Task Force members,

Happy New Year!!

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #70 will be Thursday, 17 January 2019, beginning at 8:00AM ET at the Embassy Suites Miami International Airport, 3974 NW South River Drive, Miami, FL 33142. We are planning a Command brief from USSOUTHCOM at the meeting and will not be doing a tour. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting that will include in-person interviews of potential advocacy firms.

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   **Call-In Number:** 800-501-8979  
   **Access Code:** 1869945

3. **Senator Rick Scott Committee Appointments Announced** – Senator Rick Scott will be assigned to the Senate Armed Service Committee (SASC) among other assignments. This is very good news for Florida who would have lost the seat when Senator Nelson departed. According to an article in the *Tampa Bay Times*, Sen Scott’s other assignments include the “Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs; Committee on the Budget; and Special Committee on Aging.” See article below in the CLIPs.

4. **Congressman Rooney Pushing to Extend MML** – According to an Editorial from Congressman Francis Rooney, “The people of Florida are clearly opposed to offshore drilling.” Because of that, he is pushing for the entire delegation to support the permanent extension of the Military Mission Line. Congressman Rooney stated “As the 116th Congress begins on Jan. 3, the Florida delegation should unite to stop offshore drilling off the Gulf coast of Florida and must push Congress to enact legislation to make the moratorium on offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (EGOM), eastward from the Military Mission Line (MML) at Long. 86 deg, 41 min., permanent.” See entire article below in the CLIPs.

5. **Bay County named a “2019 All American Defense Community”** – The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) announced its selections for the 2019 Class of Great American Defense Communities on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019. Bay County, Florida joins Clovis, New Mexico; the Greater Columbus Region, South Carolina; Middle Georgia; and the North Country-Fort Drum, New York as this year’s winners. According to the press release, “The Great American Defense Communities program recognizes the overall support that communities and regions in the United States provide to service members and military families. Communities are chosen through a competitive selection process which considers community building and integration, support and collaboration, educational and employment opportunities, and family support. “The 2019 Great American Defense Communities highlight some of the most important regions of the country serving and supporting our military families,” said John Bird, retired Navy vice admiral and senior vice president of military affairs at USAA. “Military families are a vital part of each of these communities and are in turn supported through a variety of civic programs and initiatives focused on
improving their quality of life.” For more information, go to https://www.defensecommunities.org/2019gadc/.

6. Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.fl senate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Bills filed so far are below and the current summary of all related bills filed to date is attached.

- **SB 0212 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** (Wright)
  Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; extending the scheduled repeal of the compact and related provisions, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

7. Attachments:
- TPG End of Month Report – Dec
- NS Mayport Ship Assignment Forecast through 2028

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**Terry**

Terry McCaffrey  
Executive Director  
Florida Defense Support Task Force

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**ADC**

**Five Communities Named 2019 ‘Great American Defense Communities’**

ADC Press Release, 2 Jan 2019  

Washington, D.C., January 2 – Five communities across the country have been named to the 2019 class of Great American Defense Communities, the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) announced with USAA, the program’s official sponsor. The Great American Defense Communities program, now in its fourth year, recognizes military communities and regions that help improve the quality of life for service members, military families and veterans.
The 2019 class includes Bay County, Fla., home to Tyndall Air Force Base; Clovis, N.M., the community neighboring Cannon AFB; Greater Columbia Region, S.C., the region surrounding Fort Jackson; the Middle Georgia region, which is home to Robins AFB; and The North Country-Fort Drum region of New York.

“Defined by a mission of force and family, readiness and resilience, America’s defense communities are the foundation of our military’s strength,” ADC President Bill Parry said. “The communities we recognize through the Great American Defense Communities program represent the best examples of what communities can do to create great places for our military families to live and work. We congratulate these five communities and look forward to sharing your stories with the nation.”

The Great American Defense Communities program recognizes the overall support that communities and regions in the United States provide to service members and military families. Communities are chosen through a competitive selection process which considers community building and integration, support and collaboration, educational and employment opportunities, and family support.....

**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Protect the Military Mission Line from offshore drilling**

Francis Rooney, Published 11:00 a.m. ET Dec. 28, 2018


As the 116th Congress begins on Jan. 3, the Florida delegation should unite to stop offshore drilling off the Gulf coast of Florida and must push Congress to enact legislation to make the moratorium on offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico (EGOM), eastward from the Military Mission Line (MML) at Long. 86 deg, 41 min., permanent.

The MML was established by the 2006 GOMESA law to delineate the military testing area as being off limits to oil exploration. This moratorium will expire in June 2022 unless extended and it is rumored that the Department of Interior would like to permit seismic testing in this area. There is no rationale for seismic unless they expect to lease for drilling after June 2022.

Our Florida economy depends on tourism and a large military presence. Any potential, however remote or speculative, for the kinds of environmental damage we have seen take place in the other areas where drilling and production have been allowed will be devastating for our economy, environment and our future in Florida. There are plenty of places marketing for tourists where there is no risk of offshore drilling and we have to compete with them. Aside from the immediate existential risk of a large, multi-million barrel spill like Deepwater Horizon, there are numerous spills going on right now throughout the middle and western Gulf. One, the Taylor spill, has been discharging oil and chemicals into the Gulf offshore of Louisiana since 2004 and has released between 1.5 to 3.5 million barrels of oil in that period.

Additionally, we have a clockwise current in the near offshore Gulf, running right through one of the areas thought to have oil and gas, the Destin Dome. This current assures that any pollutants introduced into the Gulf off our north and west coasts will flow all the way down the coast across Florida Bay to the Keys.

Aside from risks to our tourism-based economy, our strong military presence throughout Florida needs the east central Gulf, east of the MML (this is why it was a military demarcation in the first place) for their exclusive use for testing, free of drilling rigs, platforms and supply vessel traffic. As the May 2018
Department of Defense report “Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico” clearly shows, the military is planning to increase testing out in the EGOM in the future:

In one of its most poignant references, the Department of Defense called the eastern Gulf of Mexico an “irreplaceable national asset” for combat force readiness and for accomplishing the goals of the 2018 National Defense Strategy. The MML creates a large-scale, flexible and irreplaceable training ground for our development of our leading defense technologies. The growing threat assessment of security risks in the Arabian Gulf region make this training all the more important. The report notes several times the proximity to major military bases and its large scale make the EGOM area a unique asset for national defense that cannot be replicated. It is important to mention the over $70 billion in economic impact Florida’s military bases have on our state, according to research by the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

The people of Florida are clearly opposed to offshore drilling. The November 2018 ballot contained a ban on offshore drilling, Amendment 9, which won with over 68% in favor. This widespread support should indicate to the entire Florida delegation, members of both parties and both chambers, that voters are overwhelmingly against letting the moratorium expire in 2022. Floridians are well aware that all of our livelihoods depend on a pristine environment, and that offshore drilling in the Gulf threatens our futures.

As 2019 begins, we want to ensure our constituents that we will continue to fight to permanently ban offshore drilling off our coast.

NAS Pensacola

Back to Basics for CSOs Running Long, Deep, Fast

Story by Randy Martin, 12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs, 01.03.2019
https://www.dvidshub.net/news/306165/back-basics-csos-running-long-deep-fast

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Rapid technological advancements and a shift back to great power competition has created a higher demand for well-trained warfighters. The undergraduate combat systems officer schoolhouse at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Pensacola, Fla. is changing to meet that demand.

“We’re still going to have somebody who has been exposed to the fundamental skillsets,” said Col. Charles McElvaine, 479th Flying Training Group commander at NAS Pensacola. Since 2009, the 479th has provided undergraduate weapons systems officer, navigator, sensor operator, and electronic warfare officer training under the title “CSO,” pronounced “sizzo.”

“The fundamentals are not what they used to be,” said McElvaine. “CSO graduates will be expected to know more about their specific skillsets and be prepared to fly, fight, and win at a higher level than before.”

The new training plan is based on a mix of historic and new training methods combined with today’s high-tech advancements in training simulation. It represents the collective effort of experts in the 479th with inputs from warfighters in squadrons that operate any one of 14 different aircraft that CSOs fly in air-to-ground attack, air-to-air attack, transportation, refueling, and information operations…..
Corry Station center for language, culture supports sailors worldwide

From a nondescript brick building on Naval Air Station Pensacola's Corry Station, Gary Bloesl is in daily contact with American foreign area officers all over the world.

Bloesl supports the military officers working in far-flung locations from Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe through the Pensacola-based Center for Language, Regional Expertise and Culture.

On a recent afternoon, he completed phone calls with Americans at embassies in three African countries, on the island nation of Mauritius and in the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

"We are communicating globally to make sure they have the resources they need for whatever mission they are doing," said Bloesl, who coordinates language and cultural support training for the officers and their staffs.

He finds experts who both help the Americans with specific foreign languages and advise them about cultural norms in areas where they are stationed…..

Hurlburt Field

Mary Esther residents oppose U.S. 98 widening

NAVARRE – The Mary Esther City Council several months ago unanimously approved a resolution that opposes the possible state-led widening of U.S. Highway 98 in Mary Esther.

Many Mary Esther-area residents fear the possible project would mean more lanes of traffic to deal with next to their driveways, the removal of huge old oaks along the road, an increase in speeders and other problems.

By passing the resolution, City Council members let the Florida Department of Transportation know that, "They want traffic to slow down in Mary Esther for safety reasons, and so people will stop in Mary Esther and take in what it has to offer," City Clerk Dana Williams said Thursday.

The FDOT has proposed widening about 24 miles of U.S. 98 from four lanes to six lanes. The project area extends between Mary Esther Boulevard and Portside Drive, just east of Gulf Breeze.

The next chance for people to review details about the project comes Jan. 15 at the Navarre Conference Center at 8700 Navarre Parkway. The FDOT will host an open house from 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by a formal presentation and a public comment period on its project development and environment study. The study could be completed sometime this summer.
7th Special Forces Group honors Donlon

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – In front of the 7th Special Forces Group Headquarters building bearing his name, retired Army Col. Roger H.C. Donlon donated his Medal of Honor to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), during a ceremony Dec. 5, 2018.

Fifty-four years ago, Donlon was presented with the first Medal of Honor of the Vietnam War. The Medal of Honor is the highest and most prestigious personal military decoration that can be awarded to U.S. military service members who have distinguished themselves by acts of valor.

Donlon’s citation reads that he was awarded for his acts of “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity” during the Vietnam War, distinguishing himself by extraordinary acts of heroism “at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty,” on the morning of July 6, 1964, while serving as commanding officer of the U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong, Vietnam.

Standing before an audience of more than 500 soldiers, family and friends to the 7th SFG(A) that Donlon helped build, his service and sacrifice was again celebrated…..

Tyndall AFB

Air Force establishes office at Tyndall AFB to guide five-year rebuilding process

By Ed Adamczyk, DEC. 26, 2018 / 1:35 PM

Dec. 26 (UPI) – A Program Management Office has been established by the Air Force at Tyndall Air Force Base to lead redevelopment and reconstruction efforts there, which are expected to take more than five years and cost about $3 billion.

The PMO will be responsible for leading the redevelopment and reconstruction efforts at the base after it sustained devastating damage in October from Hurricane Michael, the U.S. Air Force said in an update Wednesday.

The immediate goals of the PMO include assessing facility damage, determine what is still usable, preserve capability and start fast-tracking redevelopment tasks -- including planning for a long-term vision of the base's redevelopment.

The base, in Florida's Panhandle region, is the home of the U.S. Air Force's 325th Fighter Wing and its F-22 Raptor stealth fighter planes. It suffered severe damage from the hurricane, notably the loss of roofs on many of its buildings…..
Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation Donates $25,000 to Help Military Families at Tyndall Air Force Base Following Hurricane Michael

Ariel Blaustein, December 27, 2018
https://www.apnews.com/d462202e2a214a498a8b7d729396d347

MALVERN, Pa. – (BUSINESS WIRE) – Dec 27, 2018 – Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to supporting organizations that help military personnel and their families, today announced a donation of $25,000 to the Air Force Aid Society to support Air Force families who were affected by Hurricane Michael. Balfour Beatty Communities operates all military family housing at Tyndall Air Force Base and is working closely with the Air Force to outline a path forward to restore the Tyndall AFB Homes community.

“The aftermath of Hurricane Michael caused severe damage to the Tyndall Air Force Base community, where families have seen their homes leveled and belongings lost forever. It’s essential for organizations to band together and come to their aid,” said Leslie Cohn, board member of Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation. “Our donation represents our commitment to supporting families in need and we’re proud to be able to help the Air Force Aid Society build a road to recovery.”

Balfour Beatty Communities’ Tyndall AFB Homes team presented the $25,000 check to Air Force Aid Society Chief Operating Officer and retired Air Force Col. Linda Egentowich. Members of the Tyndall Spouses Club and the Airman and Family Readiness Center were also in attendance. The Air Force Aid Society supports the Air Force mission by relieving emergency financial distress, helping Airmen and their families achieve educational goals and improving their quality of life through community programs.

Cape Canaveral AFS
45 OG Det 3 prepares for human spaceflight return

Story by Airman 1st Class Zoe Thacker, 45th Space Wing Public Affairs 12.26.2018

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. – When space shuttle Atlantis’ STS-135 mission lifted off from Kennedy Space Center on July 8, 2011, emotions were high. A history book, penned by NASA, spanning 30-years of manned space shuttles was now closed. Few were certain when the United States would send an astronaut into space again, if ever.

Years have passed and American astronauts have been sent to the International Space Station onboard Russia’s Soyuz spacecraft, the current human spaceflight transportation vehicle, but the U.S. is gearing up to bring human spaceflight back to American soil. Human spaceflight could return to the U.S. as early as 2019 and a unit within the 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., will play a direct role in the recovery and rescue of landing astronauts.

As astronauts prepare to land back on Earth from space, one unit is responsible for their recovery and rescue, Detachment 3 from the 45th Operations Group. Det 3 is the Department of Defense’s office of primary responsibility for all aspects of human spaceflight recovery. This includes the development of
rescue tactics, training and equipping of forces, real world execution, and overall command and control rescue aspects of the human spaceflight missions…..

**Homestead AFB**

**Trump administration expanding detention center for migrant children in Florida**

GARANCE BURKE and ANITA SNOW, Associated Press, 12-27-2018  

The [Trump](https://www.whitehouse.gov/) administration said Wednesday it will expand a temporary detention center for migrant children in Florida, expanding the number of beds from 1,350 to 2,350.

The [Homestead](https://www.homesteadafb.mil/) facility, near the Homestead Air Reserve Base, is on a former Labor Department Jobs Corps site. The facility has been a target of protests over the [Trump](https://www.whitehouse.gov/) administration's zero-tolerance policy for illegal immigration at the southern U.S. border.

The government also plans to keep open through early 2019 a tent city in Texas that now holds more than 2,000 migrant teenagers.

The Tornillo facility opened in June in an isolated corner of the Texas desert with capacity for up to 360 children. It eventually grew into a highly guarded detention camp where, on Christmas, some 2,300 largely Central American boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 17 slept in more than 150 canvas tents.

The two facilities can operate unlicensed and without required checks because they are located on federal property and thus don't have to comply with state child welfare laws.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Mark Weber said Tornillo, which originally was slated to close Dec. 31, has stopped receiving new referrals of migrant youth.

Tornillo will now shut down after the new year, Weber said, but he did not give an exact date or more precise time frame for when it might close for good….

**Defense Industry**

**In 2019, high-profile SpaceX, Boeing and ULA missions will turn all eyes to the Space Coast**

Emre Kelly, Florida Today, Published 5:24 p.m. ET Jan. 1, 2019 | Updated 2:57 a.m. ET Jan. 2, 2019  

Though the Space Coast can expect to see fewer rocket launches this year, the potency of upcoming missions will turn all eyes toward the Eastern Range as teams inch closer to the first crewed missions to the International Space Station from American soil in nearly a decade.

