion to extend these close dates was made by **Major General Richard Haddad**, seconded by **Colonel Jim Heald**, all were in favor and the grant extensions were approved.*

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

Task Force Member Reports

Mr. Tom Neubauer reported that Bay County anticipates the release of the record of decision on funding to Tyndall AFB, they anticipate in early February. It's currently going through a process and they are waiting for the dollars to flow into Tyndall to fund the 40 MILCON projects and 120 buildings to be constructed over the next 5 to 7 years.

Tyndall AFB has a Compatible Use Plan (CUP) underway. It was presented last week to their County Commission and a draft is available for public view at www.tyndalljflus.com. Sixty-five (65) recommendations are included in the study, one being that the county forms a committee to aid in the alignment of their communities with the new Base of the Future construction. These recommendations will be decided on over the next 30 days.

Major General Richard Haddad briefed at SOCOM, the previous Acting Secretary of Defense, Christopher Miller, was only at the Pentagon for one week when he announced major changes to military posture and structure around the globe amid a major White House shakeup of civilian leadership. Standing in front of “Bronze Bruce,” a memorial to Army Special Forces at Fort Bragg, Acting Secretary Miller signed a memo authorizing the Pentagon’s Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict Office to begin reporting directly to the Defense Secretary, instead of reporting to the policy undersecretary. Such a move was permitted in the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Note that the NDAA did not mandate the change, it allowed it.

U.S. Special Operations Command, the military’s elite joint force of fighters that operates globally, will be the test bed for new artificial intelligence applications in warfare. Army General Richard Clarke said that SOCOM will be the first in the Department of Defense (DoD) to be fully AI-enabled, using the emerging technology on everything from maintenance to fighting. SOCOM has special acquisition and technology authorities that allow it to purchase and test technology more than other parts of the military, and it operates outside traditional theaters of war, giving it more testing grounds in real-life operations. Overall, SOCOM is interested in working on new technology that can help leaders make decisions faster and win in the information environment. The command has already been the first adopter of some forms of AI, such as image detection developed through Project Maven. Secretary Clarke predicted SOCOM will move to testing more communications and command-and-control technology as the military works to develop new AI-powered network-of-network systems.

AFSOC

November 27, 2020 U.S. Air Force Special Tactics operators from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron at Hurlburt Field responded to a request for humanitarian assistance following the devastation of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America. Within hours of formal notification, the team deployed in support of Joint Task Force Bravo and U.S. Southern Command, and based their operations out of Soto, Cano Air Base, Honduras.

Air Force Special Operations Command’s Inspector General team conducted its first no-notice inspection on November 30th through December 2nd, 2020 on the 1st Special Operations Wing. This was IG’s first no-notice inspection since 2013. In June 2020, U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General Jim Slife, Commander of AFSOC, directed AFSOC IG to begin planning no-notice inspections. The focus areas were on task evaluation, trending risk areas and training validation, performance evaluations and emphasis on compliance and identification of additional staff support requirements.

Staff Sergeant Alexey Germanovich, 26th Special Tactics Squadron combat controller, was awarded the Air Force Cross during a medal ceremony on December 10, 2020 at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett presented the Air Force Cross to Germanovich for his actions during a fierce firefight in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan on April 8, 2017. Germanovich’s efforts were credited with saving over 150 friendly forces and destroying eleven separate fighting positions.

U.S. Air Force Colonel Shelley Woodworth, formerly Colonel Rodriguez, retired after almost twenty-nine (29) years of dedicated service to the United States Air Force and Air Force Special Operations Command on November 23, 2020. Woodworth was the first female pilot in AFSOC, flying the MC-130P/J Combat Shadow and went on to a distinguished career as a command pilot with over 3,500 flying hour, serving in operations PROVIDE COMFORT, EAGLEGUARD, NORTHERN WATCH, ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING FREEDOM and OSYSSEY DAWN.

AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE:

January 11, 2021 to February 12, 2021: The Range will be conducting one of its semi-annual Range Clearance/Maintenance. Moody AFB Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel will be assisting Range staff in clearing ordnance residue from the weapons impact ranges to allow for target maintenance. Many ranges must close during range clearance/maintenance however due to its size, Avon Park is capable of leaving one weapons impact range open while doing clearance/maintenance on the other.

Additionally, at the Deployed Unit Complex (DUC) at MacDill AFB, they will be hosting multiple deployments throughout the spring to include:

- February 1st through 12th, 2021: 19th SOS AC-130 Gunships from Hurlburt Field

- February 22nd through 26th, 2021: Moody AFB Agile Combat Employment (ACE) exercise MOSAIC TIGER involving A-10s, F-15Es, H-60s, and MC-130s. This exercise will include operations at Avon Park AFR and Patrick AFB.
- March 1st through 17th, 2021: 305 RQS HH-60s from Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona
- March 15th through April 2nd, 2021: VMFAT-501 Marine F-35s from MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina

Buck MacLaughlin expresses his concern regarding SB 62 proposed by Senator Bradley which is scheduled to be considered by the Community Affairs Committee on Tuesday, January 26th. The Bill proposes to revise a requirement for the Executive Office of the Governor to review and consider certain reports, data, and analyses relating to the revision of the state comprehensive plan; eliminating the advisory role of regional planning councils in state comprehensive plan preparation and revision; repealing provisions relating to the Florida Regional Planning Council Act; authorizing local governments to recommend areas of critical state concern to the state land planning agency, etc.

He is concerned that this Bill will significantly impact the Regional Planning Councils, to include the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC). CFRPC has been a vital partner of Avon Park Air Force Range since at least 2006 with the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS); multiple JLUS implementation grants/efforts; they host the APAFR Sentinel Landscape Coordinator position; and most recently the Compatible Use Plan (CUP) grant which is the update/replacement of the JLUS. Without the close partnership with the CFRPC, Avon Park's REPI program would not have been nearly successful as it has been and he firmly believes, they would have not received the Sentinel Landscape designation, and likely would have had more encroachment similar to the Resort at Canopy Oaks (Triple Canopy). They are in the process of preparing a letter to submit to the Community Affairs Committee informing them of all the benefits that Avon Park AFR has received through partnering with CFRPC.

He strongly recommends that the TF look at this Bill and the potential for impact to military installations across the state.

Senator Tom Wright discussed that the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security, the Committee he Chairs, met last week in Tallahassee. Major General James Hartsell from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs provided an update from the FDVA. Senator Wright is working to ensure that MG Hartsell becomes FDVA's next Executive Director as he is a great champion for both veterans and active-duty military.

He continues to work with **MG James Eifert** on the 70-75-acre parcel of land in the Miami-Dade area for the construction of a new National Guard facility.

His committee, as well as the Space Caucus, is working every angle to secure Florida as the location for auxiliary types of organizations coming as a result of the U.S. Space Force.

Colonel Jim Heald reported that Brigadier General Scott Cain, Base Commander for Eglin AFB, directed the base go back to Health Condition Charlie COVID-19 restrictions due to the continues positive increases in the community.

BG Cain's priorities remain:

- Protection of the Gulf Range is Critical
 - Moratorium east of Military Mission Line needs to be made permanent in law.
 - Current range support aircraft (RSA) nearing end of service life and suffer from low availability rates and parts obsolescence. Over water test support and sea surveillance are currently provided by 2 E-9 aircraft that are failing; not configured to meet full requirements of current and future test programs
 - Range modernization needed to meet 21st century weapon test requirements; Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (SRM)/Improvement & Modernization (I&M) funding insufficient compared to what is needed

- Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR) Electronic Warfare threats are outdated; must be modernized to meet near-term operationally relevant test environment
- Fully instrumented EGTTR is critical to next generation weapons testing
- Operations in cyber domain increasing across all technology areas drives increased cyber test requirements.
 - Improvements to cyber infrastructure underway (Avionics Cyber Range), additional investments required to fully realize cyber domain and C4ISR testing
 - Increasing number of programs requiring special access security drives need for advanced multi-level security environments
 - Must increase manpower, controlled facilities, and secure data transmission/storage

Previously reported information about Adversary Air contracts coming to NW Florida. The Environmental Impact analysis was kicked off on 7 Jan to bring ADAIR to the panhandle. The AF is currently assessing three locations: Eglin main, Bob Sikes (Crestview Airport) and NWF Beaches Airport (Panama City).

Eglin Combined DT/OT Test Force will be receiving F-15EX aircraft, approximately 5-6 x FY21 and 5-6 x FY23. Roll out for the first F-15EX to Eglin is scheduled for 5 April 21 (previously reported as 2nd Quarter).

The second squadron of F-35 training aircraft for the 33rd Wing will begin arriving in Oct 21, phased through Nov 22. This was previously reported as contingent upon the EIS being completed and the F-22/T-38s leaving Eglin.

The new Spectrum Warfare Wing which is growing out of the 53rd Wing will be standing-up in FY21.

And finally, some good news/fun activities: Eglin Air Force Base's 780th Test Squadron and the 40th Flight Test Squadron executed the Air Force's first Golden Horde Vanguard program test Dec. 15. This is a precursor to swarming weapons being developed.

- During the weapons' flight test, a 40th FLTS F-16 carried four Collaborative Small Diameter Bombs (CSDBs) and released two of them. The bombs communicated between themselves to locate, self-assign and track two ground targets.
- CSDBs are Small Diameter Bomb I weapons modified to include a collaborative autonomous payload. The payload consists of technologies allowing the weapons to share data, interact, and execute coordinated actions or behaviors. The Air Force Research Laboratory and Scientific Applications and Research Associates developed the technologies responsible for the weapon.

Captain Keith Hoskins first thanked **Senator Tom Wright** for his support for Space Command and STAR Command and continuing to push forward to potentially bring a command to the state of Florida. Northwest Florida has a high interest in aligning some of their future missions and opportunities with the STAR Command basing.