2018 turned out to be a banner year for the region as 20 missions – the most since 1998 – took flight from either Kennedy Space Center or neighboring Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. None were "ordinary,"
but there were some standout moments: SpaceX's much-vaunted Falcon Heavy demonstration flight in February and NASA's Parker Solar Probe mission to "touch the sun" in August, to name a few.

But NASA's Commercial Crew Program, with help from SpaceX, Boeing and United Launch Alliance, this year will spearhead some of the most highly anticipated launches since the space shuttle program's end in 2011. All are expected to launch two types of missions, including uncrewed demonstration flights to the ISS, as well as crewed variants.

**DoD Budget**

**DoD Eyes $1.2B Funding in FY20 for New Boeing F-15X Jets**

Posted By: Darwin McDanielon: December 26, 2018In: News, Products & Service

The Department of Defense aims to include $1.2B in funding in its fiscal year 2020 budget request to support the acquisition of the newest versions of the F-15 aircraft, Bloomberg reported Friday.

DoD officials said the agency hopes to buy 12 of the new Boeing-built F-15X fighter aircraft for the Air Force.

The plan is part of the agency’s effort to replace the Air National Guard’s aging F-15C variant, which was last produced in 1980.

Boeing builds the F-15 in St. Louis in Missouri, in the same facility where the company manufactures its Super Hornets.

The company currently only offers the new F-15X to U.S. allies.

The DoD is expected to issue its FY20 budget request on Feb. 4.

**Other Of Interest**

**Here are Rick Scott’s committee assignments when he goes to Washington**

By Steve Contorno, Dec. 21, 2018

Rick Scott, Florida's outgoing governor and soon-to-be junior Senator, announced his committee assignments on Friday.

The Republican will serve on the following committees, according to his transition staff: Armed Services Committee; Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs; Committee on the Budget; and Special Committee on Aging.

Three of those assignments are the same as the ones held by the man Scott will replace, Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson: Armed Services, Commerce and Aging. It makes sense for Florida to continue to have
"I am honored to continue fighting for Florida families in the U.S. Senate and look forward to serving on committees that will work to find innovative solutions to some of our nation's most complex issues," Scott said. "I am excited to focus on continuing to promote economic growth and lowering taxes, improving transparency and accountability in government spending, supporting veterans, military members and their families and investing in the safety and security of our nation. I will build on the success we've had in Florida over the last eight years to ensure that every person in our state has the opportunity to get a quality education, a great job and raise a family in one of the safest states in the nation."

Scott will be sworn into office on Jan. 8, five days after the rest of the freshman class, to avoid a gap between him and Gov.-elect Ron DeSantis.

Florida bill would make it illegal to remove public monuments

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WTXL) – A new bill that would make it illegal for local governments to tear down public monuments, including those honoring Confederate soldiers, is making its way through the Florida Senate.

House Bill 97, titled the Soldiers’ and Heroes’ Monuments and Memorials Protection Act, was filed by Republican State Rep. Mike Hill of Pensacola for the upcoming 2019 legislative season.

It was filed on Dec. 12 and is being co-introduced by Anthony Sabatini, another Republican state representative.

The bill would protect all monuments honoring U.S. soldiers, military organizations, armed conflicts, and law enforcement officers built on public property on or after March 22, 1822.

Under the bill, the memorial in question can only be altered "to accommodate construction, repair, or improvements to the remembrance." If the remembrance is moved, it must be moved to a location of "equal prominence as the original location."

If the bill is passed, it would make it a third-degree felony to damage or deface a memorial. The bill would also protect road names, historical flags, schools, parks and other things designated as military memorials.

Pentagon Update: Shanahan In, Mattis Out; Trump Not in Hurry to Nominate Permanent Replacement; Comptroller to Become New Deputy Secretary

Dan Cohen, Posted on Jan 03, 2019 03:10 am

https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5e0e2d33ce307ef7&id=dac2d5ef4f
On the first working day in his new role, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said he was focused on implementing the National Defense Strategy developed under then-Secretary Jim Mattis which calls for a shift in emphasis toward great power competition, during a meeting with service secretaries and other senior leaders. Shanahan said the leaders should remember, “China, China, China,” according to one official, reported Stars and Stripes. Shanahan later attended a Cabinet meeting at the White House. Mattis formally turned over the reins of the Pentagon to Shanahan at midnight on Dec. 31, after President Trump previously announced Mattis would not be staying until the end of February as his Dec. 20 resignation letter stated. … Shanahan could remain acting secretary for “a long time,” a description Trump used during his surprise visit to Iraq last week, reported Military Times. Shanahan may be the leading candidate to replace Mattis, but the president so far hasn’t signaled his intention. Among other leading contenders for the post is Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson. … David Norquist, who has served as Pentagon comptroller since May 2017, will become the department’s acting deputy defense secretary and assume Shanahan’s former duties, an official said Wednesday. “David Norquist has had insight into virtually every tenet of this department. I have the greatest confidence in his abilities to lead a phenomenally talented team while performing the duties as deputy secretary of defense,” Shanahan said in a statement. As DOD’s chief financial officer, Norquist most recently led the department’s first comprehensive audit, reported the Hill.

**Senate Armed Services Shuffles Its Lineup for New Congress**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Jan 04, 2019 04:50 am
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=fefbb2acce

The Senate Armed Services Committee will have significant turnover in the 116th Congress, after the Republican Conference on Wednesday released a preliminary committee roster with five new members. The committee’s Democratic lineup released last month included three new members. The five new GOP members were all elected to the Senate for the first time in November — former Reps. Martha McSally (Ariz.); Kevin Cramer (N.D.) and Marsha Blackburn (Tenn.); as well as former Florida Gov. Rick Scott and former Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley. They will replace Sens. Ted Cruz (Texas), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Ben Sasse (Neb.), Tim Scott (S.C.) and Jon Kyl (Ariz.).

The additions are significant for Arizona, Florida and Missouri, which otherwise would have lost their representation on the committee. McSally, a former A-10 pilot who had served on House Armed Services, is a natural fit. Last month Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey named her to fill the late Sen. John McCain’s seat once Kyl, who had filled the seat since September, stepped down at the end of the year. McSally can be expected to remain an advocate for the A-10 Warthog, reports Defense News.

Two states with a large military presence, South Carolina and Texas, no longer will have a member on the committee.

On the Democratic side, the new members for the 116th Congress are Sens. Joe Manchin (W.Va.), Tammy Duckworth (Ill.) and Doug Jones ( Ala.); they will fill the seats left by the departure of Bill Nelson (Fla.), Claire McCaskill (Mo.) and Joe Donnelly (Ind.). Each party’s committee assignments still must be ratified by the full Senate. The GOP assignments need to be ratified by the Republican Conference as well.
Jan 11

Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #70 will be **NEXT Thursday, 17 January 2019, beginning at 8:00AM ET** at the Embassy Suites Miami International Airport, 3974 NW South River Drive, Miami, FL 33142 (agenda attached). We are planning a Command brief from USSOUTHCOM at the meeting and will not be doing a tour. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting that will include in-person interviews of potential advocacy firms. E-books are posted on the website at [https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/EBook-FDSTF-Meeting-70.pdf](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/EBook-FDSTF-Meeting-70.pdf)

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979       Access Code: 1869945

3. **Governor Ron Desantis Inaugurated** – Governor Ron Desantis was inaugurated as Florida’s 46th Governor on Tuesday, Jan 8, 2019. On Monday, the Governor held a special event in Tallahassee honoring military and first responders that was very well attended.

4. **More Support for Extension of the MML** – Two Bills have been filed that would extend the moratorium on Oil Exploration and Drilling east of the Military Mission Line (MML). According to the *Pensacola News Journal*, Senator “Rubio, a Republican and Florida’s senior U.S. senator, filed the bill on the first day of the 2019 legislative session. Titled the "Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act," the bill also requires Florida receive a share of oil and gas leasing revenues from other areas of the Gulf.” Sen Rubio’s bill would extend the ban on drilling for five years, until 2027. The bill is similar to the one he filed in 2017 that was not approved largely because it requires the ban on drilling to remain while making Florida a recipient of oil revenue funds. In the House, Congressman “Francis Rooney, R-Fla., unveiled a bill to ‘permanently ban oil and gas leasing, preleasing, and related activities in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.’” Rooney introduced his bill amending the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 on Thursday. The bill was sent to the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources on Thursday” according to the *Sunshine State News*. Both bills focus on environmental impact and tourism as key drivers even though protection of the Gulf Range is the primary rationale for the moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) passed in 2006. The moratorium is set to expire in 2022.

5. **EFI’s New CEO Approved** – The Board of Directors at Enterprise Florida Inc. unanimously voted to approve Mr. Jamal Sowell as the new President and CEO. According to the EFI Press Release (below in the *CLIPs*), “Governor-Elect DeSantis said, “I am proud that Jamal Sowell has been confirmed by the Board of Directors to serve as EFI’s new President & CEO. Jamal has the economic development experience to help grow Florida’s economy and bring more jobs to our state. As a Veteran, he also understands the importance of protecting our military bases and missions to maintain our reputation as the most military-friendly state
in the nation. I know Jamal will continue to use our state’s economic development tools to make Florida the leader in business location, relocation and expansion.”

6. **Governor Desantis Signs Executive Order on Water Quality** – On Thursday, Governor Ron Desantis signed an executive order that is aimed at solving many of Florida’s water issues. Key to the order is the fencing $2.5B over the next four years to fund “major reforms to ensure the protection of Florida’s environment and water quality”. According to the press release, "Our water and natural resources are the foundation of our economy and our way of life in Florida," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "The protection of water resources is one of the most pressing issues facing our state. That’s why today I’m taking immediate action to combat the threats which have devastated our local economies and threatened the health of our communities.” Of direct interest to the Defense Community is a provision in Section 3 that directs the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to “Take necessary actions to adamantly oppose all off-shore oil and gas activities off every coast in Florida and hydraulic fracturing in Florida.” We hope that this includes support of the federal moratorium on oil and gas exploration east of the Military Mission Line (MML). See full press release and the text of Executive Order 19-12 below in the CLIPs.

7. **John Patrick Walsh has Departed the Florida Washington Office** – With the change of administration in the Governor’s office, John Patrick is moving out of the Florida Washington Office. He sent out a message to many of us stating “It has been the honor of a lifetime to work with you all on behalf of the people of Florida. I thank Governor Scott for the opportunity to serve and learn these past eight years. But as Bob Dylan warned us, “The times they are a changing.” So I wish you all well and look towards my future endeavors.”

8. **Legislative Committees Met this Week** – Both Florida legislative houses met this week to kick off business prior to the 2019 Session which start on March 5, 2019. Staff attended both committee meetings and is working to ensure we can brief members on the Task Force and the importance of military and defense to the state of Florida over the next several weeks.

9. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov); for Senate Bills (SB), go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov). For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session.

   - **SB 0212 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** (Wright)
     Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; Extending the scheduled repeal of the compact and related provisions, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law
   - **HB 0217 Postsecondary Education For Certain Military Personnel** (Hattersley)
     Postsecondary Education For Certain Military Personnel: Requires BOG & SBE to create uniform system for award of postsecondary college credit to certain servicemembers & veterans of U.S. military; provides requirements for such uniform system; provides transcript fee waiver for active duty members of Armed Forces of U.S. & certain veterans. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
- **HB 0225 Education** (Beltran)
  Education: Provides that district school board may not prohibit student from lawfully wearing uniform of any branch of military or naval service of United States or of state at graduation ceremony. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

- **SB 0288 Monuments and Memorials** (Baxley)
  Monuments and Memorials; Citing this act as the “Soldiers’ and Heroes’ Monuments and Memorials Protection Act”; revising the definition of “veteran” to include additional periods of military service; prohibiting specified activities concerning remembrances on public property; prohibiting damage to or removal of certain remembrances, etc.
  Effective Date: 10/1/2019

10. Attachments:
- TF Meeting #70 Agenda

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**Terry McCaffrey**  
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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Governor Desantis EXORD**

**Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Major Water Policy Reforms**

Staff, For Immediate Release, January 10, 2019  

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order 19-12 (*Achieving More Now For Florida’s Environment*), implementing major reforms to ensure the protection of Florida’s environment and water quality.
"Our water and natural resources are the foundation of our economy and our way of life in Florida," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "The protection of water resources is one of the most pressing issues facing our state. That’s why today I'm taking immediate action to combat the threats which have devastated our local economies and threatened the health of our communities."

The order calls for:

- **$2.5 Billion over the next four years for Everglades restoration and protection of water resources** (a $1 Billion increase in spending over the previous four years and the highest level of funding for restoration in Florida’s history).

- **The Establishment of a Blue-Green Algae Task Force**, charged with focusing on expediting progress toward reducing the adverse impacts of blue-green algae blooms now and over the next five years.

- **Instruction to the South Florida Water Management District** to immediately start the next phase of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project design and ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approves the project according to schedule.

- **The Creation of the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency** charged with organizing and directing integrated scientific research and analysis to ensure that all agency actions are aligned with key environmental priorities.

- **The Appointment of a Chief Science Officer** to coordinate and prioritize scientific data, research, monitoring and analysis needs to ensure alignment with current and emerging environmental concerns most pressing to Floridians.

**Executive Order 19-12: Achieving More Now For Florida’s Environment**

Section 1: Focus on Rapid Improvement for Water Quality, Quantity and Supply

I hereby direct the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Department of Health (DOH) as provided in paragraph J below, and Visit Florida and the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) as provided in paragraph L below, to take the following actions to enhance Florida’s water quality and preserve its natural resources:

A. Secure $2.5 billion over the next four years to invest in Everglades restoration and protecting our water resources.

B. Establish a Blue-Green Algae Task Force, charged with focusing on expediting progress toward reducing the adverse impacts of blue-green algae blooms now and over the next five years. This task force should support key funding and restoration initiatives to expedite nutrient reductions in Lake Okeechobee and the downstream estuaries. This task force should identify priority projects for funding that are based on scientific-data and build upon Basin Management Action Plans to provide the largest and most meaningful nutrient reductions in key waterbodies, as well as make recommendations for regulatory changes.

C. Update and secure all restoration plans, within one year, for waterbodies impacting South Florida communities, including Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries. These updates will ensure that the Blue-Green Algae Task Force has the necessary information to provide guidance to DEP on maximizing the investments in water quality improvements.
D. Instruct the South Florida Water Management District to immediately start the next phase of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project design and ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approves the project according to schedule.

E. Expedite key Everglades projects including the C-44 reservoir and stormwater treatment area, C-43 reservoir, Tamiami Trail and additional projects necessary to protect our waterways and natural resources.

F. Work with the South Florida Water Management District to add stormwater treatment to the C-43 Reservoir to provide additional treatment and improve the quality of water leaving this important storage component.

G. Expedite projects with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve management of Lake Okeechobee, including updating the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule and identifying water quality treatment technologies to install near water control structures in Lake Okeechobee.

H. Direct DEP to establish a septic conversion and remediation grant program with a local government match requirement.

I. Instruct all five water management districts to increase transparency and accountability by providing data and information to DEP to support key water quality restoration efforts. Instruct all water management districts to review budgets and prioritize available funding to focus on projects that will help address harmful algae blooms and maximize nutrient reductions.

J. Participate in Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s (FWC) Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force to provide technical expertise and assistance studying causes and impacts of red tide. The DOH is also directed to participate in FWC’s Task Force to help study air quality and human health impacts of red tide.

K. Continue DEP’s red tide emergency grant program to support local governments to clean up their beaches and coastal areas to minimize the impacts of red tide to residents and visitors.

L. Partner with Visit Florida and DEO to identify opportunities within communities and recommend investments in green infrastructure, such as wetland treatment systems, that benefit our natural resources and local economies by increasing recreational and tourism opportunities, while improving water quality.

M. Engage local governments, industry, universities and water management districts to identify and research all viable alternative water supply sources and provide an assessment of funding needs critical to supporting Florida’s growing economy. DEP should take all necessary steps to establish recurring funding for an alternative water supply grant program to help communities plan for and implement vital conservation, reuse and other alternative water supply projects.

N. Engage local governments, industry, citizens and other stakeholders through a targeted education and outreach campaign that will focus on the importance of conservation and reuse efforts and encourage Floridians to implement essential conservation and reuse efforts in their homes, businesses and communities throughout Florida.

O. Continue to explore every option to stop Georgia’s harmful upstream water use from causing further adverse impacts to the Apalachicola River and Bay.

Section 2: Restructuring to Focus on Accountability, Transparency, and Science to Achieve More Now for Florida’s Environment
I hereby direct DEP to implement the following actions to ensure the agency is making sound decisions based on the best available science and providing for accountability and transparency:

A. Create the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency charged with organizing and directing integrated scientific research and analysis to ensure that all agency actions are aligned with key environmental priorities.

B. Appoint a Chief Science Officer to coordinate and prioritize scientific data, research, monitoring and analysis needs to ensure alignment with current and emerging environmental concerns most pressing to Floridians.

C. Take all necessary actions to move the Environmental Crimes Enforcement Unit from FWC to DEP to align resources focused on environmental protection and ensure strong enforcement of Florida’s environmental laws.

Section 3: Ensure Florida’s Valuable and Vulnerable Coastlines and Natural Resources are Protected

I hereby direct DEP to implement the following actions to protect Florida’s coastlines and natural resources:

A. Create the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection to help prepare Florida’s coastal communities and habitats for impacts from sea level rise by providing funding, technical assistance and coordination among state, regional and local entities.

B. Take necessary actions to adamantly oppose all off-shore oil and gas activities off every coast in Florida and hydraulic fracturing in Florida.

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Ron DeSantis Taps Dana Young to Lead Visit Florida

By FLORIDA DAILY, 01.04.19

On Friday afternoon, incoming Gov. Ron DeSantis recommended former Florida state Sen. Dana Young to the Visit Florida Board of Directors to be selected as the next CEO of Visit Florida. Young had been one of the leading Republicans in the Legislature in recent years but she lost a close contest in November to Democrat Janet Cruz.

On Friday, DeSantis praised Young as he called on Visit Florida’s Board to approve her.

“Dana Young is an exceptional leader who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for all Floridians through her work in the state senate,” said DeSantis. “Her leadership ability and experience make her an excellent candidate to lead Visit Florida in their mission to maximize the economic impact of travel and tourism to our state. I look forward to working with Dana to strengthen our tourism industry and build on the economic success of our great state.”

First elected to the Florida House in 2010, Young, an attorney, moved up the GOP ranks. She served as majority whip and deputy majority leader under Speaker Will Weatherford in her second term before being picked by Speaker Steve Crisafulli to be majority leader in her last term in the House. In 2016, she
moved up to the Florida Senate but only served two years before being defeated by Cruz. Gov. Rick Scott named Young to the Florida Defense Support Task Force in 2013.

EFI Board of Directors confirms Jamal Sowell as President and CEO

EFI Press Release, 1-7-2018
https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/newsroom/

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 7, 2019) – Today, the Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) Board of Directors held a conference call and unanimously voted to approve Jamal Sowell as the new President and CEO of Enterprise Florida. Sowell will also serve as Florida’s Secretary of Commerce.

Governor-Elect DeSantis said, “I am proud that Jamal Sowell has been confirmed by the Board of Directors to serve as EFI’s new President & CEO. Jamal has the economic development experience to help grow Florida’s economy and bring more jobs to our state. As a Veteran, he also understands the importance of protecting our military bases and missions to maintain our reputation as the most military-friendly state in the nation. I know Jamal will continue to use our state’s economic development tools to make Florida the leader in business location, relocation and expansion.”

“Thank you to Governor-Elect DeSantis and the EFI Board of Directors for your confidence and giving me the opportunity to serve the state of Florida,” said Jamal Sowell, President & CEO of Enterprise Florida, Inc. “I am excited to work with the EFI Board, team and partners across the state to continue to create jobs and opportunities for Florida families.”

Sowell most recently served as the Chief of Staff at Port Tampa Bay, where he was responsible for coordinating the operations of the President and CEO’s office. In addition to working at Port Tampa Bay, Sowell previously served as the special assistant to the University of Florida (UF) President and assistant corporate secretary to the UF Board of Trustees. He has also served in the U.S. Marine Corps and is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom Afghanistan. He earned his Bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida, a Master’s degree in education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and holds his law degree from the Indiana University Bloomington Maurer School of Law where he was a Pat Tillman Scholar…..

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

Marco Rubio introduces bill to extend moratorium on drilling in Gulf of Mexico

Melissa Nelson Gabriel, Pensacola News Journal, Published 7:00 a.m. CT Jan. 5, 2019

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio has introduced legislation to extend a moratorium on energy exploration in the eastern Gulf of Mexico through 2027.
Rubio, a Republican and Florida's senior U.S. senator, filed the bill on the first day of the 2019 legislative session. Titled the "Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act," the bill also requires Florida receive a share of oil and gas leasing revenues from other areas of the Gulf.

Rubio offered similar legislation in 2017. In a Pensacola News Journal editorial at that time, he said the massive 2010 BP oil spill is proof that Florida is at risk from oil and gas exploration taking place elsewhere in the Gulf, and Florida should share in the revenues from those activities.

"This would give Florida a new source of funding and recognize that as long as our shores shoulder some of the risk, it's only fair that Floridians share in some of the benefit," he said.

The current moratorium on energy exploration in the eastern Gulf, which includes the federal waters off Pensacola, is set to expire in 2022.

Representatives of groups opposed to offshore drilling did not immediately respond to questions about the Rubio legislation on Friday.

Since 2010, many Florida politicians have been outspoken against moves to drill in waters off Florida's coasts.

The BP Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, which exploded off the Louisiana coast, killed 11 workers and spewed nearly 5 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

The spill coated beaches from Perdido Key to Navarre with thick globs of weathered oil.

**Francis Rooney Looks to Permanently Ban Drilling in the Eastern Gulf**

By KEVIN DERBY, January 7, 2019 - 6:00am


Rooney introduced his bill amending the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 on Thursday. The bill was sent to the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources on Thursday.

After introducing the bill, Rooney explained why he had brought it out.

“Water quality impacts all of Florida’s residents and visitors,” Rooney said. “I want to ensure that all areas east of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico are permanently protected from offshore oil drilling. In 2022, the moratorium on drilling and exploration will expire. Offshore drilling will negatively affect our environment, tourism, and military readiness. I am fighting to protect our Florida coast for future generations to enjoy - Florida’s economy is dependent on clean water and a healthy environment.”

So far, Rooney has been able to reel in a copsponsor from the other side of the aisle in U.S. Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla.

With Democrats taking control of the House after the November elections, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., brought back the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and tapped Castor to lead it.
This is not a new issue for Rooney. Early last year, he unveiled the “Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act” which would ensure the federal moratorium banning oil drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico would become permanent. In 2017, Rooney threw his support behind Castor’s “Florida Coastal Protection Act” which would also make the moratorium on drilling in the eastern Gulf and around parts of South Florida permanent. Rooney also backed U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz’s, D-Fla., “Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act” which extends the moratorium until 2027…..

NAS Whiting Field

Navy Federal Nears Land Deal

By DAVE DUNWOODY • JAN 9, 2019
https://www.wuwf.org/post/navy-federal-nears-land-deal

An offer by Navy Federal Credit Union to purchase land next to its campus in Beulah could mean new jobs and a leg up in acquiring BP oil spill money.

Navy Federal is offering $4.2 million for the 100-acre parcel, a part of what was known as Outlying Landing Field, OLF-8, for choppers flying in and out of NAS Whiting Field. Spokesman Bill Pearson says it’s an opportunity to finalize their campus build-out project.

“It would allow us to add some much-needed parking; that will in turn allow us to add another 300 positions to our campus,” said Pearson. “We also would have the opportunity to add some recreational space that would be available to the public when not in use by Navy Federal.”

The 100 acres are part of a total of 636 acres in a land swap between Escambia County and the Navy. Pearson says the deal — Navy to County, then County to Credit Union — is in the final stages of completion.

“[Escambia] County is expected to take ownership of the property later this month; and that’s why we’ve in in negotiations with them for at least six months or so,” Pearson said. “That’s gone very well, they understand the need we have from a business perspective. They like the opportunity to help tie some new job creation to OLF-8 right off the bat.”….

Tyndall AFB

Rep. Neal Dunn says he will make Hurricane Michael recovery the top priority this session

By KATIE LANDECK, News Herald Reporter, Posted Jan 7, 2019 at 7:30 PM

PANAMA CITY — With Hurricane Michael having largely fallen out of the national news cycle, Congressman Neal Dunn has found himself in a new position on Capitol Hill — hurricane spokesman.
“It’s my job to be the cheerleader (for Hurricane Michael recovery),” he said. “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.”

With the start of a new Congress, Dunn has been talking to his colleagues about the devastation of Hurricane Michael — over and over again if need be — to push the issues forward.

This week, he hopes to push through the House the first of several disaster supplemental bills that would have relief money for Hurricane Michael as well as Hurricane Florence and the California wildfires.

“This would just be the down payment,” Dunn said.

It will take more than one bill to cover the cost, but this first one would set money aside for line items such as debris cleanup, money for the Air Force to start redesigning Tyndall Air Force Base, and money to cover costs such as Tyndall putting airmen up in hotels during the mandatory evacuation.

But more will be coming, Dunn said, noting this is a long process.

“I’ve been talking to some of the other congressmen who had a disaster happen in their district, and they said that for four years this will be your No. 1 priority,” Dunn said.

In addition to working on reimbursement money, Dunn said a lot of time is being spent pushing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) forward on efforts, such as getting trailers to the area as fast as possible, and working with other involved agencies such as the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on housing grants……

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**Gulf Coast State Offers Scholarship to Active Military**

By: Kayla Tucker, Posted: Jan 09, 2019 07:54 PM EST, Updated: Jan 09, 2019 11:24 PM EST


**BAY COUNTY, Fla.** - Classes are back in session for the new semester at gulf coast state college and a new scholarship is helping active duty military men and women get their education.

Military men and women are continuing to get back on track but may have missed out on crucial deadlines to get financial help for school.

That's why Gulf Coast State College decided to create the Tuition Assistance scholarship for the spring 2019 semester, allowing anyone who wants to be enrolled can be.

Officials of the college say GCSC has always made the military a priority and this is just another way to honor those brave men and women.

"We don't want the hurricane affecting the ability of our students to attend college and so Gulf Coast has stepped up to help out in that time where other measures aren't available," says Suzanne Remedies, Director of Military Veteran services.

The deadline to apply for the tuition assistance is Friday, January 11th. Remedies will be at Tyndall Air Force Base Thursday, January 10th to help you through the process. She will be at Base Support Building from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m…..
NS Mayport

Naval Station Mayport installs sea turtle-friendly lighting

To help fellow mariners navigate, Naval Station Mayport via American Electrical Contracting recently installed more than 760 new lighting fixtures intended to protect nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings.

The new lighting — specialized bulbs and fixtures — will also create major savings on electricity costs, company officials said.

“It is a great feeling when we get to install a system that delivers wins on multiple fronts. Our crew really enjoyed such a feel-good project,” said Dave Yencarelli, chief operating officer of American Electrical Contracting.

Research including a 2014 University of Florida Conservation Clinic report, shows nesting turtles follow moonlight when returning to the ocean.

Scientists also believe sea turtle hatchlings are born with an innate instinct that leads them in the brightest direction, which normally would be moonlight reflecting off the ocean, according to the Sea Turtle Conservancy.

Hatchlings are easily confused by excess lighting from near-shore buildings and streets and mistaking it for moonlight head inland where they can be eaten by predators, run over by motorists in streets and parking lots, or drown in swimming pools, according to the conservancy — an international nonprofit, which is the world’s oldest sea turtle research and conservation group.

USS Wichita to be commissioned this weekend

KSNW, Posted: Jan 07, 2019 02:54 PM CST, Updated: Jan 07, 2019 03:16 PM CST

WICHITA, Kan. (KSNW) – The USS Wichita will be commissioned during a ceremony at Naval Station Mayport near Jacksonville, Fla on Saturday, January 12. The ceremony will be held at 10 a.m.

The ship will conduct minesweeping, anti-submarine and drug trafficking surveillance operations, while also providing humanitarian support around the world.

It is the third USS Wichita commissioned into service and is named in honor of Wichita's significant contributions to our national defense.

Kansas Senator Jerry Moran will give the keynote remarks.
Cape Canaveral AFS

$18 million Port Canaveral beach project expected to finish by April

Jim Waymer, Florida Today, Published 1:01 p.m. ET Jan. 9, 2019 | Updated 8:12 p.m. ET Jan. 9, 2019

An $18 million project to restore sand to 3.5 miles of beaches, from Port Canaveral's Jetty Park to south of Cocoa Beach Pier, is on pace to finish by the end of April, Port Canaveral officials said.

The project must wrap up by April 30 — the last day before turtle nesting season begins and when most coastal projects must stop to avoid disturbing nesting of the protected species.

Work began in early December on the largest of five beach renourishment projects in the Port Canaveral area since 1995.

The work puts temporary restrictions on public access to sections of beach within about 1,000 feet of the daily construction activity for about three to four days at a time.

The project pumps sand from the shoreline north of Port Canaveral along Cape Canaveral Air Force Station to beaches south of the Canaveral Inlet, widening beaches from Jetty Park to 0.6 miles south of the Cocoa Beach Pier, just north of State Road 520.…

Energy

Battery Storage Could Provide Next Boost in Energy Resilience

Dan Cohen, Posted on Jan 08, 2019 04:45 am
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=99ba340255

The Army is considering adding utility-scale batteries at a number of installations with existing renewable energy projects to bolster their resilience. The initiative follows a 1-megawatt battery project at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., which went online last February and comes as storage options have become more affordable, Michael McGhee, executive director of the Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI), told the Army News Service.

Several battery projects “are in the works” and could come this year, McGhee said. “Large-scale affordable battery storage … provides the most compelling new option paths available that are intriguing to improving resilience on Army installations,” he said.

A variety of installations with large solar arrays — including Forts Gordon, Benning and Stewart in Georgia; Fort Rucker and Anniston Army Depot in Alabama; and Fort Detrick, Md. — along with Fort Hood, Texas, which obtains power from an onsite array and an off-site wind farm, could benefit from battery storage, McGhee said.
Another trend for 2019 could be the increased use of natural gas as its cost declines and design improvements allow the use of smaller gas-fired plants. The local utility in Lawton, Okla., is exploring the possibility of developing a natural gas-fired power plant and a solar array on Fort Sill, he said. The utility would lease land for the two projects through an enhanced use lease (EUL) and provide the Army a backup power capability in return, according to the story.

OEI typically uses EULs or power purchase agreements for its projects. To build microgrids, though, the office is looking at a range of options, including direct Army funding, energy savings performance contracts and utility energy service contracts. “We’re weaving together a collection of authorities that very often are not considered in concert,” McGhee said.

**Defense Industry**

**Tampa tech company offers solutions to counter drones, a growing threat**


From his headquarters in a burgeoning industrial park off U.S. 41 in Tampa, the head of a drone technology firm said the recent scare at London’s Gatwick International Airport was yet another red flag about the potential for danger, accidental or intentional, posed by drones.

Last month, more than 140,000 passengers were delayed by the cancellation of more than 1,000 flights at Gatwick over concern that drones were being illegally flown in the area, according to reports.

The incident, still under investigation, “shows the need to have a proactive approach” to detecting and acting against potential drone threats, said Ryan English, CEO and co-founder of FLYMOTION. Among other things, the company created five years ago provides innovative technology, including drone support, to local, state and federal law enforcement and first responder agencies and the Department of Defense. FLYMOTION also helps detect drones in real time so that counter measures can be taken as soon as they get off the ground….