New leadership at NAS Whiting Field as outgoing commanding officer Captain Paul Bowdich has been replaced by Captain Paul Flores for a three-year tour.

Rear Admiral Stan Bozin congratulated NAS Whiting Field as the FY21 Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Installation Excellence Award (IEA) winner (Small Category). It is also worth noting that NAS Jacksonville finished second in the CNIC IEA Large Category for the third consecutive year.

NS Mayport:

Health Protection Condition Charlie remains in place. The installation has started administering COVID vaccines to essential personnel starting with Security, Fire, Air Operations, Medical, Air Operations and Child Care on a voluntary basis only.

Patrol Craft (PC) decommissionings: local media coverage, photo support and social media promotion

13 Jan – USS Shamal (PC 13) Ceremony

14 Jan – USS Zephyr (PC 8) Ceremony

15 Jan – USS Tornado (PC 14) Ceremony

Proposed 18-19 FEB – Chief of Naval Operations visit to NAVSTA Mayport.

NAS Jacksonville:

Health Protection Condition Charlie remains in place. The installation has started administering COVID vaccines to essential personnel starting with Security, Fire Air Operations, Medial, Air Operations and Child Care on a voluntary basis only.

On December 17th, the NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer held a telecon briefing with Mr. Charles Truxal, military legislative assistant for Senator Marco Rubio. Mr. Truxal was presented with an overview of NAS Jacksonville as well as a discussion on various MILCON projects.

REPI Challenge

The Department of Defense's (DOD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program has launched the 2021 REPI Challenge process, focusing on projects that support key capabilities in the National Defense Strategy. NAS Jacksonville's CPLO has entered a partnership agreement with NFLT to pursue an easement on property near Pinecastle Range Complex. The REPI Challenge awards funds on an annual basis to one or more projects that provide innovative approaches to protecting the military mission. This annual competition seeks to cultivate projects that conserve land at a greater scale, thereby helping the REPI Program meet its goals. Since the initiation of the REPI Challenge in 2012, more than \$73.3 million in REPI Program funds have been leveraged with over \$300.1 million in partner contributions to protect over 532,000 acres of working lands, habitat and open spaces at 22 locations nationwide.

DOD's REPI Program is a key tool for combating encroachment that can limit or restrict military training, testing, and operations. The REPI Program facilitates cost-sharing partnerships between the Military Departments, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and private conservation organizations to help relieve or avoid land use conflicts near military installations and address regulatory restrictions that inhibit military activities.

Citadel Shield is February 1st through 5th/Solid Curtain is February 8th through 12th

Like previous years, the purpose of Exercise Citadel Shield/Solid Curtain is to ensure that the Navy is ready to respond to changing and dynamic threats at all times. For Citadel Shield / Solid Curtain 2021 additional COVID 19 precautions have been added to protect our security forces, staff and volunteers. It is their responsibility to ensure the safety of our personnel, equipment and facilities, as well as to partner with law enforcement to assist in protecting our installations. This exercise is of vital importance to our ability to execute the Navy's mission in support of Homeland Defense and to protect all our people, equipment and facilities in situations that pose a significant and immediate threat to their safety. The Navy will conduct training based on scenarios that involve waterfront events, active shooters and personnel attempting to gain unauthorized base access. It is Navy policy not to discuss specifics of force protection measures, including exercises, so information of that nature will not be released.

Brigadier General Chip Diehl briefed that MacDill AFB has returned to Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Charlie COVID-19 restrictions. Many workers have returned to their offices and he's unsure if they will revert to essential personnel only. MacDill AFB is doing very well with their vaccines as they are announcing protocols and procedures all the way down to how they will take care of military dependents.

President Trump has ordered Israel removed from U.S. European Command to the responsibility of CENTCOM.

There are 379,000 veterans living in Tampa; veterans are very important in their community.

Priorities for MacDill AFB from the TF strategic plan:

- Encroachment remains their top issue; he appreciates the support from the TF and DEO for Florida Rock; they have a compatible use plan they are hoping to launch with DoD in the second quarter.
- An Army reserve helo unit is arriving soon; the construction in preparation for their arrival is complete.
- The Tinker School will begin its projects funded by the DoD next fiscal year.

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Hunt briefed on behalf of **Major General James Eifert**, provided the following as a Florida National Guard (FLNG) Update.

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE: The Florida National Guard currently has approximately 1,151 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized, supporting 78 Active Missions as part of Florida's COVID-19 response effort. Their steady-state mission sets include:

- o Operating 15 Community Base Test Sites and 8 Mobile Testing Buses
- o Administering 3,398,216 Tests to date
- o Operating 5 Community Vaccine Sites and 11 Mobile Vaccine Teams
- o Supporting Vaccine Distribution to high-risk populations throughout the State of Florida and Administering 874 Vaccines to frontline Florida National Guard Servicemembers
- o Supporting State Logistics Resource Center and a Logistical Staging Area
- o Supporting multiple State and County Operations, Planning and Liaison responsibilities
- o The Florida National Guard continues COVID response activities through federal funding (502f), approved through 31 March 2021.
- o To date, the FLNG has conducted 421,745 total work days for COVID support; to put this in perspective, the FLNG has conducted just over 700,000 total work days for all previous activations since Hurricane Andrews.

MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT UPDATE: The Florida National Guard currently has 1,246 (1,120 Army and 126 Air) Servicemembers representing 14 Organizations deployed globally, supporting our National Defense Strategy. Their mobilization pipeline identifies 11 Organization consisting of approximately 1,078 Servicemembers scheduled for deployment throughout the remainder of this calendar year.

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FRESHMAN LEGISLATIVE DAY. The Florida National Guard hosted a legislative orientation day at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center for Florida House of Representative Freshman on January 12, 2021. They had 22 newly elected House members who participated in the event, receiving Florida National Guard and Camp Blanding capability briefings along with an aerial tour of Camp Blanding.

FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORT TO NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND STATE CAPITOL. The Florida National Guard has mobilized and deployed approximately 650 soldiers to Washington D.C. and approximately 110 soldiers to Tallahassee to support federal and state law enforcement partners, to enhance security capabilities throughout Presidential Inauguration 59 activities.

FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:

- o **Detachment 4, Company B, 351st Aviation Regiment Departure Ceremony.** They will conduct a deployment departure ceremony on Thursday, February 11, 2021, in Jacksonville, Florida, recognizing the deployment of Soldiers from Detachment 4, Company B, 351st Aviation Regiment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:

- o **125th Fighter Wing Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies.** They will conduct ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Friday, January 29, 2021, in Jacksonville, Florida, recognizing the opening of two newly constructed Air Base facilities; a Fire Station and an Indoor Firing Range.

Tyndall AFB Update

Colonel Greg Moseley briefed from Tyndall AFB that they remain on Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Charlie as are most of the installations in the area. They are currently mission essential and maximizing telework to the best of their abilities. They have received the vaccination and began distributing them last week, continuing this week.

The 325th continues to train their F-22 Raptor pilots and intelligence officers. They continue to focus on mission readiness and sustained ready forces for worldwide deployment of any combat operations required.

Tyndall is looking forward to their rebuild and taking early steps in preparation. Their current focus is heavy into demolition. Hangars 1, 2 and 3 at the far west of the airfield will be demolished next week to clear the way for the F-35 zone, which will be the home station for the three F-25 squadrons anticipated to arrive in early 2023..

Many exciting things going on at Tyndall as they have had their first groundbreaking on MILCON projects on the F-15 sim building, which supports the air combat controllers on the support side of the base.

Tyndall AFB covers 29,000 acres with 129 miles of coastline, so security is a large focus as they rebuild the Base of the Future.

Major Jordan Criss briefed on their new Ghost Vision 60 or robot dog technology. As they embrace the Base of the Future construct they have leveraged this technology to keep people safe and to protect critical assets on the installation. They use these robots as a safety means as they are placed on the frontline to absorb the brunt of a potential adversary, report data and leave the people to social interactions.

Technology expert, **Sergeant Miller**, discussed that Tyndall AFB has 129 miles of coastline and within that coastline the base is geographically separated by a highway running through the center. They wanted to leverage technology to traverse the terrain (marsh, beach, waterway, forestry), areas they cannot patrol, which is where they can use the robot dogs. The dogs can run around the base to give a 360-degree or 100% visibility on the entire installation from the shelter of their Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC).

The Ghost Vision 60 is a lightweight (about 20 pounds) and 36" tall robot, with the potential to have 6-10 different types of sensors that range from ground base radar to self-identifying AI style. Wherever it walks it creates a terrain model for base security to allow them to have complete oversight on a situation.

Some cool features:

- The dogs can run approximately 4.5 miles per hour
- They can travel approximately 8 miles on one set charge
- Takes about 3 hours to charge from 0% to 100%
- One sensor package gives a BDOC controller the ability to take the dog user interface, put on a virtual reality headset and give verbal commands to mitigate a situation until a human arrives to deal with the situation.

The dogs integrate with other base technology and is not the only project on the installation. Currently they have about 6-10 other projects they're working on, and the main components will all feed into a layer of defense in multiple avenues on the base. Other projects include facial recognition software and a mobile x-ray machine.

Video played: Computerized Canines to join Team Tyndall
<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/772447/computerized-canines-join-team-tyndall>

Task Force Member Reports (continued)

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman briefed that in December, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick AFB were formally redesignated as Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Patrick Space Force Base as facilities central to the mission of the U.S. Space Force. At a formal ceremony, Vice President Pence announced the decision to shift these designations, which further confirmed the nation's commitment to operating and defending space.

2020 was a great year for launches as a 54-year record was set for orbital space launches. One of the key features was SpaceX, who is doing a remarkable job on the Space Coast. The panhandle will be a major component in the space industry as the Gulf has been the location for several Dragon capsule splashdowns. The launch schedule for 2021 is extremely aggressive so there will be many more splashdowns in the Gulf.

Florida Defense Alliance Update

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair, reported that FDA has been very active. Chris Middleton has joined the FDA Executive Committee. Recently the FDA Executive Committee met to review the Strategic Plan in light of the election outcomes and what that means, from mission and program realignment to being more proactive and innovative and not reactive and defensive; to having representation in Washington, D.C. and building relationships at the Pentagon.

Encroachment is still an issue in Florida with 16 different types. What will be added with Space Force and what will be the new requirements as they look at other facilities around the state that may become space ports? She reemphasized the importance of funding those programs as federal funds are leveraged moving forward.

They discussed the possibility of codifying the ban of drilling in the Gulf and opportunities to build alliances with other states on the Atlantic coast to protect our ranges and missions. This includes land, surface, subsurface and space.

They discussed the possibility of an office of resiliency moving from an appointment to an actual office. They feel this is an important office with programs emphasizing rising seas, climate change and energy resiliency. Military installations, missions and programs need to be part of that discussion as that office moves forward. Military assets need to take into consideration to be proactive and innovative to address those needs.

They discussed Senate Bill 62 which affects the regional planning councils (RPC). The RPCs are a strong partner to the FDA as they look at challenges such as regional encroachment, water/sewer and transportation in local cities and across county lines. They track federal funds and grants to leverage with local and state funds and pursue new federal grant programs. The RPCs will become very important as more P4 partnerships are developed throughout the state to pursue these funds. They are a partner when looking at defense communities' infrastructure programs, FEMA funds and Sentinel Landscapes. People don't realize the role the RPCs play and all they do for communities, particularly they are a key player in defense communities. They will continue to watch this Bill.

They continue to look at partnerships, ensuring that the MOU with the state university system and military research facilities is being implemented; meeting monthly with defense liaison partners to make sure that those opportunities to bring challenges from our resiliency programs to the students.

The Family Support Working Group (FSWG) has been working closely with the Department of Education on the Purple Star Schools of Distinction (PSSD) program. It's now in final review within DOE and once it's released the FDA will assist in getting information out on the program and the legislation needed for it to pass.

The PSSD program was based on five pillars, but Florida has added a sixth:

1. Military Point of Contact
2. Designated Website
3. Staff Development
4. Student Led Transition Program
5. Extracurricular Star/Community Programs
6. Academics

Within the FSWG, about the slide presented earlier discussing the Biden Administration priorities and continued emphasis to support for military families, the increase in economic opportunities for spouses by investing \$500 million in a military spouse entrepreneurial pilot program. The FDA is creating a group from around the state to catalog all the entrepreneurial programs in the state to identify those that can be expanded and leveraged to pursue these federal funds.

Florida Programs to Mitigate Encroachment

Ray Collins provided a presentation on Florida Programs to Mitigate Encroachment. Encroachment is defined as "External, as well as internal, DOD factors and influences that constrain or have the potential to inhibit the

full access or operational use of the live training and test domain.” Types of encroachment include urban development; threatened or endangered species; critical habitat; historic or cultural sites; noise; climate change; radio frequency competition; and light pollution.

Discussion topics include:

- Impact of Encroachment on Military Missions and Florida’s Response
- Focuses of Florida Laws to Mitigate Encroachment
- Mechanisms to Handle Encroachment Issues
- Military Representation on Local Planning or Zoning Board
- State Land Protection Programs
 - Florida Forever
 - Rural and Family Lands Protection Program
 - Military Base Protection Program
 - Governor’s Base Commanders Meetings
- Federal Programs to Assist States with Encroachment Mitigation
 - Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)
 - Sentinel Landscapes
 - Compatible Use Plan (CUP)
 - Air Installations Compatibility Use Zones (AICUZ) Program
 - U.S. Navy Range Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (RAICUZ)
 - Enhanced Use Leasing (EUL) Program
- Recent Events

Representative Wyman Duggan noted that with respect to the impact of SB 62 as it relates to FS 163.3175 (7), the subsection authorizes the base commander of a military installation to appoint a non-voting, ex-officio representative to a local government’s planning or zoning board and SB 62, in its current version, would not repeal or amend that ability.

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman added that SB 62 is on the Senate Community Affairs agenda on January 26th, 2021 and currently does not have a sponsor in the House. They will continue to track this Bill as it moves through the process to implement mitigation provisions in the Bill to prevent negative impact to the bases. RPCs serve an extremely important role as they help plan communities, provide for infrastructure, and make communities economically competitive from a quality of life point of view.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, speaking on behalf of RPCs, appreciates the TF’s support.

Kellie Jo Kilberg commented that when looking at the Florida Forever program it’s important to know that the state uses funds from those programs to leverage against federal funds to aide against encroachment around the military installations.

Colonel Jim Heald asked if there are specific actions that the Staff is advocating for the TF? Does the TF need to advocate for changes to any of the statutes in the state of Florida to ensure these programs work better? Does the TF need to advocate for additional funding for or to protect the funds currently available? What actions or directions are needed?

Ray Collins answered that yes, the TF does need to advocate for more funding and to develop a plan that strengthens the ability to protect the bases, a stronger plan from the state and local levels.

Beth Medina added the EFI legislative agenda and budget request this year (which is partially incorporated into the DEO budget request) included replenishing the Military Base Protection Program (MBPP) funding of \$2.0 a year million over the course of five years, for non-conservation lands.

Staff continues to support the network of funding that must occur to protect these lands so they're working with partners such as the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape project. Camp Blanding is applying to become a Sentinel Landscape area which would give Florida a total of three Sentinel Landscapes and reflects partnerships across the state formed to protect those lands.

In summary, the EFI budget and legislative request included base protection.

Brigadier General Chip Diehl commented that the appraisal was the issue for Florida Rock. It's important to receive that funding from the state and federal levels so the TF isn't using all or most of their grant funding dollars every year on encroachment issues, preventing projects on other bases.

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman added that looking at encroachment parcels that fall under Florida Forever type programs who have a willing seller/willing buyer, there are restrictions on how to buy in terms of appraised value. Many of these land parcels are in urban areas or next to a base and have a different set of issues when it comes to how those parcels are valued. There may be a need for some statutory reform in terms of base encroachment having a different set of criteria to give more flexibility/imminent domain powers.

Kellie Jo Kilberg added that through the Defense Infrastructure grant program, the Navy has a five year program on which they work with the City of Jacksonville to identify the land, and as soon as a willing seller comes available, they're able to purchase that land through different funding avenues. The Defense Infrastructure program is limited to two years and sometimes needs to have several grants to have the funding available to meet that demand. There needs to be a discussion on the programs currently available, how they're funded and show some of the successful outcomes.

Brigadier General Chip Diehl added that zoning oversight may be an area to keep in consideration as they get into encroachment issues around the bases.

Ray Collins commented that zoning and appraisals were central to the Florida Rock issue as the state's appraisal process was based on the value of the land with the existing zoning. The land was zoned for light industrial use. The developer requested the zoning be changed to allow for commercial use. Had the area been rezoned, the value of the land would have increased, and the owner was demanding that for the MBPP, the land be bought for the value if the zoning rules were changed and he was allowed to develop as a commercial property. The state, by law, was restricted to only be able to pay up to what is was under the existing zoning.

Representative Wyman Duggan pointed out that FS 163.3175 (7) provides the military base commander the authority to place a representative onto the local government's planning or zoning board. This should be made clearer as zoning decisions effects encroachment issues and may need to be clarified. Similarly, regarding the comprehensive plan/future land use category, military installations are a statutorily enumerated reviewing agency for any future land use change that is above a certain acreage and size. That protection is also already in existing law. Base commanders need to be informed and availing themselves with the tools which have been provided.

Rear Admiral Stan Bozin pointed out that NAS Jacksonville does have representatives on local zoning boards as one person sits on five separate county boards to work encroachment issues.

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman asked the Staff for an update at the next TF meeting, as encroachment is the TF's top issue.

Presentation of Draft 2020 Progress Report and Work Plan

Ray Collins briefed that the TF's 2020 Progress Report and Work Plan are due to the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House by February 1, 2021. He is currently working on a draft which will be sent our early next week for the TF's members' review. This report highlights the TF's many accomplishments and successes during FY 2019 – 2020.

Military & Defense Update

Beth Medina updated that the Staff has been very busy since the last TF meeting: Staff presented a military and defense update to the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security last week. Asking for more military base protection funding this year.

They are supporting the Purple Star School of Distinction Program through the Department of Education.

They asked for an updated list of National Guard and Coast Guard installations to protect, from last session, they are confident those installations will be added to the list of critical installations to protect.

They are emphasizing the importance of a Base Commanders' Meeting as the last one was June 2019. This is the forum between the installation commanders (most are new), State Agencies and Governor's office.

They have been engaging with Space Florida and the EDC of the Space Coast to assist with resources for their proposal and support statewide to bring Space Force elements to our state.

The video project is continuing. One is complete, nine are in draft. Work is still in progress to schedule the next 15. The contract expires in June 2021 and will have a total of 35 videos. These will be immediately available to anyone needing information on Florida's military.

Michelle Griggs is now managing the TF grants and contracts. They are looking to hire a fourth team member as a Communications and Research Specialist.

The change of the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) to the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) as OLDCC is emphasizing the partnership aspect at the state level. It's important to show the partnership with Space Florida on the U.S. Space Command effort, with local partners and communities on Sentinel Landscapes, with DEO and Florida's defense contractors. In that vein, a contract was quickly executed in December with Matrix Design Group for \$27,500 in support of DEO's Aerospace and Defense Portal for an aerospace and defense contractor's inventory. Deliverables are due by March 1, 2021.

IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

No public comments were made at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 PM CST

All presentations for this meeting can be found here: <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf/meetings/>

Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force

Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #91 on Thursday, February 18, 2021

The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) held a publicly noticed meeting via Zoom/Conference Call at 10:30 AM EST – 12:34 PM EST. For Agenda: See Page 3

Task Force Members Present:

Representative Thad Altman, Chairman
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc., (Ret.)

Task Force Members Absent:

Representative Wyman Duggan
Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)
Senator Tom Wright

Speakers Present:

Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)
Nick Howland, Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council

Others Present:

Bob Asztalos, Florida Veterans Foundation
Mark Bontrager, Space Florida
Lee Cardice, Cardice A/V
Eli Converse, Office of Senator Tom Wright
Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast
Tom Ferreira
Debi Graham, Greater Pensacola Chamber/West Florida Defense Alliance
Bruce Grant, Retired
Sarah Hayenga, Homestead Air Reserve Base
Paul Hirsch, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast/FDA Board
Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/FDA Board
Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast
Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance/FDA Board
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance/FDA Board
Steve Murray, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
Dave Murzin, Okaloosa County
Chip Nusbaum, 82 West Productions
Amy Phillips, Department of Environmental Protection
Lindsey Pierce, Office of Senator Tom Wright
Jennifer Renner, House Veteran & Military Affairs
Matt Schellhorn, Navy Region Southeast
Jamal Sowell, Secretary of Commerce, Enterprise Florida, Inc. President & CEO
Sharon Spratt, Space Florida
Karen Taporco, NAS Key West

Donna Valin, State of Florida Attorney General's Office
Teri Wanamaker, NAS Jacksonville/FDA Board
Roger Williams, Florida National Guard (FLNG)
Lew Williamson, Florida Veterans Foundation
Craig Worsham, 82 West Productions
The Florida Channel

Staff Present:

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI
Ray Collins, Executive Director, FDSTF
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant/Contracts & Grants Manager, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #91
Conference Call / ZOOM
AGENDA for February 18, 2021**

ZOOM MEETING ID: 850 298 6640
PASSCODE: Feb@18
OR
DIAL IN #: (646) 558 8656
PASSCODE: 955522

KEY:
(I) = Information
(D) = Discussion
(A) = Action

All Times are listed in Eastern Standard Time (EST)

8:30 – 10:00 CLOSED SESSION

- 10:30 – 10:35 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 10:35 – 10:45 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I) / (D)**
 - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
 - TF Grants and Contracts Status Michelle Griggs **(I)**
- 10:45 – 12:00 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
 - 10:45-11:30 Task Force Member Reports Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
 - 11:30-11:40 Florida Defense Alliance Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
 - 11:40-11:50 Washington Office Update Nick Howland **(I) / (D)**
 - 11:50-12:10 Emerging Need Grant Request Ray Collins **(I)**
 - 12:10-12:20 Florida Ethics & Sunshine Law Review Beth Medina **(I)**
 - 12:20-12:30 Mil & Def Update
- 12:30 – 12:45 Public Comment..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

March 18, 2021	Tallahassee (<i>Session</i>)	April 15, 2021	Zoom Meeting/Conf Call (<i>Session</i>)
May 20, 2021	Tallahassee FDA (<i>Session</i>)	June 2021	NO MEETING

Ray Collins, Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF), *began the meeting at 10:30 AM EST.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman welcomed attendees and guests, noted that the meeting is being televised by The Florida Channel and reminded attendees that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law. He discussed the recent passing of two friends, Jim Kuzma of Space Florida and Jim Breitenfeld of the Florida Defense Alliance. He asked for a moment of silence in reflection and remembrance of these two great men.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

Approval of the Minutes

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for any corrections to the January 21, 2021 minutes. Noting none, a motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer** to approve the minutes, seconded by **Rear Admiral Stan Bozin**. All are in favor and the January 21, 2021 meeting minutes are approved.*

Task Force Grants & Contracts Status

Michelle Griggs provided a brief update on some current TF grants. The grants report can be found on Tab 3 of the eBook:

#14-05 – EDC of Bay County, page 1

The amendment has been executed to extend the contract to 12/31/2021.

#19-101 – Polk County, page 3

The extension amendment is with Polk County to be signed at their February Board Meeting, then return to EFI to be formally executed.

#20-102 – EDC of the Space Coast, page 6

This contract has been cancelled. In a letter to Space Florida and the EDC of the Space Coast, NASA KSC says they will not support an assessment of the Roy D. Bridges Bridge, which is located on NASA KSC property. NASA KSC has incorporated the Bridge replacement into their future plans.

#21-101 – Polk County, page 8

This contract has been executed.

Beth Medina will provide an update on the Kennetic videos and the Matrix contract during her Military and Defense Update.

Ray Collins suggested a motion be made at this time to reallocate Program Expenses in the FY 2020-2021 TF Budget.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to reallocate \$72,500 from Analyses & Studies to Out-Of-Cycle Activities under Program Expenses in the TF's FY 2020-2021 Budget; for a total of \$448,000 for Out-Of-Cycle Activities. The motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, seconded by **Rear Admiral Stan Bozin**. All are in favor and the motion is passed.*

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

Task Force Member Reports

Colonel Jim Heald reported that Eglin AFB remains at Health Condition Charlie and is requiring facial masks to be worn on base both indoors and outdoors. Vaccinations are in progress on base and within the local community.

They are working hard on legislative activities. He's met with Brigadier General Scott Cain and his staff multiple times and continue to work with their Congressman and Senators on their list of priorities to include the Military Mission Line as the highest, number one priority. Although there is an Executive Order from the previous Administration, they would like to have a Legislative solution.

MILCON activities on Eglin AFB are centered around the Threshold Platform for Weapons and Armaments, the F-35, as they expect to receive several developmental test F-35s in the coming years and in preparation, they are advocating for MILCON with their Legislative leaders in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tom Neubauer briefed that they continue to wait for the Record of Decision to be signed to be put into the federal register, which is an important step to the rebuilding of Tyndall AFB.

Brigadier General Mark Slowinski is the new Project Management Office (PMO) Director for Tyndall AFB and is responsible for everything happening with the rebuild.

In becoming the Base of the Future, Tyndall AFB is looking at new technology. One example focuses on the base's flightline, looking at high-tech resources as aircraft taxi in for service, technology would predict maintenance with data transferred directly to the maintainer.

They are establishing a new Air Force Association Chapter in their area and will provide more information as it becomes active.

The RAND Study is important as it discusses strategic basing of fifth generation fighters in proximity to the specific ranges. **Colonel Jim Heald** added that the RAND study was commissioned by the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Installations, Environment, and Energy (SAF/IE) and is recommending that the Air Force place fighter units/squadrons at bases located approximately 150 miles from an upgraded range. This report includes a list of upgraded ranges, with not all Florida ranges included. We need to look at how to ensure that Florida's ranges, the Eastern Gulf Test and Training Range, Avon Park Air Force Range and Pinecastle Bombing Range are included to compete for not only new basing but to keep the current basing of fifth and sixth generation aircraft. This is very important for active fighter units and the National Guard.

NOTE: After the meeting **Colonel Jim Heald** advised the Staff that in further review, the RAND study had used a different term, Eglin Test and Training Complex, but had Eglin rated as either 4th or 6th in the upgrade priority out of the seventeen ranges reviewed.

RAND Study "Fighter Basing Options to Improve Access to Advance Training Ranges" can be found at: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA169-1.html

Exercise Citadel is an anti-terrorism force protection exercise currently ongoing at all Naval bases, including NSA Panama City.

Rear Admiral Bozin reported that the 2021 NAS Jacksonville Air Show, originally scheduled for April, has been cancelled.

Brigadier General Chip Diehl briefed that it was wonderful to see all the families lined up and down Dale Mabry watching the flyby of the three bombers from MacDill AFB, prior to Superbowl kickoff.

New District 15 Congressman Scott Franklin visited MacDill AFB this week and met with Commanders at SOCOM and CENTCOM. It was a good visit with good dialogue.

He thanked the TF for the good discussions with transition to the new administration. The Congressional schedule in Washington, DC is going back to normal. The Florida supports the Public Schools on Military Installations program and if Florida receives good marks this year, public schools on MacDill AFB, Eglin AFB and Key West could be funded next fiscal year.

He appreciates the support from the **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman, Senator Tom Wright**, the TF and all the Legislative members in support of encroachment protection and of Florida's ranges as a priority during this upcoming Legislative Session.

Major General Richard Haddad reported that for the first time in Air Force Special Operations Command history, two new graduates from the Air Education and Training Command's Pilot Training Next (PTN), served as aircraft commander and co-pilot on a mission sortie. PTN is part of AETC's initiative to "reimagine" how the Air Force prepares its next generation of pilots. Unlike traditional pilot training, which is accomplished in phases and relies on the availability of aircraft, PTN improves the program by utilizing emerging technology to innovate training and provides a better, more adaptive and accessible learning environment. Additionally, by augmenting current practices with new technology, PTN pilots are trained and prepared for their follow-on formal training units at a fraction of the current time and cost.

Air Force Special Operations Command hosted a Mission Defense Team Conference on February 2nd through 5th, 2021, focusing on identifying the organic cyber capabilities needed to protect missions against threats in, through and from cyberspace. General David Goldfein, former Chief of Staff of the Air Force, signed the Cyber Squadron Initiative Program Action Directive on May 12, 2020. This historic event, five years in the making, ushered in the single largest change in Air Force, changing the Air and Space Force with transforming current communication squadrons into cyber squadrons. AFSOC is focused on transforming communication squadrons from information technology customer support towards cyber defense operations to provide mission assurance. Cyber squadrons will contain Mission Defense Teams (MDT) who provide organic cyber defense capabilities aligned to individual wing priorities. The conference was planned to provide resources the MDTs need to be successful with their mission.