**DoD Budget**

**House Disaster Relief Package includes $1.5B to Rebuild Installations**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Jan 07, 2019 02:30 am
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=95c5b2a7f4

Military installations affected by Hurricanes Michael and Florence, including Tyndall AFB and three Marine Corps bases, would receive $857 million for construction funding and $600 million for operation
and maintenance, under an emergency spending bill House Democrats released Friday. The Democrats’ $12 billion disaster aid package builds on the $7.8 billion emergency measure the House passed in late December, reported CQ. That GOP-drafted bill separately included $5.7 billion for border security and never reached the president’s desk.

Milcon funds in the Democrats’ measure would be allocated to three accounts:

- **Air Force** — $700 million for planning and design, and construction needed to respond to Hurricane Michael; funds would be used for planning and design for the relocation of Tyndall’s F-22 mission, beddown of F-35 units and construction of other facilities needed to rebuild Tyndall, according to an Appropriations Committee release; the Air Force would need to submit a basing plan and future mission requirements to Congress for installations affected by the storm prior to spending the funds;

- **Navy and Marine Corps** — $115 million for planning and design for construction projects at Marine Corps Air Station New River, MCAS Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune in North Carolina; and

- **Army National Guard** — $42 million to rebuild an Army readiness center and operations facility.

The measure also includes $400 million in operation and maintenance funding for the Air Force and $200 million in operation and maintenance funding for the Marine Corps to address the impact of the two storms. It is not yet clear when the emergency spending package would receive a vote in committee or on the House floor.

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**DoD has its top-line budget figure**

By: Aaron Mehta, 1-9-2019

https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2019/01/09/dod-has-its-topline-budget-figure/

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon has officially received its top-line budget figure for fiscal 2020, according to acting Deputy Secretary of Defense David Norquist.

Asked if the department had finally received its figure, Norquist confirmed it has, but declined to go into details on what the dollar figure would be.

As of mid-December, before the sudden resignation of Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis and his subsequent departure at the end of the year, the Pentagon said it had yet to receive a final budget figure, leading to questions about whether the budget may be delayed in its rollout.

The Pentagon’s budget figure has seesawed dramatically over the last three months. The department had been planning for most of the year to a $733 billion defense top-line figure, until the moment at an October Cabinet meeting when President Donald Trump announced the figure would be $700 billion.

That number, delivered close to the planned budget finalization date of Dec. 1, sent planners into a frenzy as they attempted to develop a pair of budget offerings matched to both levels. The situation changed again when, following a meeting with Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and congressional defense leaders, Trump reportedly boosted the budget to $750 billion.

In his comments, Norquist indicated that the budget rollout will still happen come February, although what impact the ongoing government shutdown may have on that plan is unknown.
New laws have allowed hundreds of soldiers and veterans to maintain their professional licenses in Florida even as deployments sent them overseas, according to state officials.

G.W. Harrell, executive director of the state Department of Business and Professional Regulation, told state representatives today that new changes in the law put in place in 2017 have allowed more military personnel to remain in good professional standing for work in Florida.

A total of 349 licensed have been issued to veterans, their spouses or surviving spouses since a change in law went into effect July 2017. That includes 112 construction contractors, 140 real estate professionals and even 22 veterinarians.

And fees waived for military personnel and their families also saved about $198,000.

A new law waiving specific requirements for veterans trained as part of their military service has seen less utilization since its implementation in July. The state department has received just five applications requesting a waiver of fees while practicing a profession, Harrell said.....
Jan 18

Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #71 will be Thursday, 21 February 2019, beginning at 9:00AM ET via conference call / WebEX.

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979  
   Access Code: 1869945

3. **Senator Scott Supports MML Extension** – In an interview with our newest Senator, Rick Scott confirmed he is still in support of extending the moratorium on oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico for “As long as we can get it.” In other news this week, Floridians are finding out that the new Constitutional Amendment they passed last November to not allow oil drilling in Florida waters will not have the affect they thought. It was believed that this would stop drilling in the Gulf, but it is not common knowledge that Florida waters stop only 3 miles from the beach. What that means is if oil platforms were set up just outside Florida waters, we would see them from the beach and military operations would have to plan critical test missions around them. The current moratorium protecting exploration and drilling that expires in 2022 protects the gulf east of the Military Mission Line (MML) due to incompatibility of oil drilling operations with military training and testing and extends at least 150 miles off the coast; much further in areas in central and south Florida where air and naval forces train and test critical military capabilities. If the moratorium is not extended we lose our protection of the military missions as well as protection of our environment and tourism industry from potential catastrophic economic and ecological damage. See articles below in the CLIPs.

4. **Governor DeSantis Visits Recovery Efforts in Bay County and Tyndall AFB** – Chairman Jay Trumbull joined Governor Ron DeSantis on his second visit to Bay County in 7 days. The Governor is ensuring that recovery of the area hit hardest by Hurricane Michael, including Tyndall AFB, is on track to full recovery. According to an article in the News Service Of Florida, Governor DeSantis has ordered that agencies speed up providing funds for debris removal that is critical to moving forward with recover. See article below in the CLIPs.

5. **Congressman Charlie Crist gets new Committee Assignments** – According to an article in the Tampa Bay Reporter, “U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist, D-St. Petersburg, has been selected to serve on three subcommittees responsible for funding programs that he says are critical to Pinellas County and Florida. The three – defense; commerce, justice, science, and related agencies; and financial services and general government – are subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee.” See article below in the CLIPs.

6. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session.

   ▪ **SB 0292 Education** (Lee)  
     Education; Prohibiting a district school board from prohibiting a student from lawfully wearing the uniform of any branch of the military or naval service of the United States or of the state at his or her graduation ceremony, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law
News Clips of Interest:

FDSTF

Hurricane debris remains ‘huge, huge undertaking’

By News Service Of Florida, on January 16, 2019
https://floridapolitics.com/archives/285630-hurricane-debris-remains-huge-huge-undertaking

Gov. Ron DeSantis directed the state Division of Emergency Management to speed money to Panhandle communities that are being swamped financially by “massive” amounts of debris from Hurricane Michael.

Emerging from a closed-door meeting Wednesday with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Brock Long and local officials, DeSantis said that, in addition to upfronting disaster relief money to local governments, he will push the White House to increase federal reimbursements for debris cleanup.

“I think that this warrants it,” DeSantis said after the meeting at A.D. Harris Learning Village in Panama City. “Obviously, there is a lot of stuff going on in Washington right now, it’s not the best of times. But I think that would be very good for the local community.”

DeSantis and Long later planned to tour Tyndall Air Force Base, Mexico Beach and a site where temporary housing was being put up in Panama City…. 
Governor Ron DeSantis returns to Panhandle communities

By Stephanie Byrne | Posted: Wed 6:24 PM, Jan 16, 2019  | Updated: Wed 6:52 PM, Jan 16, 2019

https://www.wjhg.com/content/news/Governor-Ron-DeSantis-returns-to-Panhandle-communities-504456332.html

BAY COUNTY, Fla. (WJHG/WECP) - Two visits in one week; Florida Governor Ron DeSantis
returned to Bay County Wednesday as the area continues to heal after Hurricane Michael.

Last Wednesday, Governor DeSantis visited Mexico Beach City Hall, but this week, Calhoun, Bay, and
Gulf counties lined his itinerary.

The governor's goals range from the roofs over our heads, to the streets below our feet.

He said, "There is more housing on the way. FEMA has assured me of that. We want to be helpful in any
way we can with that."

In regards to debris, DeSantis wants to give people money faster.

"I'm instructing my Department of Emergency Management to green light and expedite some of the
money for debris removal. I mean, there's things where we can do, we can expedite these worksheets that
the communities have to do so they could just get 50 percent of the cost up front," he explained.

During a round table discussion, our local leaders were able to make their voices heard as they advocate
for their cities.

"I really believe that he [DeSantis] heard what we said about the fact that our debris hauling bills are
going to exceed our city budgets," Lynn Haven Mayor Margo Anderson said….

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

Rick Scott: On the shutdown, the wall, stock buybacks and offshore drilling

By Steve Contorno, Jan. 11, 2019

http://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2019/01/11/one-on-one-with-rick-scott-on-the-shutdown-the-wall-
stock-buybacks-and-offshore-drilling/

Governor Rick Scott became Senator Rick Scott this week when he was sworn into his new job in
Washington, D.C. He walked into a partial government shutdown and a fierce debate over President
Donald Trump's demands for $5.7 billion for a wall on the southern border.

The Tampa Bay Times sat down with Scott on Thursday to discuss the shutdown as well as some of the
issues he'll face in the Senate. Here's what Scott said.

The interview has been edited for brevity and clarity…..

….. Do you support extending the current moratorium on offshore drilling in the gulf as it stands on
offshore drilling for five years? 10 years?

As long as we can get it.

The current moratorium, so no drilling 225 miles off of Tampa Bay? You wouldn't get any closer?
Keep it the way it is?
Offshore Oil Drilling in Florida Still Possible Despite Ban

FLORIDANS TOOK A STAND against offshore oil drilling Nov. 6 by voting their opposition into the state constitution, where it's almost certain to stay for at least a generation.

The issue resonates with Alan Johnson, mayor of St. Pete Beach (population "pushing 10,000"), a 6-mile-long, sandy tourist magnet on Florida's Gulf coast.

"The big problem that people relate to here is that they've been to Houston, where they can see the oil rigs offshore, and they complain about big balls of tar on the beaches. Everybody's deathly afraid of that happening here," Johnson says. "We're the designated sunset capital of Florida and the last thing we want to do is ruin that."

So did passage of Amendment 9, the new ban on drilling in Florida coastal waters, solve the problem?

Johnson is doubtful. "There was a lot of confusion as to what it really accomplished," he says. "We're at the mercy of what happens in Washington."

State waters extend 3 nautical miles off the coast, but the states have no direct control over 200 miles of federal waters. And oil ignores man-made borders.

The biggest danger associated with oil drilling is what happened in the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon explosion and spill, with devastating effects on the marine ecosystem and industries like tourism and fishing that depend on pristine beaches and water…..

…..Meanwhile, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is about to grant drilling permits, authorizing action after the seismic surveys locate fertile fields. Only the government shutdown is delaying this permitting process.

Also, if Congress does nothing to extend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, a moratorium on oil drilling and exploration, it will expire in 2022. Environmentalists say the subsequent legal vacuum would invite drilling in the eastern Gulf, close to Florida's west coast.

Exxon Mobil, BP, Texaco and Shell – all the big U.S. industry players – are lining up in anticipation, says Matthew Schwartz, executive director of the South Florida Wildlands Association. "There's oil there, there's clearly oil there, and those guys are hungry to go in there," he says.

A year ago President Donald Trump said Florida will be exempt from drilling leases, a promise that possibly helped Republican Rick Scott move from the governor's office to the Senate. When no formal action followed Trump's pledge, though, conservationists stopped expecting special protection for Florida waters.

"Trump is not taking Florida off the table," Schwartz says…..
PENSACOLA, Fla. – Nearly 100 invited guests attended a Jan. 11 ceremony onboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola marking the 160th anniversary of one of Northwest Florida’s most well-known landmarks.

The Pensacola Lighthouse and Museum, accessible through NAS Pensacola on Pensacola Bay, was celebrated during the hour-long ceremony, during which Pensacola Lighthouse Association founders Dianne Levi, Richard Callaway and executive director Jon Hill, offered remarks on the 171-foot tower. The celebration marked not only the structure’s 160th anniversary but the end of a four-year multimillion dollar restoration effort.

"None of this would have been possible without the Ladies of Impact, and the more than 130,000 visitors we have annually,” said Jon Hill, the executive director of the Pensacola Lighthouse and Museum. “To a person, they all love this Lighthouse and have a vested interest in its continued success and accessibility.”

According to Hill, the current lighthouse is the second iteration of the structure in Pensacola, the first of which was established in 1824. That lighthouse was deemed "insufficient, too short and light not bright enough," by sea captains working in the area, Hill said, and Congress appropriated funds for the current lighthouse with construction beginning in 1856 and completed two years later. The lighthouse’s Fresnel lens was lit for the first time on Jan. 1, 1859.

Restoration efforts during the four-year refurbishment included repair of 300 feet of linear cracks on the exterior, replacement of 110 of the structure’s 177 stairs, restoration of the ironwork at the top, restoration of the Fresnel lens and complete restoration of all associated buildings. Hill added that the significant community involvement made the facility's refurbishment possible.

Sailors in fatigues marched one direction Thursday afternoon at Naval Air Station Pensacola's Corry Station as sailors in workout clothes jogged around them.

The first group was headed to the base cafeteria for a mid-day lunch break, while the second group was just starting its daily schedule with physical training before moving into classrooms for hours of cybersecurity training.

Things are so busy these days at Corry Station, the Navy's Center for Information Warfare Training, that students enter the classrooms in three shifts stretching from early morning to midnight. There aren't enough seats in the existing classrooms for all of the students.
Eglin AFB

Eglin could host F-22s for 3 years

By Jim Thompson, Posted Jan 15, 2019 at 11:51 AM, Updated Jan 15, 2019 at 6:03 PM
https://www.newsherald.com/news/20190115/eglin-could-host-f-22s-for-3-years/

EGLIN AFB – Eglin Air Force Base could be the home of pilot and maintenance training for the F-22 Raptor fighter jet for as long as three years, under the terms of an “interim beddown” proposal accepted Friday by a White House office that coordinates federal environmental efforts.

In the wake of October’s Hurricane Michael, which all but destroyed Panama City’s Tyndall Air Force Base, Tyndall’s F-22 training units have been migrating to Eglin. Coming to Eglin are Tyndall’s 43rd Fighter Squadron, which trains F-22 pilots; the 372nd Training Squadron’s Detachment 4, which provides F-22 maintenance training; and the 2nd Fighter Squadron, which flies the T-38 Talon to provide air-to-air combat training as part of F-22 training.

In all, 31 Raptors, 18 T-38s and as many as 800 personnel will be at Eglin when the transfer of F-22 operations is completed.

The move would be “interim step” while Tyndall rebuilds, Mike Spaits of the Eglin’s public affairs office said. While much remains to be done in rebuilding damaged or destroyed structures on base, most major component units at Tyndall are fully operational, including First Air Force headquarters, the 53rd Weapons Evaluation Group, the 823rd RED HORSE engineering squadron and the 337th Air Control Squadron, Col. Brian Laidlaw, commander of the 325th Wing at Tyndall, said last week. Currently, there are 48 separate repair projects underway affecting 144 different base facilities. To date, he added, officials have issued more than $175 million in recovery contracts…..

Tyndall AFB

Tyndall Air Force Base Commander gives an update on recovery efforts Recovery at Tyndall Air Force Base

By Jordan McCool | Posted: Fri 5:46 PM, Jan 11, 2019

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla (WJHG/WECP) - Tyndall Air Force Base is continuing to recover from Hurricane Michael.

At the Bay County Chamber of Commerce's First Friday, Commander Colonel Brian Laidlaw gave an update on the base. One hundred and seventy-five million dollars worth of contracts are already underway.
The First Air Force, 53rd Weapons Evaluation and 337th Air Control Squadron are back up and running. The dining facility, pharmacy, and radiology are also reopened. Laidlaw says he's optimistic about the future of the base.

"Obviously, we have gone through a lot, like the rest of the local community has, but with tragedy comes opportunity to rebuild. A lot of the structures that we had on the base have been around for a long time and we now have an opportunity to build a base to be relevant for the next 70-80 years," Laidlaw said.

On January 21, Tyndall will hold an industry day to connect with businesses and contractors in the county.

**FL National Guard / Camp Blanding**

**Trained and Ready**

Story by Sgt. Aaron Ellerman, 204th Public Affairs Detachment  09.19.2018


**CAMP BLANDING, FLORIDA** - Soldiers of the 689th Engineer Company practiced mission essential military tasks while at a two-week annual training exercise at Camp Blanding, Fla. during mid-August.

The Orlando based unit trained in a variety of skillsets consisting of searching and clearing explosive devices, performing combat casualty care, weapons qualification, vehicle familiarity and convoy operations along with numerous other basic Soldiering and engineer specific tasks during their time there.

The majority of U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers' duty obligations consists of training one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer, creating many challenges to readiness. This is why it is important for units to take full advantage of large scale training opportunities that are available in their semi-local area and maximize the time they have for efficient and focused training during these events.

During the AT event the unit also conducted an Engineer challenge with its sister company the 388th Engineer Company based out of West Palm Beach, Fla. The challenge tested the Soldiers mental, physical, and occupational skills.

The 689th was last deployed to Afghanistan in 2011-2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where its Soldiers received 17 Purple Hearts, 7 Valor Awards, 8 Bronze Stars and 90 combat action badges while conducting demining operations and route clearance.

The Army's Reserve component is vital to fulfilling national military needs throughout its operations at home and abroad. Exercises like these are crucial because they allow the Army Reserve to ensure its citizen Soldiers stay proficient and ready to deploy by providing enhanced training opportunities, professional development, and unit cohesion.

**NS Mayport**

**Mayport welcomes a new ship to fleet**

Author: Christopher Hong, Published: 8:38 AM EST January 11, 2019, Updated: 11:55 AM EST January 12, 2019

https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/news/national/military-news/mayport-welcomes-a-new-ship-to-fleet/77-639077d4-2164-4358-90a0-6d8286924a1
There’s been at least one troublemaker on every crew that Mike Trnka, a chief mineman with the U.S. Navy, has been a member of during his 15 years in the service.

Except for the crew he’s now a part of aboard the future USS Wichita.

The soon to-be commissioned ship, part of the Navy’s new generation of stealthy, fast and agile warships that can execute aggressive shallow water missions and still hold their own in the open seas, is manned by roughly 70 people. Running such a small crew requires the crew to run a tight ship. Everyone must do their job — several jobs, in fact — and there’s no room for slack or misconduct.

“These sailors are handpicked,” said Cmdr. Nathan Rowan, the commanding officer of the vessel, while giving reporters a tour Thursday of what will soon be the newest littoral combat ship stationed at Mayport Naval Station.

When the ship’s commissioning ceremony ends Saturday, it will be the sixth warship of its kind to join the squadron based in Mayport, which is home to the East Coast’s littoral combat ship fleet.

The future USS Wichita, whose steel hull is painted with the number 13, will serve as a training platform and is not scheduled for deployment. Instead, it will remain in Mayport, where new crew members can learn to work on this young fleet of ships.

The 387-foot ship, the third to carry the name of the largest city in Kansas, is powered by four large engines, two gasoline and two diesel, and is moved by jet propulsion.

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**U.S. Navy Elects to Construct Another Freedom-Variant LCS**

Posted by Kimberly Underwood, January 16, 2019

[https://www.afcea.org/content/us-navy-elects-construct-another-freedom-variant-lcs](https://www.afcea.org/content/us-navy-elects-construct-another-freedom-variant-lcs)

On January 15, the U.S. Navy awarded a contract to Lockheed Martin Corp. of Baltimore, exercising an option to build an additional littoral combat ship (LCS).

Lockheed Martin will build the ship, known as LCS-31, at teammate Fincantieri Marinette Marine’s (FMM’s) naval shipyard in Marinette, Wisconsin. Under the contract, Lockheed Martin will oversee the design and construction, as well as the testing and trials of the ship for the Navy.

The award is a fixed-price-incentive firm target modification to a previously awarded contract. DOD did not disclose the dollar amount of the award, as it was considered source-selection sensitive information.

The company reported that LCS-31 would be the 16th Freedom-variant LCS ordered by the Navy. Construction is underway for seven of the Freedom-class ships. The Lockheed Martin team is building the Freedom-variant LCS ships, which are odd-numbered, while the Austal USA team in Mobile, Alabama, is building the Independence variant—the even numbered hulls—which is a different, aluminum trimaran version of the LCS. Also, Lockheed Martin is preparing to lay the keel for LCS-25, the USS Marinette, a company spokeswoman said.

In addition to FMM’s shipyard in Marinette, Wisconsin, where 40 percent of the effort will be completed, work under the Lockheed Martin contract will be performed in: Washington, D.C. (7 percent); Baltimore (6 percent); Beloit, Wisconsin (2 percent); Iron Mountain, Michigan (2 percent); Mobile (1 percent); Waunakee, Wisconsin (1 percent); Crozet, Virginia (1 percent); Coleman, Wisconsin (1 percent); Monrovia, California (1 percent); and various other locations below 1 percent (38 percent).

DOD expects the work to be completed by February 2026.
MacDill AFB

MacDill takes charge in developing joint warfighters

Story by Airman 1st Class Caleb Nunez, 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs 01.11.2019


“I, [state your full name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic…”

This declaration of service is the foundation of the oath of enlistment and is spoken by every service member upon joining the military, regardless of branch of service. Just as service members speak the same words, they work together toward a common goal - protecting the country.

MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., hosted its first-ever Joint Professional Military Education enhancement seminar Jan. 9-11, 2019, continuing the military’s strides to become a more cohesive force.

The three-day course, open to non-commissioned officers of all branches, focused on creating a common base of knowledge across all services in preparation of serving in a joint environment.

“We had E-9’s from the Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Air Force brief throughout the course,” said Master Sgt. Paul Norris, the 6th Maintenance Squadron first sergeant and facilitator to the seminar. “They went over their perspective and experiences with the students in case they found themselves deployed with another service or supervising or rating someone from another service.”

The course covered topics such as the joint perspective from each branch, cultural and ethical awareness, building partnerships, communication, and leadership....

US Special Operations Command

SOCom and Tampa gearing up for Defense Department’s Warrior Games, coming here in June

By Howard Altman, Published January 15, 2019


In a little more than six months, some 300 adaptive sports athletes from around the military and about 1,000 of their family members will converge on Tampa to take part in the Defense Department’s Warrior Games.

That may not seem like a ton of time, but given that U.S. Special Operations Command is hosting the event this year, those planning the adaptive sports competition are confident that the plan will come together.

“We are very thankful for the community support,” said Army Maj. Anthony Mayne, a command spokesman. “We have the ability to do almost every sporting event out in the public and that would not happen without the cooperation of everyone from the mayor’s office on down.”.....
SpaceX lays off 10 percent of its workforce to 'become a leaner company'

Emre Kelly, Florida Today
Published 8:27 a.m. ET Jan. 12, 2019 | Updated 8:40 a.m. ET Jan. 12, 2019

SpaceX will cut 10 percent of its workforce in a "strategic realignment" aimed at making room for its ambitious projects and long-term vision, the company announced Friday.

"To continue delivering for our customers and to succeed in developing interplanetary spacecraft and a global space-based internet, SpaceX must become a leaner company," SpaceX said in a statement to FLORIDA TODAY, further noting that those two initiatives alone have bankrupted other organizations. "This means we must part ways with some talented and hard-working members of our team."

The statement continues: "We are grateful for everything they have accomplished and their commitment to SpaceX’s mission. This action is taken only due to the extraordinarily difficult challenges ahead and would not otherwise be necessary."

The company is in the midst of three major initiatives, the first of which is a multibillion dollar NASA contract that requires transport of astronauts to the International Space Station on its Crew Dragon spacecraft. Teams are targeting February for an uncrewed test flight of the capsule and, if successful, a subsequent crewed mission in June…..

Relativity Space to launch 3D-printed rockets from Cape Canaveral

James Dean, Florida Today
Published 12:20 p.m. ET Jan. 17, 2019 | Updated 5:16 p.m. ET Jan. 17, 2019

A startup developer of low-cost, 3D-printed rockets that could one day be made on Mars aims to join Cape Canaveral’s launch fleet at soon as late 2020.

Los Angeles-based Relativity Space has won approval from the Air Force's 45th Space Wing to fly its 100-foot-tall Terran 1 rocket from Launch Complex 16, the company announced Thursday.

Initial missions will deploy and replenish constellations of small satellites, but the three-year-old company founded by young former Blue Origin and SpaceX engineers has longer-term ambitions to support colonies living off of the Earth.

“Fundamentally, we’re creating the first autonomous platform to build the future of humanity in space,” Tim Ellis, the company’s 28-year-old co-founder and CEO, told FLORIDA TODAY. “We’re very excited to be joining the Space Coast.”

Relativity hopes to sign a 20-year agreement granting it exclusive use of Launch Complex 16, a former Titan and Pershing missile site also used by NASA’s Gemini and Apollo programs. It was deactivated in 1988…..
The U.S. Navy has enlisted virtual reality in its effort to recruit high school students, with a weeklong push planned for Central Florida next week.

Representatives of the military branch will visit 13 schools across the region starting Jan. 22 and going through Jan. 29.

They will bring with them an Oculus Rift headset equipped with a Nimitz VR simulation mission that will have students work through a scenario during which they must extract Navy SEALs from a mission.

The plan is to visit classrooms at Colonial, Lake Howell, Winter Park, Lake Minneola, West Orange, Lake Mary, Hagerty, Cypress Creek, Ocoee and South Lake high schools.

“The Nimitz offers users the most realistic Navy experience possible,” Rear Adm. Brendan R. McLane, Commander of Navy Recruiting Command, said in a press release. “To reach a high-caliber pool of recruiting prospects, we need high-caliber recruiting tools, and this display is truly state of the art.”

The move is a play out of the business community’s playbook.

For years, companies in various industries have used VR-based experiences to lure workers and let them preview their prospective roles.

The car company Jaguar, for instance, has used VR to try to fill software engineering roles.

The U.S. Navy launched its virtual reality recruitment efforts in 2017.

Rescue personnel, their razor thin life-saving operations were recently put to the test as they mobilized to Avon Park Air Force Range, Fla.

During their pre-deployment ‘spin-up’ training, Moody’s 347th Rescue Group tested and maximized their CSAR and personnel recovery capabilities. Under normal circumstances, the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crews and maintainers deploy from Moody and normally integrate with a Guardian Angel team from a different base.

This time, Moody’s 38th and 41st RQS’s will deploy together and utilized this exercise to improve their mission readiness and unit cohesion before their departure.

“The purpose of the combined 41st Rescue Squadron, 41st Helicopter Maintenance Unit, and 38th Rescue Squadron ‘spin-up’ training is to prepare the units for the types of operations they will encounter while deployed,” said Lt. Col. Kevin Geoffroy, 41st RQS deployed detachment commander. “This spin-up is
particularly special because the 41st and 38th Rescue Squadrons are planning to deploy together to the same location for the first time in a very long time. They have to be ready to execute their mission on their first day in theater and remain on alert until they come home.”

**Spin Up: Moody rescuers put to the test**

By Senior Airman Greg Nash 23rd Wing Public Affairs, 1-17-219


**AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE, Fla.** — When lives are on the line, there is no margin for error – and for a group of Air Force Combat Search and Rescue personnel, their razor thin life-saving operations were recently put to the test as they mobilized here.

During its pre-deployment "spin-up" training, Moody’s 347th Rescue Group tested and maximized its CSAR and personnel recovery capabilities. During normal circumstances, the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter crews and maintainers deploy from Moody and normally integrate with a Guardian Angel team from a different base.

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**US Southern Command**

**SOUTHCOM Hosts Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief Workshop**

By Raymond Sarracino, U.S. Southern Command Public Affairs | 13 January 2019


More than 70 delegates representing 17 nations met at U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) headquarters December, 11-13, 2018, to focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief issues affecting Latin America and the Caribbean. The workshop, hosted by Chile at SOUTHCOM, focused on disaster response coordination through communication and coordination both internally and with regional and international partners.

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America, Conference of the Armed Forces of Central America, and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were among the organizations and agencies that participated in the three-day workshop. Participants explored means of leveraging the military capabilities within the region and creating ways for civil and military authorities to share information on which nation’s capabilities are available to assist.
“We’re here to mitigate the disaster risk in the region,” said Retired Chilean Army General Rodolfo Gonzalez Palaneck, who was one of the principal leaders of the workshop. “It’s imperative that we understand the resources available in the region and utilize coordination between civil and military assets to ensure that the right resources are available when and where they’re needed.”

**US Helps Dominican Air Force Increase Operational Capabilities**

Julieta Pelcastre/Diálogo | 14 January 2019

As part of ongoing cooperation between the U.S. and Dominican governments to provide disaster relief and counter international narcotrafficking, U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) assisted the Dominican Air Force (FARD, in Spanish) throughout 2018. The cooperation included equipment donations, training, and combined exercises to improve FARD’s response capabilities in rescue, air security, and the fight against drugs.

“SOUTHCOM’s cooperation through the Office of Security and Cooperation of the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republic for different FARD squadrons, such as rescue and combat, represents an increase in operational capabilities for our Air Force,” FARD Lieutenant Colonel Damián Castro Ortiz, of the Air Command Rescue Squadron, told Diálogo. “It complements pre-established donations and agreements that include operational capabilities that were not developed.”

Among the main cooperation agreements between both countries, equipment donation is essential, as it increases Dominican pilots’ operational security. “The safer the air operations, the more operational they become; they give us the capability to start operations and complete them successfully,” FARD Colonel Randy Y. De los Santos, Rescue Squadron commander, told Diálogo.

Since FARD created the Rescue Squadron in 1958, U.S. authorities have helped the institution with donations, including helicopters and joint training to strengthen the military personnel professionally. “U.S. government cooperation is proof of the spirit of fraternity and cooperation that exists between our countries and our air forces,” Col. De los Santos said.

The Rescue Squadron is FARD’s most operational group. The institution’s helicopter pilots are the best-prepared units in case of emergency or disaster in the country. The squadron reports up to 3,500 flight hours per year as part of routine operations all along the island’s 4,000 square kilometers to serve the civil population.

**Small group of Marines, sailors complete ‘first step’ in building long-term Latin America task force**

By: Todd South, 1-14-19

A group of 300 Marines and sailors recently completed a rotation in Central America that could be the foundation of a new multination task force for everything from natural disaster to security responses.

Marines with the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force – Southern Command, deployed to Honduras in June and returned to home station in November. During that six-month tour they trained
troops in the region on basic infantry skills, worked engineering projects such as water mains, medical clinics and school construction/repair.

This was the fourth consecutive year the Marine Corps deployed such a Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force during the hurricane season. But this year saw the first integration of a foreign nation officer within the command staff……

U.S. Army South welcomes SOUTHCOM commander

By Sgt. Ashley Dotson | U.S. Army South Public Affairs | Jan. 16, 2019


JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Members of U.S. Army South welcomed Adm. Craig S. Faller, commander of U.S. Southern Command and his delegation to the Army South Headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston from Jan. 9-11.

The purpose of the visit was to allow Faller to share his vision and command philosophy.

During his visit, Faller toured U.S. Army South facilities, attended briefs and held a town hall meeting with the Army South staff.

During the town hall, Faller and Sgt. Maj. Bryan K. Zickefoose, U.S. Southern Command senior enlisted leader, began by telling the Army South Soldiers about their heroes. Both named deceased troops who were a part of their teams that made an impact on them during their careers…..

Defense Industry

Aerospace firm opens big new facility in technology center

By special to the Daily News, Posted Jan 11, 2019 at 2:52 PM, Updated Jan 11, 2019 at 2:53 PM


FORT WALTON BEACH – MAG Aerospace, a leading provider of military intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance services including manned and unmanned flights, dedicated a new 25,000-square-foot technology integration and support center (TISC) Friday on Anchors Street.

According to a MAG Aerospace news release, the TISC will focus on the integration of special warfare systems into U.S. Air Force special operations. The Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) is headquartered at nearby Hurlburt Field.