From SOCOM, Colonel James Guerts has been selected as temporary Undersecretary of the Navy. This newest temporary job could signal a new role for Colonel Guerts in the Pentagon, given his deep knowledge of Navy and Special Operations modernization projects over the past decade.

Roger Williams briefed on behalf of **Major General James Eifert**, providing the following remarks as a Florida National Guard (FLNG) Update.

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE: The Florida National Guard currently has approximately 1,586 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized, supporting 104 Active Missions as part of Florida's COVID-19 response effort. Our steady-state mission sets include:

- Operating 12 Community Base Test Sites & 8 Mobile Testing Buses
- Administering 4,074,550 Tests to date
- Operating 4 Community Vaccine Sites & 11 Mobile Vaccine Teams
- Supporting Vaccine Distribution to high-risk populations throughout the State of Florida and Administering 1,583 Vaccines to Florida National Guard Servicemembers, Their Dependents and Department of Military Affairs Employees
- Supporting State Logistics Resource Center and a Logistical Staging Area
- Supporting State Operations, Planning and Liaison responsibilities
- The Florida National Guard continues COVID response activities through federal funding (502f), approved through 30 September 2021

MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT UPDATE: The Florida National Guard currently has 941 (818 Army & 123 Air) Servicemembers representing 14 Organizations deployed globally, supporting our National Defense Strategy. Our mobilization pipeline identifies 10 Organization consisting of approximately 1,034 Servicemembers scheduled for deployment throughout the remainder of this calendar year.

Visit to National Capital Region: 1-5 February 2021, Major General Eifert traveled to the National Capital Region to meet with our Florida Congressional Delegation to discuss Florida National Guard Force Structure and Modernization initiatives. Major General Eifert also visited Florida National Guard Soldiers who are currently on duty supporting the National Capital Region-Integrated Air Defense System mission as part of Operation Noble Eagle.

FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:

- 2021 Best Warrior Competition. The Florida Army National Guard will conduct their annual Best Warrior Competition, 11-14 March 2021, to select one Noncommissioned Officer and one Soldier to represent the Florida National Guard at the Region III competition. The four-day event will include an administrative review board, Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), qualification and operation on various individual weapon systems, 10-mile heavy pack road march, multiple scenario-based Warrior Skills tests, obstacle course, water survival test and land navigation course.

FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:

- Florida Air National Guard Leader Development Program. The Florida Air National Guard will conduct their second Leader Development Program training 9-11 March 2021 at MacDill Air Force Base. Selected Florida Air National Guard Officers and Noncommissioned Officers, in identified leadership assignments, will receive briefings and resources from senior Florida National Guard leaders that are critical to individual and organizational success.

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman reported that there was recently some excitement in South Florida, off the coast of Palm Beach as many took to social media to report an unidentified flying object (UFO). The U.S. Navy identified the UFO as the Naval Strategic System programs conducted a scheduled Trident-II D5 missile test flight at sea from an Ohio class submarine in the eastern range. NOTU continues to do amazing things at the Cape. These unannounced launches happen all the time, but the people in South Florida aren't as used to them as those on the Space Coast.

Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair, thanked **Senator Tom Wright** for sponsoring SB 938 for the Purple Star School of Distinction program (PSSD). FDA is tracking both SB 938 and HB 429. The FDA Family Support Working group continues working with the Department of Education on this program to be ready to roll it out once it's passed. Their local partners are reaching out to bring together stakeholders on this program so once the legislation is passed, they can bring everyone together to understand this program's importance.

The Mission Sustainment Working Group (MSWG) is bringing together stakeholders to implement the MOU between the FDA and the State University System for the National Security Innovation Network (NSIN). The MOU was signed in 2020 and as the program is implemented they want to ensure that the missions and installations understand the importance of the program and there are resources available to help with those strategic initiatives.

They continue to build out the tasks on their Strategic Plan, tracking members' activities seeking to be proactive in addressing opportunities and challenges. They are looking to establish a range-focused task force within the MSWG to plan a coordinated effort moving forward regarding the RAND study. Back in late 1990s/early 2000s they worked together on the Eastern Test and Training Ranges to offset the Western Test and Training Ranges during the BRAC process. Florida needs to do a better job of communicating all our assets in the Florida Military Complex and get the message out so that DoD and the Pentagon understand the importance of our ranges and missions.

A reminder to our Legislators of the importance of funding the Florida Forever program. This program is used to match funding for the REPI program. Our military installations and communities get a good return on their investment using REPI and Florida Forever match funding.

The discussion on having insight and influence inside the Pentagon and DoD is vital to be proactive in seeking opportunities and to be prepared for challenges and obstacles. Activities are currently happening without a BRAC. The next round of BRAC will be focusing on missions, programs and realignment. Florida needs to truly have that insight and influence in the Pentagon and DoD to develop and work relationships within the new Administration.

Washington Office Update

Katherine Anne Russo emailed her report.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

House Armed Services Committee

- Matt Gaetz -- Tactical Air and Land Forces; Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems
- Michael Waltz -- Strategic Forces; Intelligence and Special Operations
- Scott Franklin -- Intelligence and Special Operations; Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems
- Stephanie Murphy -- Tactical Air and Land Forces; Intelligence and Special Operations (Vice Chair)

House Committee on Appropriations, Defense

- Charlie Crist
- Mario Diaz-Balart

House Committee on Appropriations, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

- Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Chairwoman)
- Charlie Crist
- John Rutherford

Rubio, Marco (R-FL)

- Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

Scott, Rick (R-FL)

- Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities; Subcommittee on Seapower

COVID AID – BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PRIORITY

- Democrat leadership is working aggressively to pass a \$1.9 trillion COVID-relief package based on President Biden's "American Rescue Plan" through the Budget Reconciliation process; this process allows aid to pass by a simple majority vote in the Senate without Republican support
- President Biden wants the bill passed by March 14, 2021, when unemployment benefits run out
- Language is being finalized in the House Budget Committee currently and should be available next week; the House is expected to pass the measure late next week – following House passage, it will move to the Senate for passage (if language changes, the package will need to return to the House for final passage); unclear whether the March 14, 2021, deadline will be met

MONITORING EXECUTIVE ACTION

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/>

- Executive Order 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad -- most notably, directs Interior to pause new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or in offshore waters

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

- Under current law, the President is required to submit a budget to Congress no later than the first Monday in February prior to the start of the fiscal year
- This deadline was not met by the Biden Administration; the new Administration is blaming aftereffects of obstinance from the outgoing Trump administration during the presidential transition; timing of budget still unclear but not expected in the coming weeks

DELEGATION MLAs

- Working to update delegation MLA list for new Congress – will share 2021 Florida Military Friendly Guide with offices when reaching out to update list
- Would like to revisit idea of quarterly MLA calls or one-on-one calls to open channels of communication between state and congress

Emerging Need Grant Request

Nick Howland, Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council, presented their grant request of \$250,000 to fund Educational programming, the Northeast Florida Military & Veteran Resources Guide and a Micro Grant program, which are integral parts of The Fire Watch plan to strengthen of suicide prevention in Northeast Florida. This grant will improve the state's military friendly environment for service members, military dependents, and military retirees and deepen community support for Northeast Florida veterans.

The Fire Watch expected funding from a State of Florida appropriation that made it through conference in the 2020 legislative session but was vetoed last minute by the Governor to support COVID efforts. This is the amount respectfully requested of the Florida Defense Support Task Force. It would be used as follows:

- \$50k for Educational Events and Online Training as part of the Watch Stander program
- \$50k for management and upkeep of the NE Florida Military & Veterans Resources Guide
- \$10k for Event Calendar Maintenance
- \$90k for a Program Manager to administer expansion of Fire Watch programming
- \$50k for Micro Grants to supplement County funding

The Fire Watch will seek federal, corporate and foundation grant funding to fill its funding gap in Fiscal Year 2021.

Their plan moving forward is to find sustained funding. They have set up a Fire Watch 501(c)(3) to be eligible to apply for federal, foundation and private grants in 2022. They are hoping that this is a one-time request, but based on their ability to receive Federal funding, they may need to return to the State or TF.

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman noted that the TF heard another grant from the Bay County Board of County Commissioners earlier in the Closed Session relating to the state's strategy and are considering two out-of-cycle grants.

Beth Medina added that Staff is working with 211 At Your Fingertips in Tampa, the Fire Watch, the FDVA and the Florida Attorney General's office to produce a website which covers all benefits for all warriors (servicemembers, family members, veterans). They are hoping to have this website available in the near future.

Mr. Tom Neubauer stated that the Bay County grant request for \$220,804 is comprised of two parts. The first part is the continuation of an existing effort related to the rebuild of Tyndall AFB and the continued engagement of The Roosevelt Group. The second part is environmental, as \$5 billion is coming to Tyndall for the rebuild, one of the main reasons the Air Force decided to rebuild is its proximity to Florida's ranges. This funding comes at a critical time as there is growing pressure on the defense budget, part of this grant request includes an environmental analysis of all Florida's ranges, also looking at basing across the state, family support, resiliency, support of military families, infrastructure issues that arise in future BRACs. As the second portion of the grant is more of a statewide effort, it should be approved by the Executive Office of the Governor.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to fund the grants for the Bay County Board of County Commissioners and the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council.*

***Mr. Tom Neubauer** made a motion to approve the Bay County Board of County Commissioners grant application in the amount of \$220,804; \$56,527 of this amount is provisional until Staff obtains approval for this portion from the Executive Office of the Governor, seconded by **Colonel Jim Heald**.*

***Mr. Tom Neubauer** amended this motion to approve the Bay County Board of County Commissioners grant application in the amount of \$220,804; \$56,527 of this amount is provisional until Staff obtains approval for this portion from the Executive Office of the Governor; \$227,196 to be awarded to the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council, seconded by **Rear Admiral Stan Bozin**.*

Rear Admiral Stan Bozin reiterated that the Northeast Florida Wire Watch Council must become a self-sustained organization and not continually return to the TF each year for funding.

Major General Richard “Beef” Haddad does not want to set the precedent for other organizations to continually approach the TF for funding.

Brigadier General Chip Diehl suggested a letter to the Legislative Committees from the TF in support of funding the Fire Watch in future legislation.

Chairman, Representative Thad Altman agreed that would be acceptable to include as a legislative priority.

Kellie Jo Kilberg reminded the TF of the Incubator Project clause included in the TF’s grant guidelines, and that according to the application, a grant may not fund staff salaries.

(Information on Incubator Projects in the TF Grant Funding Guidelines:

Definition: Incubator Project: The FDSTF defines an incubator project as a first-time project which adds military value to an installation and/or improves the military-friendly environment of the state. Examples include but are not limited to: the establishment of defense related community support organizations, studies, and educational projects which enhance schools that serve military children.

Funding Incubator Projects: The purpose of funding is to provide support for projects the FDSTF believes supports the mission of the Task Force and is not intended to be the primary funding source for long-term projects. The FDSTF may fund an incubator project it deems to have merit for a period of one year, not to exceed two years. In applying for funding grantees of long-term projects will be required to provide a strategic funding plan.)

Mr. Tom Neubauer amended the motion a second time, to approve only the Bay County Board of County Commissioners grant application in the amount of \$220,804; \$56,527 of this amount is provisional until Staff obtains approval for this portion from the Executive Office of the Governor. **Seconded by Rear Admiral Stan Bozin; all in favor and motion passes**

Colonel Jim Heald made a motion to award the Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council the amount of \$160,000, which is less \$90,000 for the program manager salary. **Seconded by Rear Admiral Stan Bozin; all in favor and the motion passes**

Florida Ethics & Sunshine Law Review

Ray Collins presented the yearly review of Florida’s Sunshine, public records and ethics laws. Topics discussed were:

- The TF statute 288.987
- Authorizations designated by DEO to the TF and EFI
- Public Records
- The Sunshine Law and Exemptions
 - Exemptions include:
 - portions of meetings that deal with the weaknesses, strengths and vulnerabilities of Florida’s (and other states’) bases and missions
 - Florida’s strategy to protect and preserve its bases and missions
- Ethics and Transparency
- Voting and Voting Conflicts

Presentations from this meeting can be found on the Task Force’s website:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-Presentations-2021.pdf>

Military & Defense Update

Beth Medina discussed that Staff continues to be very busy and is working on the following:

The 2021 Military Friendly Guide is now available online at:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide.pdf>

The Governor sent out a press release on the Guides last week and the print version will be ready to send out in about two weeks. Staff is working towards a web-based version in the future.

The next nine videos from Kennetic Productions are ready for posting online. Those include videos on spouse license reciprocity and the first Gulf Range video. Another fifteen videos need to be scheduled and Staff and Kennetic are working with the defense communities and the bases to get those completed.

EFI's new website with the updated Military and Defense programs pages will be rolling out in March. These will include both TF and FDA pages, as well as the Military and Defense story overall, maps with layers showing defense contractors, university partners and FDA/TF installations. Staff is working on specific pages for issues such as the Gulf Range and all of Florida's Ranges, the military complex, strategic priorities, encroachment.

Staff continues to watch Legislation including the statewide effort on resiliency and the Purple Star School of Distinction Program. They are working with DEP and DEO, with new Federal mitigation funding, on moving forward as the Mission Sustainment Working Group turns its focus to Florida's ranges.

IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

Lew Wilson, Florida Veterans Foundation, introduced **Chip Nusbaum** and **Craig Worsham** from 82 West Productions who are, in partnership with the Florida Veterans Foundation, producing a new PBS documentary exploring the contributions Floridians made during World War II and their sacrifices that helped win the war. Help is needed, in addition to funding they are searching for stories, films, home videos and photos. For more information please contact: Craig@82West.com or 941.323.4331

The next meeting will be in-person on Thursday, March 18, 2021 in Tallahassee, Florida. Details soon to follow.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to adjourn FDSTF Meeting #91. A motion was made by **Major General Richard "Beef" Haddad**, seconded by **Rear Admiral Stan Bozin**, all are in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 PM EST.*

This meeting was recorded by The Florida Channel and can be found here:

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/2-18-21-florida-defense-support-task-force/>

Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force

Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #92 on Thursday, March 18, 2021

The Florida Defense Support Task Force held a publicly noticed meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown at 10:30 AM EDT – 12:36 PM EDT. For Agenda: See Page 3

Task Force Members Present:

Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret)
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret)
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.

Task Force Members Present via ZOOM:

Major General Richard Haddad, USAF, (Ret)

Task Force Members Absent:

Representative Thad Altman, Chairman
Representative Wyman Duggan
Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret)
Senator Tom Wright

Speakers Present:

Mark Bontrager, Space Florida
Matt Chesnut, Space Florida
Major General James Hartsell, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA)
Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Chair via ZOOM
Joe Marino, Veterans Florida

Others Present in Person:

Debi Graham, Greater Pensacola Chamber/West Florida Defense Alliance
Tim Jones, FDA Vice Chair
Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance
Liz Miller, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
Steve Murray, FDVA

Others Present via ZOOM:

Katie Allan, Bay Defense Alliance
Dan Barrow, Veterans Florida
Cindy Brown, Senate Military Affairs Committee
Al Carter, FDVA
Eli Converse, Office of Senator Tom Wright
Isabel Cosio Carballo, South Florida Regional Council
Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast
Brooke Gilbert, Bay Defense Alliance
Paul Hirsch, EDC of Florida's Space Coast
Tyrone Martin, Florida Attorney General's Office
Chris Meinhardt, Veterans Florida
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance/FDA Executive Board

Dave Murzin, Escambia County, Florida
Amy Phillips, Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
Randy Roy, NAS Whiting Field
Matt Schellhorn, Navy Region Southeast
Jeremy Sinnemaki, Veterans Florida
Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife
The Florida Channel

Staff Present:

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI)
Ray Collins, Executive Director, FDSTF
Chad Corriveau, Communications and Research Assistant, EFI
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant/Grants Manager, Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI)



Florida Defense Support Task Force – Meeting #92
Four Points by Sheraton, 316 W. Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301
AGENDA for March 18, 2021

ZOOM MEETING ID: 850 298 6640
PASSCODE: Mar@18
OR
DIAL IN #: (646) 558 8656
PASSCODE: 399586

KEY:
(I) = Information
(D) = Discussion
(A) = Action

All Times are listed in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

- 10:30 – 10:35 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 10:35 – 10:45 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
 - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
 - TF Grants and Contracts Status Michelle Griggs **(I)**
- 10:45 – 1:00 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
 - 10:45 – 11:30 TF Member Reports Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
 - 11:30 – 11:40 Florida Defense Alliance Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
 - 11:40 – 11:50 Washington Office Update Maj Gen (R) James Hartsell **(I)**
 - 11:50 – 12:05 FDVA Update Joe Marino **(I)**
 - 12:05 – 12:20 Veterans Florida Update Mark Bontrager/Matt Chesnut **(I)**
 - 12:20 – 12:40 Space Florida Toolkit Ray Collins **(I) / (D)**
 - 12:40 – 12:50 Legislative Update Beth Medina **(I)**
 - 12:50 – 1:00 Mil & Def Update
- 1:00 – 1:15 Public Comment..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

April 15, 2021 Zoom Meeting (*Session*) May 20, 2021 Tallahassee | FDA (*Session*)
 June 2021 **NO MEETING**

Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer began the meeting at 10:30 AM EDT.

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome, Guest Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer welcomed attendees and guests. He asked the in-person guests to introduce themselves, then led the TF and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. He reminded the TF that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

Two recently completed videos from the video marketing campaign were played: The Joint Gulf Range Complex and Professional License Reciprocity. Currently ten (10) are complete with filming scheduled for the Panhandle next week and in South Florida in early April.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

Approval of Minutes

A quorum was not present at this meeting. The February 18, 2021 meeting minutes will be approved at the April 15, 2021 TF meeting, if a quorum is present.

Task Force Grants and Contracts Status

Michelle Griggs reported on several current TF grants.

#19-101 – Polk County

This extension was approved at the Polk County BOCC's February Meeting and is awaiting countersignature from EFI.

#20-102 - EDC of the Space Coast

EFI is working to set up a meeting with DEO to discuss reverting the funds from this grant back to DEO or to allow the TF to use them for other projects.

#21-105 – Northeast Florida Fire Watch Council

This contract is in progress.

Kennetic Video Project

Kennetic filmed on the Space Coast with Space Florida last week and has set up to film in Northwest Florida (NAS Whiting Field, NAS Pensacola and Corry Station) on March 23rd and 24th. They will be filming in South Florida (NAS Key West, US Coast Guard District 7, USSOUTHCOM, Avon Park AFR, Homestead ARB) the week of April 9th.

Matrix Design Group

The Florida Defense Contractor Inventory was delivered on March 1, 2021. This project is complete, and the contract will be closed pending final payment.

#14-05 – EDC of Bay County

As a way-forward for this grant, Bay County has instituted a plan for the deployment of a segment of fiberoptic telecommunications backbone; providing high-speed communication from Tyndall AFB to the Point of Presence in Panama City, connect the signalized intersections located on US 98 adjacent Tyndall AFB to the Bay County Traffic Management Center (TMC), connect Bay County to the Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) facility and provide 911 redundancy for the base. The original concept was to install fiber optic cable from HWY 79 in Bruce, Florida to the entrance of NSA Panama City.

Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer added that this grant has taken a long time to complete, largely because new opportunities have arisen to leverage the project with new opportunities to support their installations.