MAG Aerospace’s new center in the Fort Walton Beach Commerce and Technology Park will bring more than 50 new high-wage technology engineering positions to the area, according to the news release. They will work to solve problems with interconnecting computing hardware and software, and will also address operational procedures with that computing equipment.

The new facility will be known as the Col. John T. Carney Center of Excellence in honor of John T. Carney, who led the first combat controller team during the first Gulf War. The center will be the first technology facility to house multiple military program offices, along with government representatives and commercial product engineers. That arrangement is designed to hasten innovation and get products and services more quickly into the field…..
Lockheed Martin Wins $69M Deal to Support F-35' DTI Program

By Zacks Equity Research, Zacks.com, January 16, 2019, 08:46:00 AM EDT
https://www.nasdaq.com/article/lockheed-martin-wins-69m-deal-to-support-f-35-dti-program-cm1082771

Lockheed Martin Corp.'s LMT Aeronautics unit has secured a $68.9-million contract to conduct the Mission Data (MD) programming and reprogramming mission for the F-35 Digital Channelized Receiver/Technique Generator and Tuner Insertion Program (DTIP), and other non-DTIP configurations. Per the deal, this defense contractor will design, develop, integrate and test the upgrades related to the mission.

The contract has been awarded by the Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Maryland. Work related to the deal will be majorly executed in Fort Worth, TX. The rest would be executed in Baltimore, MD; and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The entire task is scheduled to complete in May 2021…..

DoD Budget


By Oriana Pawlyk, 13 Jan 2019

The U.S. Air Force is currently coordinating its budget for fiscal 2020 as the Defense Department has solidified a top-line figure.

Acting Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist said Wednesday that the Pentagon has negotiated its figure but did not disclose the amount, according to Defense News.

Estimates have fluctuated in recent months on how much the DoD needs in its total budget -- from $700 billion to $750 billion -- to cover future defense spending.

A year after the National Defense Strategy trickled down through the ranks, the services each have had the opportunity to flesh out their most important priorities for the pending budget cycle, experts tell Military.com. The Air Force's outline shows how the service sees its mission going forward….

SECNAV: Defense Budget Likely to Stop Growing

Dan Cohen, Posted on Jan 17, 2019 05:56 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156e255f5e0e2d33ce307ef7&id=8c0f4f4567

The Navy has enough funding now to fix readiness problems, but the days of increased defense budgets are limited, Navy Secretary Richard Spencer said this week, according to USNI News.

“We do have a national debt issue,” Spencer said Wednesday at a Surface Naval Association symposium in Arlington, Va. “If we think we’re going to get increasing dollars ad infinitum, folks, think again.”
Spencer said there must be accountability for investments. “We need a sustainable path to support the way we’re going to grow,” Spencer said. “And a lot of that is going to have to come from us, because it’s not going to come from Congress.”

President Trump hinted Thursday at the Pentagon that he plans to increase the defense budget again in 2020. The formal budget request is slated for an early February release, though it could be delayed.

**Other Of Interest**

**Florida Is 2019's Best State to Retire**

PRESS RELEASE | 1/15/2019

With almost 25 percent of all nonretired adults having no retirement savings or pension, the personal-finance website WalletHub today released its report on 2019’s Best States to Retire as well as accompanying videos.

To help retirees find a safe, enjoyable and wallet-friendly place to call home, WalletHub compared the 50 states across 46 key metrics. The data set ranges from adjusted cost of living to weather to quality of public hospitals.

**Retiring in Florida (1=Best; 25=Avg.)**

- **27th** – Adjusted Cost of Living
- **11th** – Annual Cost of In-Home Services
- **9th** – WalletHub ‘Taxpayer’ Ranking
- **1st** – % of Population Aged 65 & Older
- **28th** – Property-Crime Rate
- **21st** – Life Expectancy

**CRIST NAMED TO SUBCOMMITTEES OVERSEEING FUNDING FOR DEFENSE, NOAA, NASA**

TBadmin | January 17, 2019
http://www.tbreporter.com/politics/crist-named-subcommittees-overseeing-funding-defense-noaa-nasa/

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist, D-St. Petersburg, has been selected to serve on three subcommittees responsible for funding programs that he says are critical to Pinellas County and Florida. The three – defense; commerce, justice, science, and related agencies; and financial services and general government – are subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee.

“These subcommittees oversee funding for programs critical to Pinellas County, the Tampa Bay region, and entire state – from the defense industry, to harmful algal bloom research, to veterans treatment court programs,” Crist said. “I am thankful for this opportunity to serve as the people’s voice, fighting for the programs directly impacting the lives of Floridians and vital to moving our communities forward.”

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense Jurisdiction oversees the Departments of Army, Navy (including Marine Corps), Air Force, Office of Secretary of Defense, and Defense Agencies including
activities related to military personnel; operation and maintenance; procurement; research and development; and the Military Health System.

Pinellas County is home to more than 800 defense companies and its workforce supports nearby MacDill Air Force Base, which includes CENTCOM and SOCOM....
Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #71 will be Thursday, 21 February 2019, beginning at 9:00AM ET via conference call / WebEX.

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   **Call-In Number:** 800-501-8979  
   **Access Code:** 1869945

3. **ADC Opens Annual Award Nomination Window** – The Association of Defense Community (ADC) “Defense Community Award” program will be accepting applications for the 2019 award session. According to the ADC announcement by Dan Cohen, “ADC is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Defense Community Awards. Categories include Community or State Leadership, Congressional Leadership, John Lynch Base Redevelopment Leadership, and Military Leadership. Nominations can be completed online and are due March 1. Awardees will be recognized in America’s Defense Communities magazine, in a special video and at the Defense Communities National Summit in Washington, D.C., in June.”

4. **Task Force Selects Advocate for Florida** – The Task Force completed the RFP process and selected The Principi Group to continue to serve the state of Florida as its advocate on behalf of Florida’s military installations and missions. The Task Force wishes to commend all of those who took part in the process for their valuable and essential work on behalf of our nations’ military. The members were very impressed with all of the teams and were honored to have such distinguished leaders submitting proposals to assist the state of Florida. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort put forth in all of the proposals. See the full announcement letter at our website at: [https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Advocacy-RFP-Results.pdf](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Advocacy-RFP-Results.pdf)


6. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov); for Senate Bills (SB), go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov). For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session.

   - **HB 0345 Educational Dollars For Duty Program** ( Alexander)
     Educational Dollars For Duty Program: Revises Educational Dollars for Duty program; revises eligibility & ineligibility criteria for members of Florida National Guard; requires program to cover specified percentage of tuition & fees for doctoral & professional degree programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
   - **SB 0386 Directional Signs for Veterans’ Facilities** ( Farmer, Jr.)
     Directional Signs for Veterans’ Facilities; Authorizing the Department of Transportation
to install directional signs for specified facilities operated and maintained by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019

- **HB 0365 Services for Veterans and Their Families** (Hattersley)
  Services for Veterans and Their Families: Requires DCF to establish Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide certain services to veterans & their families; requires DCF to contract with managing entities to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants; requires statewide delivery of services; requires collection of program implementation data & submission of data to DCF; requires report to Governor & Legislature; provides appropriation. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 0427 Honor and Remember Flag** (Gregory)
  Honor and Remember Flag: Designates Honor & Remember flag as state emblem; authorizes display of flag at specified locations, on specified days, & in specified manner; requires flags to be manufactured in U.S.; provides for adoption of certain regulations & for procurement & distribution of flags. Effective Date: January 1, 2019

- **HB 0501 Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans** (Ponder)
  Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans: Authorizes DVA to contract with certain individuals & entities to provide alternative treatment options for certain veterans; requires direction & supervision by certain licensed providers. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **SB 0442 Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel** (Lee)
  Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel; Requiring the Board of Governors and State Board of Education, in consultation with the Chancellors of the State University System and the Florida College System, to create a uniform system for the award of postsecondary college credit to certain servicemembers and veterans of the United States military; requiring specified postsecondary institutions to waive the transcript fee for active duty members of the Armed Forces of the United States and certain veterans, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019

7. Attachments:
   - Rubio JIATF South letter

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**Terry**

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**Enterprise Florida**
101 N. Monroe St., Suite 1000  
Tallahassee, FL 32301 
_EnterpriseFlorida.com_
Rep. Matt Gaetz nominates 30 Northwest Florida students to military academies

Jim Little, Pensacola News Journal, Published 3:50 p.m. CT Jan. 22, 2019

Rep. Matt Gaetz has presented 30 Northwest Florida high school students with nominations to U.S. military academies.

Gaetz made two stops Tuesday at Niceville High School and Pace High School to make the presentations. The nominations are the first step for students trying to attend a service academy. Students must still pass entrance exams, fitness requirements and interviews before being selected.

A member of Congress can make up to 10 nominations per academy, but the academies will only select one of the 10 nominees.....

NIWDC and CIWT Leaders Ensure Readiness and Lethality Through IW Training

Story by Glenn Sircy, Center for Information Warfare Training 01.17.2019

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Rear Adm. Jeff Scheidt, commander of Naval Information Warfighting Development Center (NIWDC), visited the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) and Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Corry Station to review information warfare (IW) training initiatives and discuss current and future training for the Navy’s rapidly changing IW missions, capabilities and roles, Jan. 17.

This was Scheidt’s first visit to CIWT since taking the helm of NIWDC in August 2018. Scheidt’s visit also offered an opportunity to update him on the latest force development approaches for building a talented fleet through initiatives, such as Ready, Relevant Learning, that take recruits from "street to fleet" and transform civilians into highly skilled, operational, and combat-ready warfighters.

Established in early 2017, NIWDC is one of 88 commands under Naval Information Forces (NAVIFOR). Similar to other warfighting development centers, NIWDC's mission includes training and assessing information warfare forces in advanced tactics, techniques and procedures at the individual, unit, integrated or advanced, and joint levels, ensuring alignment with the information warfare training continuum.
Scheidt began the visit with CIWT Commanding Officer Capt. Nick Andrews, where Andrews discussed the scale of training CIWT offers from rating-specific enlisted apprentice to cyber warfare to officer development courses…..

**Hurlburt Field**

**Secret, president-directed raid earns AFSOC airmen Distinguished Flying Crosses**

By: Kyle Rempfer, 1-23-2019


Six airmen assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Florida, on Tuesday.

The DFCs were awarded to an MC-130J Commando II crew, call-sign ARSON 69, for their actions over a 16-hour mission on Jan. 28, 2017. The crew’s operation included responding to a critical MV-22 Osprey mishap, assisting a casualty evacuation of nine service members, and enabling the recovery of critical intelligence materials, an AFSOC official told Air Force Times.

The official would not specify which MV-22 Osprey mishap the airmen responded to, due to operational security concerns. However, the date and length of the mission matches up with an ill-fated raid in Yemen two years ago.

The raid on Jan. 29, 2017, against an al-Qaida compound, resulted in the death of one Navy SEAL and the loss of an MV-22 Osprey. Pentagon officials said they recovered a trove of intelligence documents from the raid and killed 14 alleged militants.

At the time of the mission, the six airmen were assigned to the 67th Special Operations Squadron at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, the AFSOC official said. They flew from England to the area of operations…..

**Tyndall AFB**

**Tyndall Air Force base finds new mission with the billions to be spent repairing hurricane damage**

By Howard Altman, Jan. 18 2019


**TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE** – Signs of devastation are everywhere at Tyndall Air Force Base — buildings destroyed, debris piled in hills at a park, airmen sleeping in rows of tan tents dubbed “TY-raq.”

Still, three months after the Panhandle base suffered a direct hit from Hurricane Michael, restoration work is underway and officials at the highest level have committed to spending the billions it will take to get Tyndall up and running again.
U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn, the Republican who represents the district, introduced a measure to spend $4.5 billion rebuilding Tyndall by 2023. Days later, the Pentagon released its report on climate change, reiterating concerns about factoring in climate issues in planning base construction. And next month, engineering and technical experts from the Air Force will visit the base to begin planning its future.

Before the storm, Tyndall hosted the world’s largest collection of F-22 Raptor fighter jets — all redistributed for now — and more than 23,000 troops, dependents, civilians and retirees.

Advocates for the base argue for its future by pointing out its value to both the military and the local economy.

With easy access to the Gulf of Mexico, pilots here can learn how to fly and fight the world’s most advanced jets over 130,000 square miles of open-water training ground. And nearly 40 percent of the Bay County economy depends on the military…..

Tyndall Air Force Base hit by tornado

By Kirby Wilson, Published January 20, Updated January 20

First a hurricane, now a tornado.

Tyndall Air Force Base, a key military base on Florida's panhandle, was hit by a tornado Saturday night — just three months after the base was devastated by Hurricane Michael.

According to a post on the base's Facebook page, the tornado touched down around 6:30 p.m. Saturday evening. It damaged buildings and vehicles, but no people were hurt, the post said.

Tyndall is a key facility for both the military and the local economy. Its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico gives pilots hundreds of thousands of square miles of nearby training airspace, and the base contributes billions to the Bay County economy annually.

Air Operations Unaffected After Tornado Hits Tyndall

Military.com | By Oriana Pawlyk, 23 Jan 2019

While a tornado touched down in Florida's Panhandle over the weekend and moved over Tyndall Air Force Base, officials say the base did not sustain significant damage and normal operations were not affected.

There has been "no impact" to units or missions stationed at Tyndall, said base spokesman Don Arias. The base was devastated in October by Hurricane Michael.

The tornado "did not impact the recovery schedule for the base in any way," he told Military.com.

It swept through the south side of the base, which houses logistics and support. The flight line and aircraft remain on the north side of the base and were undamaged, Arias said…..
KBR, Inc. has received a six-month contract extension, valued at $52 million, for global government services business, KBRwyle, to provide prepositioning and logistics support services to U.S. Marine Corps' ("USMC") Blount Island Command.

Per the deal, KBRwyle will acquire, maintain, and preposition equipment as well as other essential supplies in Jacksonville, FL. Also, it will provide logistics services to support preservation and packaging, shipping and receiving, as well as maintenance throughout the United States.

In addition to Florida, KBRwyle will support prepositioned stock in Kuwait and Norway, as well as aboard 12 Navy ships in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Being a leading provider of prepositioned stock to the USMC and U.S. Army, KBRwyle has been providing a full range of logistics services across the world for more than 35 years. Notably, its Government Services ("GS") segment, which accounts for nearly 73% of the total revenues, has been performing pretty well.

In the first nine months of 2018, its GS segment revenues rose an impressive 56.3% year over year to $2.5 billion. Also, the segment's backlog as of Sep 30, 2018 increased 34.9% on a year-over-year basis. The improvements were backed by strong organic revenue growth in logistics and engineering business, along with revenue contribution from the acquired businesses....

**US Special Operations Command**

**SOCOM to Scout for Commercial Tech Platforms at SOFWERX Event**

U.S. Special Operations Command will host an industry event to gather applications intended to address certain technology focus areas.

The *Collider* event will take place this April at the command's SOFWERX facility in Tampa, Fla., USSOCOM said Thursday in a FedBizOpps notice.

The command intends to award agreements not within federal acquisition regulations for potential technologies that pass the evaluation of TFA subject matter experts.

These forms of contracting include other transaction agreements, procurement contracts for experimental purposes, business to business research and development agreements and cooperative R&D agreements.

Interested firms may submit proposals in quad charts and white papers through Feb. 15.

The command will only invite firms who pass TFA evaluation.
US Southern Command

Those tolls you pay on Miami’s highways could come to an end if this bill passes

Posted by David Smiley on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019 at 9:10 AM

Some of the busiest — and priciest — highways in Miami could eventually become freeways in more than one sense if two Miami lawmakers are successful in pushing legislation to abolish the agency that oversees five county toll roads.