- Began a project to obtain up to 100 GB/s capability for NSA-PC and Tyndall AFB via Florida Lambda Rail from I-10
- Following the Study, other stakeholders became interested: School board, colleges, hospitals, in addition to installations
- Bay Economic Development Alliance has been managing the \$500K grant since its inception
- Bay County Commission identified the project as the #1 priority for matching BP Triumph Grant funding and secured a commitment for \$1MM
- EDA moved grant management to the Bay County Board of Commissioners who agreed to manage the Bay Technology Initiative Process

Bay County has identified dark fiber that will deliver the capability to Tyndall AFB in addition to creating an endpoint at NSA-PC.

This project will benefit the **military** by:

- Providing closed system fiber optic connectivity from Tyndall AFB to Naval Support Activity-Panama City
- Providing redundant 911 communications for Tyndall AFB
- Helping Tyndall AFB PMO fill the bandwidth requirements of the many support contractors who will be involved in Tyndall AFB's rebuild for the next 5 years
- Improving traffic flow for Tyndall AFB by allowing real-time monitoring of the traffic signal system along U.S. 98 adjacent to Tyndall AFB
- Providing connectivity to high-speed POP located within Panama City
- Providing Tyndall AFB fiber optic connectivity to Engineering Testing Center
- Providing video images from the County traffic system to both base security offices, if needed

This resiliency project will benefit the **county** by:

- Providing Bay County School Board fiber optic connectivity to Tyndall Elementary School, now designated as K-8
- Providing Bay County Traffic Management Center (TMC) with fiber optic connectivity to dynamic message sign (DMS) just west of Dupont Bridge
- Providing Bay County Utilities fiber optic connectivity to Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant located at Tyndall AFB
- Providing eastward expansion of fiber optic system at a greatly reduced cost of connecting system to the Mexico Beach 800 MHz radio tower
- Providing redundant communications for the City of Mexico Beach

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

Task Force Member Reports

Major General Richard Haddad briefed on SOCOM, AFSOC and Avon Park Air Force Range.

AFSOC

Air Force Special Operations Command hosted this year's Emerald Warrior exercise at multiple locations from February 16th to March 5th. This joint exercise provides realistic and relevant training to prepare special operations forces, conventional forces and international partners for crises and contingencies. Emerald Warrior applies lessons learned from real-world operations to provide trained and ready forces to the joint force. The exercise took place at Cannon AFB, New Mexico, Hurlburt Field, Florida, Camp McCain and Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

The late Master Sergeant John Chapman was honored during a plaque unveiling ceremony, hosted by members of the Special Warfare Training Wing, at Airmen's Heritage Park on March 4, 2021. Chapman was a combat controller who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor Aug. 22, 2018, for his actions in the Battle of Takur Ghar during the War in Afghanistan. He is the first Airman to receive the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War.

The 919th Special Operations Wing hosted U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General Jim Slife, commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, and Chief Master Sergeant Cory Olson, command chief of AFSOC at Duke Field, Florida, February 6, 2021.

SOCOM

The first Special Operations Forces (SOF) truth, “Humans are more important than hardware” speaks to their most valuable asset, their people. The strategic plan guides sustained efforts to strengthen the operational capability of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) by leveraging diversity and inclusion, as well as committing to increase the diversity of their force while creating more inclusive environments.

AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE (APAFR):

Avon Park AFR has seen a recent uptick in 5th Generation aircraft training. Twelve Marine F-35s from VMFAT-501 are visiting the Deployed Unit Complex (DUC) at MacDill AFB March 15th – April 2nd. They are conducting new F-35 pilot training.

They are also hosting 85th FS F-35s launching out of Eglin AFB, which underscores Avon Park’s ability to host operational training and relieve some of the pressure on Eglin’s airspace.

On February 22nd, Avon Park AFR had the great opportunity to host Major General Eifert along with both Major General H. D. Polumbo Jr. (Ret.) and Major General Robert N. Polumbo (Ret.), to discuss increasing the Florida Army National Guard footprint on APAFR by upgrading/expanding the existing small arms range, as well as supporting future Florida ANG F-35 operations out of Jacksonville International Airport.

Brigadier General Chip Diehl briefed that MacDill AFB and the Tampa VA are doing a wonderful job vaccinating veterans and servicemembers. He welcomed **Chad Corriveau** to the Military and Defense Team.

Rear Admiral Stan Bozin briefed on Naval Station Mayport, the Pinecastle Range Complex and Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island.

NS Mayport:

Naval Station Mayport had a very successful engagement with the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Admiral Gilday in early March. Highlights included a detailed windshield tour of the improved Navigation Seamanship Ship Handling Trainer (iNSST), the Triton Hangar, Shoreline Restoration, Wharf Recapitalization and LCS Support Facility Phase II.

The iNSST is the first of ten (10) for the Navy. Construction was completed ahead of schedule. \$60 million in simulators are currently being installed and is on schedule to be online by fall 2021.

The Triton Hangar’s construction was completed ahead of schedule in December 2019.

CNO toured the far eastern point of Charlie Wharf where he witnessed the massive damage of eroded land as a result of Hurricanes Matthew and Irma. This area will be repaired following airfield restoration.

Pinecastle Range Complex:

2020 operations include:

- USS Dwight D Eisenhower Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX)
- USS Dwight D Eisenhower Tailored Ships Training Availability (TSTA)
- 719 training missions
- 1,827 sorties
- 105,977 ordnance dropped
 - 210 live high explosives
 - 586 inert
 - 105,181 20MM/30MM/50Cal/7.62 MM

Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island

Last year Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island (MCSF-BI) completed a ~\$32 million demolition project to remove a massive concrete sill from the bottom of the installation's deep-water port. The project is part of a multi-phase effort to deepen the slipway to align with the St. Johns River commercial shipping channel and should preclude the requirement to conduct annual dredge operations.

The command recently broke ground on a ~\$11 million MILCON project to build a police department/emergency operations building at MCSF-BI. Estimated completion date is March 2022.

Most important are the installation REPI operational buffering programs and the state partner grants that support them. Every dollar of state funding brings three dollars of REPI funds. NAS Jacksonville plans to close on 297 acres by the end of June 2021 with grant funding to the City of Jacksonville, using REPI as match.

April 29, 2021 Rear Admiral Wes McCall will relieve Rear Admiral Gary Mayes as the commander of Navy Region Southeast. The change of command for NAS Jacksonville will be on April 9, 2021 as Captain Brian Weiss will be relieved by Captain Jeff Hill.

Colonel Jim Heald reported from Eglin AFB:

Brigadier General Scott Cain, Base Commander for Eglin AFB, in his weekly (March 11 version) 9 AM address to the base on COVID; the base is easing restrictions due to the improvements in the community and on base. He is allowing some non-essential workers to return to in-person activities. Still encouraging telework where appropriate. Masks still mandatory.

On March 11, the Squadron commanders of the 40 Flight Test Squadron (FTS) and the 85 Test Evaluation Squadron (TES) flew the F-15EX #1 to Eglin. The use of both squadron commanders highlighted the Combined Developmental Test/Operational Test (DT/OT) Test Force and the historical significance of bringing on a new version of the jet with the combined DT/OT collaboration from the beginning. F-15EX #2 will be flown in by Commander Air Combat Command (COMACC) in April. As previously reported, approximately five to six F-15EX will arrive in FY21 and five to six more in FY23.

Acting Secretary of the Air Force, John R. Roth, sent the congressionally mandated Air Force Test Center assessment March 2021 Report to Congressional Committees. This 119-page report highlights needs assessment and the way forward for many issues impacting the bases under Air Force Test Center (AFTC) (Edwards AFB, Eglin AFB, Arnold AFB, and Holloman AFB).

March 10th saw the groundbreaking for the 55,000 square foot 96th Cyber Test Group Avionics Cyber Range Facility. It highlights not only the growing importance of cyber warfare, but also the tie-in across the state of Florida and into the National Cyber Range as the home of the Eglin Operations Site.

Ongoing efforts by a large consortium of military and community partners are starting to show progress on the solution to a more responsive Childcare Development Center for military who live and/or work in the northern parts of the area. Dubbed the Crestview Wellplex, the investors and developers are doing their due diligence on an 11.5-acre campus and are currently working through the environmental issues such as wetlands mitigation. We anticipate groundbreaking to occur in the 4th quarter. When complete as envisioned, the Wellplex will include:

- A CDC run by KinderCare/KinderFit that will have 300 spaces where military children have priority and another 200 spaces for local civilian children
- Wellness/Performance Center
- Ambulatory surgery/Orthopedic/Pain Management/Durable Medical Equipment Center
- Women's Center
- Multi-specialty Center to include Neurology, Cardiology, and Oncology
- Primary Care Center

The Tri-County Partnership Initiative recently stood up a Task Force on the Purple Star School of Distinction program as they share best practices among the three (3) counties in their region to be prepared to submit applications as soon as the legislation is passed.

Eli Converse reported for **Senator Tom Wright**, discussed that it was a good week for the Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee and they will likely meet one or two more times before the end of Session. Many good bills continue moving through both the House and Senate.

Mr. Tom Neubauer reported that Tyndall AFB has been downgraded to Health Condition Bravo while NSA Panama City remains at Health Condition Charlie. NSA PC recently had a change of command as Commander Keith Foster took over for Commander Kevin Christenson who now reports to Navy Region Southeast.

Last week the Air Force announced that First Air Force/AFNORTH has been named as the air component to US Space Command. They expect to be at Initial Operational Capability at the end of this year and Full Operational Capability will be in about this time next year.

Florida Defense Alliance Update

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair, provided an update from the FDA meeting that was held the day prior. This meeting focused on current state legislative bills. One update from the meeting was from the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) on the new FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants program which uses federal funds for community projects. Last fall 60 applications were submitted to FDEM but only 22 were sent to FEMA. Once the awards have been announced they will begin meeting with Local Mitigation Strategy groups around the state, addressing large community resiliency projects and work on applications for this year grant cycle.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection reported on Resilient Florida and bills pertaining to statewide flooding and sea level rise. The importance of Florida Forever funds was also discussed and how to leverage against REPI funds for encroachment prevention.

The Purple Star Schools of Distinction program was discussed as Senate Bill 938 moves through the Senate. They are working the bill on the House side to ensure that companion bill continues movement, as well.

Within the Mission Sustainment Working Group the FDA has recently stood up a Florida Test and Training Range Task Force which is comprised of a diverse group from across the state to cover all regions and all services in Florida. **Colonel Jim Heald** is the FDSTF's representative on this task force and he will continue to provide updates from this group at future meetings.

DoD recently release its report on grants for license portability. Florida is looking at six (6) compacts as they are currently part of only one (1) in nursing. The other areas Florida is looking at are teaching, social work, cosmetology, massage therapy, and dentistry/dental hygiene. The FDA will work with state agencies on moving forward on these compacts using this as the new model for licensure portability.

Washington Office Update

Katherine Anne Russo submitted her Washington Office update via email.

COVID Aid / American Rescue Plan

- President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan into law last week, which passed Congress without a single Republican vote through the reconciliation process; states are awaiting federal guidance to implement state funding programs.
- The Governor's recommended uses of state funds announced on March 16 included a recommendation of \$41.7 Million (FY 21-22) for Florida National Guard Expansion.

Infrastructure / Economic Growth Package

- With the COVID package signed into law, the Administration and Congress are shifting their focus to an infrastructure and economic growth package estimated at trillions of dollars.
- Last week, Speaker Pelosi directed committee chairs to begin working with their GOP counterparts to craft a "big, bold and transformational infrastructure package."
- The House wants to have a draft bill completed by Memorial Day.
- President Biden indicated he wants this to be a bipartisan effort, but Democrats may ultimately use the budget reconciliation process again to move legislation without GOP support. This process creates procedural hurdles and limits on what can be included.

Earmarks

- In February 2021, House Appropriations Chair Rosa DeLauro announced a Democrat-led process to bring back earmarks rebranded as "Community Project Funding." Earmarks give lawmakers greater ability to direct money to specific projects but have been banned since 2011.
- The infrastructure package could be the opening legislative piece for earmarks. On March 3, 2021, House Transportation Committee Chairman Rep. DeFazio issued a "Dear Colleague" letter broadly outlining his plans regarding earmarks in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill, which is expected to be a part of the larger infrastructure package. The letter suggests a formal member submission process will be finalized toward the end of the month.
- Republicans would have to eliminate their own party's earmark prohibition to participate, but they remain divided on the issue. Those supportive say the process needs to be more transparent and less open to fraud. The House Freedom Caucus and Republican Study Committee announced they won't back an earmark return because of concerns about abuses and the national debt. There is no set timeline for a final GOP decision.
- Democrats are ready to move forward with earmarks even without Republican participation.

President's Budget

- The President will likely release his budget in May.
- Pentagon officials are crafting a fiscal 2022 budget plan that assumes the military will receive \$704 billion to \$708 billion; that number is essentially flat compared to this year's Defense Department budget.
- For awareness, on March 16, 50 House Democrats sent a letter to President Biden urging him to reduce the Pentagon's \$700 billion budget to pay for other activities: "Hundreds of billions of dollars now directed to the military would have greater return if invested in diplomacy, humanitarian aid, global public health, sustainability initiatives, and basic research."
- Slashing the defense budget lacks broad support and the Chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services committees have rejected across-the-board defense cuts.

Appropriations Deadlines

Senate: dates pending

House:

Subcommittee	Database Opens	Language Requests	Programmatic Requests
Agriculture	March 29th	April 15th by 6pm	April 15th by 6pm
CJS	March 29th	April 15th by 6pm	April 15th by 6pm
Defense	March 29th	TBD (late May)	TBD (late May)
Energy and Water	March 29th	April 14th by 6pm	TBD (late May)
FSGG	March 29th	April 16th by 6pm	April 16th by 6pm
Homeland Security	March 29th	April 16th by 6pm	April 16th by 6pm
Interior	March 29th	April 16th by 6pm	April 16th by 6pm
LHHSE	March 29th	April 14th by 6pm	April 14th by 6pm
Leg Branch	March 29th	April 15th by 6pm	April 15th by 6pm
MILCON-VA	March 29th	April 14th by 6pm	TBD (late May)
SFOPs	March 29th	April 14th by 6pm	April 14th by 6pm
T-HUD	March 29th	Not Yet Released	Not Yet Released

Delegation MLAs

- DC office working to schedule an MLA call in early April.

FDVA Update

Major General (R) James Hartsell presented an update on the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA). He discussed the following:

- FDVA's mission and vision
- Claims examiners who are currently teleworking and the issues they face
- Veterans' Homes throughout the state and how they are dealing with the pandemic
- New State Veterans' Nursing homes opening in 2021
 - Ardie R. Copas in Port St. Lucie
 - Lake Baldwin in Orlando
- Veteran Suicide Prevention
- The GI LAW program
- The passing of Amendment 6, Homestead Property Tax Discount
- Legislative Initiatives
 - Florida Veterans Treatment Courts
 - Expansion of the 211 Crisis Center

Veterans Florida Update

Joe Marino, Veterans Florida, presented an update on the missions and programs of Veterans Florida. Discussions included:

- Veterans Florida Purpose
- Board of Directors
- Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) Program
 - Services, Staff, Statute
 - FY 2020-2021 Grant Funding Received, Agreements/MOUs, Veterans Trained/Training, Amounts funded/dispersed
 - Employers/Corporations as partners

- Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities
 - Operations
 - VETS Program
 - Florida SkillBridge Initiative
 - Partnership with CareerSource

Space Florida Toolkit

Mark Bontrager and **Matt Chesnut**, Space Florida, presented an update on Space Florida and the tools they use around the state.

- Legislatively Chartered (F.S. 331)
- Spaceport Development Authority
- Single point of contact for state aerospace-related activities with federal agencies
- \$2B+ projects statewide supporting aerospace development and infrastructure
 - Northrup Grumman (Melbourne)
 - United Launch Alliance
 - Navy Strategic Weapons Ashore Complex
 - CAE (Tampa)
 - SpaceX
 - Blue Origin
- Space Florida Structure, Role & Mission
 - Public Corporation
 - Spaceport Authority
 - Industry Development Role
- Financing Capabilities
 - Conduit Financing
 - Synthetic Leasing
 - Securing Property
 - Business Infrastructure and Facilities
- Investment Activity
- Statewide activity: established and ongoing projects
- Establishment of Space Force December 20, 2019
- Comparison: Spaceport activity in 2016 versus 2017 – 2022
- FDOT Spaceport Improvement Program
- Florida as the Global Space Commerce Trade Port
- Partners

Legislative Update

Ray Collins briefed on the movement of several current bills during this Legislative Session.

- HB 1357: Military Installations - (by **Representative Thad Altman**)
- SB 1796: Military Installations - (by **Senator Tom Wright**)
 - The above two bills would provide the state Eminent Domain authority for Military Base Protection
- HB 429: Purple Star School Campuses - (by Learned, Maney CoSponsors: Tant, Toledo)
 - This bill doesn't have the preferred language and the committee is awaiting getting the right language available before moving it forward
- SB 938: Purple Star School Campuses - (by **Senator Tom Wright** CS Sponsors: Education)

- This bill had passed its first committee and is the one with the preferred language.
- SB 62: Regional Planning Councils
 - This bill lacks a House companion and seems destined to die a quiet death
- Another bill that might have impact is SB 496: Growth Management. The House version is HB 59: Growth Management.

Military & Defense Update

Beth Medina updated that the Staff has been very busy since the last TF meeting:

Potential recommendations for stimulus money that could come to Florida, FDA has renewed its partnerships with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Emergency Management working on the resiliency vulnerabilities identified at Florida's installations. The DEP and DEM have integrated FDA members into their processes and have connected them with their local Mitigation Strategy Work Groups as much FEMA BRIC planning occurs during those meetings.

Chad Corriveau is the newest member of our EFI Military and Defense Team as the Communications and Research Assistant and will help our team maximize our presence on websites and social media. He will be working on the video marketing campaign and will ensure that the B-roll footage is available to our partners for their use, as well. He will be working on EFI's new web pages, as well.

Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer thanked **Beth Medina** for her hard work on behalf of the FDSTF and FDA during her time at Enterprise Florida and wished her well in all her future endeavors. At this time, **Tim Jones**, FDA Vice Chair, presented her with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the FDA and **Vice Chair, Mr. Tom Neubauer**, presented her with a certificate of appreciation from the FDSTF.

IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife, commented that he's been working with Eglin AFB, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy in developing a partnership to support a designation in Northwest Florida as the Sentinel Landscape. The Federal Sentinel Landscape Coordinating Committee has opened a new application cycle and they will submit a pre-proposal by the end of next week and hope they'll be invited to submit a full proposal this summer. At that point the Federal Sentinel Landscape Coordinating Committee, who is comprised of representatives from DoD, Departments of the Interior and Agriculture and several other Federal agencies, will make their determinations for designations of Sentinel Landscapes. He anticipates three (3) to five (5) Sentinel Landscapes will be designated. **Ray Collins** is on their committee representing the FDSTF and has contributed a strong commitment statement for the pre-proposal. He will report their successes as they move through this process.

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 PM EDT

All presentations for this meeting can be found here: <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-Presentations-2021.pdf>

The recorded meeting from The Florida Channel can be found here: <https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/3-18-21-florida-defense-support-task-force/>