State Rep. Brian Avila on Tuesday filed a bill in the Florida House that would dissolve the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority, which levies tolls on the Gratigny Parkway and the Airport, Dolphin, Shula and Snapper Creek expressways. Under the legislation, the Florida Department of Transportation would absorb the authority, commonly known as MDX, and the tolls levied on the agency’s five highways would be phased out once all the related debt is paid.

An MDX spokeswoman said the authority’s bond holders are scheduled to be paid in full in 2045. Avila said the legislation is not intended to impede the authority’s planned Kendall Parkway, a controversial $1 billion extension of the Dolphin planned along the edge of the Everglades in order to alleviate traffic in heavily congested southwest Dade.

The proposal is part of a sweeping omnibus bill that would also change the makeup of Miami-Dade’s regional transportation planning organization and — as a direct result of the pedestrian bridge collapse at Florida International University last year — require that the state’s transportation department approve designs for projects on or over state roads. Additionally, starting in 2022, the bill would force counties to use transportation surtax money exclusively on fixed rail and busways, giving the county three years to phase out the money it uses from the 2002 half-penny referendum to subsidize operations…..

Defense Industry

Contractors Feeling Pinch as Shutdown Continues

Dan Cohen, Posted on Jan 21, 2019 04:20 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=71d37e988e

The White House and congressional Democrats are no closer to a spending deal that would re-open the federal government. Tuesday marks the 32nd day of the partial shutdown, which is now starting to impact contractors of all sizes, “making it one of the most economically damaging shutdowns in history,” Politico reported.

Some smaller contractors have had to lay people off. Booz Allen Hamilton, Boeing and The Rand Corp. have had to furlough employees or move them to other projects, according to the article.

It has affected “tens of thousands” of contractors, said David Berteau, president of the Professional Services Council, a trade group that represents federal contractors.
Destin-based consulting firm gets $95M military contract

By Jim Thompson, Posted Jan 20, 2019 at 8:41 AM, Updated Jan 20, 2019 at 8:41 AM

DESTIN – Risk Mitigation Consulting, Inc., a Destin-based consulting firm specializing in risk assessment at military installations, has been awarded its largest-ever contract, a $95 million deal for work at Navy and Marine Corps facilities across the continental United States.

The bulk of the work is slated for installations in California, but RMC also will be working at facilities in Florida, Virginia, Georgia, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, among other states, according to the Jan. 2 contract award announcement from the Department of Defense.

“It’s a large prime contract for us,” said Nick Streitz, RMC’s proposal manager. “It is to date our largest win.”

RMC won the contract in competition with five other firms vying for the business, Streitz said.

RMC has 85 employees, with its CEO, Micheal Zeigler, working from Destin. The firm’s employees are scattered across the United States, and the company will be bringing in additional staff to assist with the $95 million contract, Streitz said.

In technical terms, the contract covers “mission assurance assessments” at the Navy and Marine Corps installations, with the work expected to take five years to complete.

In layman’s terms, what RMC will be doing is assessing the degree to which infrastructure — water and electrical systems, for example — at the various installations might be vulnerable to cyber attack. That kind of attack can, Streitz explained, be just as devastating to a military mission as a cyber attack on an installation’s digital and computer infrastructure…..

Wasserman Schultz to Lead Military-Spending Committee After Taking $160,000 in Defense Donations

JERRY IANNELLI | JANUARY 22, 2019 | 8:35AM

For an example of the painfully transactional and conflicted nature of U.S. congressional committee assignments, consider the case of Democratic Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The new, Democrat-controlled House of Representatives was sworn in at the beginning of the month and leaders began handing out committee appointments. Wasserman Schultz, who represents parts of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties, was named to lead the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

For years she's been a member of the committee, which handles a wide swath of government and military activity — from upgrading airfields in foreign countries to building military barracks on U.S. soil to overseeing the nearly $200 billion Veterans Affairs budget. And now she'll be the first woman to ever run it.

Sitting on any military-budgeting committee, of course, comes with a perk: tons of defense-industry donations. According to the donation-tracking website OpenSecrets.com, Wasserman Schultz (and her
associated political action committee) have taken $159,735 from defense-industry sources since she entered Congress in 2005……

**Other Of Interest**

**Senate Armed Services Committee Republicans have a new look for the 116th**

Andrew Clevenger, Posted Jan 22, 2019 1:10 PM


As the Senate Armed Services Committee sets about its work in the 116th Congress, a handful of new faces will help shape the national security debate on the Republican side of the dais.

Five GOP freshmen have landed spots on the panel, an unusually high number for a committee that is particularly coveted among members whose states have military or defense industry presences.

The new GOP members are Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee; Kevin Cramer of North Dakota; Josh Hawley of Missouri; Martha McSally of Arizona; and Rick Scott of Florida.

Two of those — Hawley and Scott — defeated Democratic members of the Armed Services panel in November’s midterms, so their appointment means a certain amount of continuity for their state’s interests.

Florida is home to numerous military installations, including the headquarters of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Southern Command, and U.S. Special Forces. In addition to three military bases, Missouri boasts a Boeing manufacturing plant that recently nabbed a $9.2 billion contract to build the Air Force’s new trainer jet……

**Darren Soto refiles bill granting immigration relief to deported Central Florida military spouse**

Posted By Monivette Cordeiro on Tue, Jan 22, 2019 at 5:06 pm


U.S. Rep. Darren Soto has refiled a bill granting immigration relief to Alejandra Juárez, the wife of a U.S. Marine combat veteran who was forced to deport to Mexico last year under the Trump administration's "zero-tolerance" policies.

Last August, Alejandra Juárez, 39, was separated from her husband, former Marine Sgt. Cuauhtemoc "Temo" Juárez, 41, and 16-year-old daughter, Pamela. They stayed behind in Davenport while Alejandra Juárez took her 9-year-old daughter, Estela, to live with her in Mexico.

The bill filed by Soto, D-Orlando, is part of a last-ditch effort to allow Alejandra Juárez to obtain an immigrant visa or apply to be a lawful permanent resident……
Florida Cabinet Approves Danny Burgess as Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs

Dave Vasquez, Press Release, 1-24-2019

Tallahassee, Fla – Today, the Florida Cabinet unanimously approved Governor DeSantis’ appointment of State Representative Danny Burgess to serve as the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

“I thank my fellow members of the Florida Cabinet for approving Danny to lead the Department of Veterans’ Affairs,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “His unwavering commitment to our nation and support for our veterans during his time in the legislature make him the right man for the job and I could not be more excited to see what all he accomplishes for our veteran community in this new role going forward.”

Danny Burgess is a Captain and Judge Advocate in the United States Army Reserve. He was elected to represent eastern Pasco County in the Florida House of Representatives in 2014, and was subsequently re-elected in 2016 and 2018. Prior to joining the Florida House of Representatives, Burgess served on the Zephyrhills City Council and as Mayor of Zephyrhills. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of South Florida and his Juris Doctorate from the Barry University School of Law.

House Armed Services Shifts Subcommittee Leaders

Dan Cohen, Posted on Jan 23, 2019 05:25 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=789d25060d

The House Armed Services Committee holds an organizational meeting Thursday morning. Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) formally announced subcommittee leadership assignments Wednesday.

Rep. John Garamendi (D-Calif.) will now chair the readiness subcommittee, with Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) serving as the top Republican.

Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) will remain the top Democrat on the military personnel subcommittee, where Rep. Trent Kelly (R-Miss.) is now the top Republican.

Other leaders include Reps. Jim Langevin (D-R.I.) and Elise Stefanik (R-NY) on the intelligence, emerging threats & capabilities subcommittee; Reps. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.) on the seapower and projection forces subcommittee; Reps. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.) and Mike Turner (R-Ohio) on the strategic forces subcommittee; and Reps. Donald Norcross (N.J.) and Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.) on the tactical air and land forces subcommittee.
Jan 30

Task Force members,

1. **Early Update this Week** – I will be conducting a DV Embark on the USS Abraham Lincoln over the next two days, so this week’s update is a bit early! Will be brushing up on my Navy lingo.

2. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #71 will be Thursday, 21 February 2019, beginning at 9:00AM ET via conference call / WebEX.

3. **Call In Number** –
   - Call-In Number: 800-501-8979   
   - Access Code: 1869945

4. **ADC Conference in Miami Coming Soon** – The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) annual Installation Innovation Conference is approaching fast. According to Dan Cohen, “ADC is introducing five new tracks for this year’s Installation Innovation Forum, which will take place in Miami March 4-6. The newly released agenda includes sessions in the following areas: Innovation Laboratory, Installation Innovation, Installation Resilience, Installation Tech and Great Ideas. The keynote speaker is Robert McMahon, assistant secretary of defense for sustainment. Early registration ends Jan. 31.” For more information including agenda and registration details, go to [https://installationinnovation.org/](https://installationinnovation.org/)

5. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov); for Senate Bills (SB), go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov). For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. List of bills filed so far attached.
   - N/A

6. **Attachments:**
   - Mil Friendly Bills
   - Vet Friendly Bill

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**News Clips of Interest:**

### FDSTF

*The First Defense Leadership Forum Summit Of The Year Will Feature Congressman Matt Gaetz*

NEWS PROVIDED BY, Defense Leadership Forum, Jan 29, 2019, 09:52 ET

DESTIN-MIRAMAR BEACH, Fla., Jan. 29, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Hosted by the Defense Leadership Forum, Congressman Matt Gaetz will be delivering the keynote address on the Economic Impact of the 2019 Defense Budget on January 31, 2019 at the annual Air Force Contracting Summit. The Defense Leadership Forum is expecting more than 500 defense contractors and businesses to attend this year's sold out Summit.

Lana Corrigan, Executive Vice President of the Defense Leadership Forum said, "It's an honor to have Congressman Gaetz deliver the Keynote Address at the Summit. We applaud his decision to invest time into addressing the defense contracting community. Business leaders attending from throughout Northwest Florida and nationwide look forward to hearing from Congressman Gaetz, who sits on both the House Budget Committee and the House Armed Services Committee."

Celebrating its 6th year, the Summit is being held at the Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa, a beachfront resort centrally located on Northwest Florida's Emerald Coast and conveniently near Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB, and USAF Hurlburt Field. The Summit's goals include educating businesses nationwide about the mission and contracting priorities of the U.S. Air Force, identifying the best innovative defense solutions in the industry, explaining contracting procedures for small businesses, connecting businesses with federal contracting resources, and helping prime contractors identify new subcontractors.

**About the Defense Leadership Forum**

The Defense Leadership Forum is a public service organization that brings together Congressional leaders, Pentagon officials, military base commanders, and business representatives to identify the best solutions to defend the United States. The organization works closely with Congress, the Pentagon, local military bases throughout the U.S., federal, state, and local government officials, industry, nonprofit organizations, and professional associations.

### NAS Pensacola

*Coast Guard Cutter Diligence Leaving North Carolina for Good*

By Cammie Bellamy, 25 Jan 2019
WILMINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Diligence is preparing to leave port in Wilmington. But this time, it won't return.

Coast Guard leaders confirmed Thursday that the Diligence, which has been stationed in downtown Wilmington for nearly three decades, is leaving the Port City for Pensacola, Florida.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Kip Wadler of the Coast Guard's Atlantic sector said the relocation will happen sometime next year.

"Right now we're still in the planning stages of that, but we expect that to happen before Sept. 30, 2020," he said.

Wadler said he was still seeking answers from the Coast Guard chain of command for reasons behind the move…..

NAS Whiting Field

NAS Whiting Field Trades Land With Florida County, Opening New Outlying Landing Field

By Brian Garrett-Glaser | January 25, 2019
https://www.rotorandwing.com/2019/01/25/nas-whiting-field/

NAS Whiting Field, (U.S. Navy) – The Navy’s newest outlying landing field at NAS Whiting Field will open for helicopter training operations beginning Jan. 30, the culmination of years of collaboration between Escambia County, Fla., and the U.S. Navy.

Per the agreement, Escambia County will turn over to the Navy outlying landing field (OLF) Site X in Santa Rosa County, and the Navy will in turn cease operations at NOLF Site 8 in Escambia County. The real estate swap provides desirable commercial property to the county and a functional new OLF to NAS Whiting Field.

The exchange was authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015, and the Navy and Escambia County signed a land exchange agreement to formalize their intentions in June 2016.

The signed deeds will be transferred on Jan. 29, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for NOLF Site X scheduled for Jan. 30.

NAS Whiting Field supports all initial helicopter training for the Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps, as well as approximately 60 percent of primary fixed-wing flight training, according to the Navy.

The Navy is expected to release a final request for proposals (RFP) for its new training helicopter in February, with plans to divest its entire TH-57 Sea Ranger fleet, manufactured by Bell, by 2023. Plans are to start buying new trainers in fiscal 2020.

Corry Station

Corry Station’s USO Supports Information Warfare Warfighters

Courtesy Story Center for Information Warfare Training, 01.28.2019
PENSACOLA, Fla. – The United Service Organization (USO) onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Florida, like all other USO locations, goes above and beyond to strengthen America’s military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation.

Established in 1941, the USO was created with simplicity and support in mind and has built upon a long heritage of supportive agendas granted to service members all over the world. Spearheaded by requests for the need of morale and recreational services for U.S. service members, President Franklin D. Roosevelt selected Mary Ingraham to found the USO. Since the 1940’s, the USO has supported over 5 million service members worldwide and with over 30,000 volunteers giving their assistance yearly.

Corry Station’s USO has proudly continued tradition by supporting service members, predominately those receiving training in information warfare at Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Corry Station, since it was established in 2017. Corry Station’s USO creates a comfortable atmosphere of relaxation, multimedia services, snacks and drinks, and fun events for service members to partake. Those same service members are also able to contribute their time to the USO in assisting the development of events that support the local community, active and retired service members, and their families.

Hurlburt Field

Plan under way to fix Florosa Elementary traffic nightmare

By Alicia Adams, Posted Jan 24, 2019 at 4:45 PM, Updated Jan 24, 2019 at 4:45 PM

NICEVILLE – A solution may finally be in the works for the ongoing traffic issue in front of Florosa Elementary School.

The Okaloosa County School District has come up with a two-phase plan involving a partnership with the county, the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization and the Florida Department of Transportation that would help ease traffic and improve safety in this heavily congested area.

“This is a complex issue,” Superintendent Marcus Chambers said at Thursday’s School Board workshop. “As we looked at this, the safety of the students, the safety of the employees and parents, was first and foremost.”

The School District staff quickly assembled the plan after the Jan. 15 School Board meeting, when the board decided to table an agenda item about requesting funds from state Legislature for 10-15 buses for Florosa Elementary to help ease congestion.

This topic has been discussed for more than a year as the traffic affects Hurlburt Field’s main gate. It is also a safety hazard for drivers, as most of the parents come from the west. There is no turn lane into the school, so they must drive past the school and make a U-turn to get back to the school.
Eglin AFB

Eglin reconstitutes noise committee for F-22

By Jim Thompson, Posted Jan 28, 2019 at 6:42 PM, Updated Jan 28, 2019 at 7:18 PM

EGLIN AFB – A “noise committee” formed in connection with the arrival of F-22 Raptor fighter jets at Eglin Air Force Base from Hurricane Michael-devastated Tyndall AFB will hold its first meeting today at Eglin, according to base spokesman Michael Spaits.

In all, 31 F-22s are coming to Eglin from Tyndall, as are 18 T-38 Talons, jet trainers used in air combat instruction.

Noise committee members are: Valparaiso residents Joe Arthur and Rick Woelfl, private citizens appointed by the City Commission; Elliott Kampert, director of growth management for the Okaloosa County government; and Michael Beedie, Fort Walton Beach city manager. The committee is mandated by the Council for Environmental Quality, a White House office that coordinates federal environmental efforts.

According to Spaits, the committee will hear today from some of the base’s “subject matter experts” on noise and related issues.

While Spaits acknowledged the presence of the F-22s “is going to produce more noise,” he also noted that “Eglin has an excellent noise mitigation program.”…..

Tyndall AFB

Senator Rubio Touches on Rebuilding Tyndall Air Force Base

By: Kelly Grosfield, Posted: Jan 23, 2019 11:10 PM EST, Updated: Jan 23, 2019 11:10 PM EST

BAY COUNTY, Fla. - A big concern during hurricane recovery is rebuilding Tyndall Air Force base. Senator Marco Rubio has been keeping an eye on this area since the storm and stopped by our studios Wednesday to talk about Tyndall.

He said the base plays a crucial role in our national security not only are there already current important missions on the base, but soon an F-35 squadron will also be joining that list.

Senator Rubio also touched on the economic benefits of the base. Due to all the benefits of the base and its crucial role, he said there will be a disaster supplemental to help the base rebuild.

"We do have to begin the rebuilding process. Whatever bill ends the government shutdown, I am confident it will have disaster money in it, and it will have Tyndall money in it to begin that process," said Sen. Marco Rubio.

Senator Rubio said there is no say yet on how much money Tyndall will receive to rebuild, but Tyndall will get the funds needed to bring the base back to its former glory.
Rubio: Housing situation at Tyndall is ‘catastrophic’ - could threaten future operations

By Ed Offley, News Herald Staff Writer, Posted Jan 24, 2019 at 7:00 AM, Updated Jan 24, 2019 at 8:53 AM

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE – After a tour of this hurricane-ravaged base on Wednesday, Sen. Marco Rubio said he has found a “catastrophic” situation that could threaten long-term future operations, including the deployment of three F-35 joint strike fighter squadrons in 2023.

And it is not the ongoing federal shutdown that is holding up $400 million in proposed disaster relief for Tyndall, Florida’s senior senator added.

Efforts to repair and rebuild the base’s housing — particularly more than 600 single-family dwellings — are paralyzed because of a dispute between a private contractor that manages the housing and one of the company’s major creditors, Rubio said. Balfour Beatty Communities, one of the nation’s largest residential housing managers with more than 50,000 units in its portfolio, developed Tyndall’s single-family housing under a lease from the Air Force.

“My understanding is that this company owes a bunch of money to a creditor,” Rubio said. “The creditor is not allowing insurance proceeds from the (Hurricane Michael) destruction to flow to the company for repairs, and the result is that no work is being done right now.” He called the situation “catastrophic” in the long term if no solution is quickly found.

Attempts by The News Herald to reach a spokesman for Balfour Beatty were unsuccessful.

NAS Jacksonville

Navy: month-long jet fighter training at Naval Air Station Jacksonville

By Teresa Stepzinski, Posted Jan 25, 2019 at 2:37 PM, Updated Jan 25, 2019 at 2:37 PM

Residents living around Naval Air Station Jacksonville and its various flight paths will hear more aircraft noise starting Monday

Residents also will notice increased aircraft activity at the base for about a month as the U.S. Navy conducts training for carrier-based jet fighters and other types of aircraft. The training out of NAS Jacksonville is scheduled to continue through Feb., 28, a Navy spokeswoman said.

Aircraft participating in the training currently are arriving at the station.

The training is in support of aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and its support ships — the guided-missile cruiser SS Leyte Gulf; and guided-missile destroyers, USS Mitcher, USS Winston S. Churchill, USS Gonzalez, USS Mason, and USS Nitze, said Kaylee Larocque, a U.S. Navy deputy public affairs officer. The Álvaro de Bazán-class Spanish navy frigate ESPS Méndez Núñez will also participate in the exercises to improve the war fighting capabilities and partnership between the two NATO countries, she said.
The training evolution is designed to integrate all the assets of the strike group, test its ability to carry out maritime operations, and assess deployability, Larocque said.

The strike group is evaluated on its performance during simulated surface and sub-surface threats, and ship movements they may encounter during a strait transit or in the vicinity of hostile waters.

The USS Abraham Lincoln is the fifth Nimitz-class aircraft carrier of the U.S. Navy, named after the nation’s 16th president.

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**Patrick AFB**

**45 SW hosts F-15s, F-16s, C-130 training**

By 45th Space Wing Public Affairs / Published January 23, 2019


PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – RELEASE #01232019.

The residents near Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, may notice increased noise from military aircraft as the base will be host to F-15, F-16 and C-130 training missions.

The aircraft will be at Patrick AFB over the next few weeks and can be expected to fly over both residential and commercial areas.

There is no cause for alarm as this is only a training operation.

For more information, contact the 45th Space Wing Public Affairs office at 321-494-5933.

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**Defense Industry**

**Tyndall Air Force Base Hosting Industry Day**

By BLAISE GAINEY • JAN 26, 2019


After removing debris from Hurricane Michael, Tyndall Air Force base is now inviting the construction industry, architectural firms and others to share what they see as a great opportunity to rebuild the base.

Tyndall Program Management Office Director Colonel Scott Matthews says Industry Day gives them a chance to show the progress and plan the future.

““When you have this level of damage on the installation it gives us an opportunity, more of a clean slate to be able to reshape and rebuild what we want this installation to be.” Matthews said. "So the air force is going to take an opportunity to deliberately plan the future Tyndall as the model or first 21st century air force base.”

The meeting in collaboration with 325th Fighter Wing. It will allow them a chance to share information about what they expect to be their base for the next half-century…..

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**Lockheed CEO: Boeing’s F-15X won’t disrupt F-35 program**
WASHINGTON – Lockheed Martin has been given assurances by top Pentagon leaders that the F-35 program will not be negatively impacted by a potential U.S. Air Force buy of Boeing’s F-15X, Lockheed CEO Marillyn Hewson said Tuesday.

“If they choose to have an order of the F-15, it won’t be at the expense of F-35 quantities,” she told investors during an earnings call.

“I'm hearing that directly from leadership in the Pentagon, and I think that's an important point for me to make. It's not just our suspicion, but I've been told that directly.”

The U.S. Air Force is expected to roll out a plan to begin buying new F-15s in its upcoming fiscal 2020 budget release. In December, Bloomberg reported the service intends to purchase 12 new F-15X aircraft in 2020 for $1.2 billion.

On Friday, Gen. Dave Goldfein, the Air Force’s chief of staff, confirmed to Defense News that the service will procure new F-15s if the budget grows enough to allow it, but that the F-35 program of record would remain the same with no slowdown to the buy rate.

“I’m not backing an inch off of the F-35” Goldfein said. “The F-35 buy that we’re on continues to remain on track. And I’m not interested in taking a nickel out of it when it comes to buying anything else in the fighter portfolio.”

Goldfein added that the Air Force wants to increase fighter procurement to 72 aircraft a year.

The Air Force has about 230 F-15 "C" and "D" models currently in service, and the F-15X will replace the portion of the fleet owned by the Air National Guard, according to Bloomberg. The new F-15 model will have new radar and electronic warfare equipment, the ability to carry more weapons, and include other improvements originally designed for Saudi Arabia’s and Qatar’s F-15s.

If the service maintained a rate of one F-15X a month, it would be free to boost its F-35 production rate to 60 aircraft a year — a number that Air Force officials had cited as key for production ramp up. However, the FY19 budget forecast showed that the service would likely be unable to procure the F-35 in those quantities before FY23……

Boeing tapped for T-45 Support | Canada extends life of Griffon Helos | Rafael collaborates with BGN Technologies

By Defense Industry Daily Staff, Jan 30, 2019

The Navy awarded Boeing a $56.8 million contract providing program management as well as engineering and integrated logistics support for the post-production support phase of the T-45 aircraft lifecycle. The T-45 Goshawk is the US Navy’s two seat advanced jet trainer. It is a highly modified version of the British BAE Systems Hawk land-based training jet aircraft and was selected to replace the TA-4J Skyhawk and T-2C Buckeye. In order of meeting US Navy training mission and to ensure aircraft carrier compatibility, T-45 includes a new twin nose-wheel with catapult launch T-bar, nose-wheel steering for maneuvering within the confines of the carrier deck, strengthened airframe and undercarriage for catapult launches, relocated speed brakes, provision of under-fuselage tailhook, revised avionics and
modified cockpit layout for compatibility with front-line US Navy combat aircraft. The current contract includes special tooling and test equipment, data accessibility and obsolescence identification, and resolution in addition to field services support that provides subject matter expertise in the areas of environmental control systems, cockpit pressurization and On-Board Oxygen Generation Systems integration.

The Navy tapped Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems with a $10.9 million contract modification to exercise options for AEGIS Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) equipment and spares. The Missile Defense Agency in cooperation with the US Navy developed the AEGIS BMD system to provide warships with the capability of intercepting and destroying short and medium-range ballistic missiles. AEGIS BMD was acquired by Japan, making it the first missile defense system to be acquired by a military ally. The modification includes 4.0.2 equipment for Shipset 23. Work will take place in New Jersey and Florida and is expected to be completed by November 2020.

Eastern Shipbuilding Cuts Steel for First Offshore Patrol Cutter

BY MAREX 2019-01-29 18:50:32

Eastern Shipbuilding Group reports that steel cutting for the first U.S. Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Cutter, the Argus, began this month at Eastern’s facilities in Panama City, Florida. ESG achieved this milestone even after sustaining damage and interruptions due to Hurricane Michael, the most powerful storm to hit the Florida Panhandle in living memory.

The cutting of steel marks the start the fabrication and assembly of the cutter’s hull, and ESG is to complete keel laying of the Argus later this year. Additionally, ESG completed the placement of orders for all long lead time materials for the second hull in the series, the cutter Chase. The yard holds the contract for nine vessels, and the Coast Guard may eventually order up to 25.

"Today represents a monumental day and reflects the dedication of our workforce - the ability to overcome and perform even under the most strenuous circumstances," said ESG president Joey D'Isernia in a statement. "ESG families have been dramatically impacted by the storm, and we continue to recover and help rebuild our shipyard and community . . . Hurricane Michael may have left its marks but it only strengthened our resolve to build the most sophisticated, highly capable national assets for the Coast Guard."

Hurricane Michael made landfall near Panama City on October 10 as an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm. It caused extensive damage throughout the region, and forced temporary closures at large installations like the U.S. Air Force's Tyndall Air Force Base and the U.S. Navy's surface warfare research center at Panama City. ESG was also "significantly impacted" by the storm, according to D'Isernia, but it bounced back quickly.

DoD Budget

Efficiencies Have Saved DOD $4.7B over Two Years

Dan Cohen, Posted on Jan 28, 2019 06:45 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=f9d88d829d
DOD’s acting chief management officer, Lisa Hershman, announced the department has saved $4.7 billion in the past two years and is on track for even more savings through efficiencies.

“In addition to cost – because I don’t want to say it isn’t important, because it’s very important, affordability – but performance and how are we going to deliver to our customers,” Hershman told ABC News. “That’s internal, that’s external to the war-fighter. How do we support the mission? So those are the types of metrics in addition to cost that we’re looking at.”

DOD performed its first-ever audit in November.

**Other Of Interest**

**UNF named 'Military Friendly School' for 10th straight year**

For the tenth consecutive year, the University of North Florida has been designated as one of the most military-friendly schools in the country by Victory Media, the leader in connecting the military and civilian worlds.

The 2019-20 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools nationwide that are doing the most to embrace America’s military students and to dedicate resources to ensure success both in the classroom and after graduation. This list sets the standard for higher education institutions to provide the best opportunities for veterans, their spouses and families.

The Military Friendly Schools list is created each year based on extensive research using public data sources, data from federal agencies, input from student veterans and responses to the survey from participating institutions.

The annual, data-driven Military Friendly Schools survey assessment is offered at no cost to more than 8,800 institutions nationwide. Each year, schools taking the survey are held to a higher standard than in previous years via improved methodology, criteria and weightings developed with the assistance of an independent research firm and Victory Media’s Advisory Council.

UNF’s veteran population using the Post-9/11 GI Bill has grown at an average of six percent per year for the last five years and now numbers more than 1,350 veterans or military-affiliated students, representing eight percent of the University’s student body. UNF currently has 97 active-duty students, 545 veteran students and 730 military dependents.
Feb 8

Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #71 will be Thursday, 21 February 2019, beginning at 9:00AM ET via conference call / WebEX.

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979  
   Access Code: 1869945

3. **Senator Broxson Files Military Friendly Bill** – Last week Senator Broxson filed a bill (SB620, attached) that contains eight military friendly changes to existing Florida laws. The bill amends s. 83.49, F.S.; prohibiting a landlord from requiring a prospective tenant who is a servicemember to deposit or advance more than a certain amount of funds; amends s. 83.682, F.S.; providing an additional circumstance under which a servicemember may terminate a rental agreement; amends s. 163.3175, F.S.; revising applicability with respect to certain military installations; amends s. 197.572, F.S.; providing that the title to certain lands remains subject to an easement to prevent encroachment of military installations after a tax sale or the issuance of a tax certificate in foreclosure proceedings; amends s. 288.980, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “activities”; amending s. 570.71, F.S.; prohibits certain construction or activities that are incompatible with the mission of a military installation on certain land under a rural-lands-protection easement; amending s. 1003.05, F.S.; requires public schools to accept a permanent change of station order as proof of residency for certain programs; amends s. 1009.21, F.S.; and revising when active duty members of the Armed Services of the United States are classified as residents for tuition purposes.

4. **Speaker Oliva Appoints Representative Thad Altman to Task Force** – Speaker of the House Jose Oliva has appointed Representative Thad Altman to the Task Force beginning immediately and running through November 3, 2020 (see attached appointment letter). Representative Altman is from Brevard County and his district includes Patrick AFB. With rich experience of service to Florida, Rep Altman will be a valuable asset to the Task Force. Please do not hesitate to welcome Rep Altman in his new role.

5. **Office or Economic Adjustment (OEA) Publishes Defense Industry Report** – According to Dan Cohen at ADC, “California, Virginia and Texas are again the top three states receiving federal defense spending, according to a new DOD Office of Economic Adjustment report on fiscal year 2017 spending. The report contains state-by-state analysis of the relationships among regions, installations, military personnel and civilian contractors.” Report is available at the link and the Florida page is attached.

6. **Air Force Seeks Advice from Civic Leaders** – According to a public affairs announcement from the Air Force, “More than 40 Air Force civic leaders visited Washington, D.C., Jan. 29-31, for a civic leader conference with the Air Force’s most senior leaders. The Air Force civic leaders are part of an Air Staff-level program, and members are comprised of community leaders selected by the Air Force major commands, National Guard Bureau and Headquarters Air Force.” Twelve new civic leaders were added to the program this year including our own Mr. Tom Neubauer who will represent Air Combat Command and Tyndall AFB. See full story and list of new members below in the CLIPs.
7. **President Trump Selects David Bernhardt to lead Interior** – According to an article in *The Hill*, “President Trump is picking David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be the Interior Department’s next secretary.” Mr. Bernhardt has served as the Deputy Secretary for the last two years but his past work has many environmental groups weary. It also has the House Committee on Natural Resources wondering what the Department plans to do with respect to the former Secretary’s promise about excluding Florida waters from future drilling plans. See article below in the *CLIPs* and attached letter from the Chair of the Committee on Natural Resource to Acting Secretary Bernhardt.

8. **Florida Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Met** – The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs and Space met on 2-7-2019. Among the business was review and favorably approval of SB 212, Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children by Sen Wright. Next stop will be the Senate Appropriation Committee. The companion bill, HB 7013, was filed in the House this week (see below). Additionally, Bruce Grant briefed the committee on the Florida Military and Defense programs including the Task Force.

9. **Florida Defense Contractors Association (FDCA) Conference** – FDCA will hold their Annual B2B/B2G Procurement Conference on February 11-12, 2019 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando, Florida. Speakers include Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25), Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23) and Secretary Anthony Principi, former Secretary of Veterans Administration under President George W. Bush. Dr. Bruce Grant and Terry McCaffrey will be in attendance. FDCA extends a cordial invitation to all FDA members. More information on this conference can be found at: [https://fdca.memberclicks.net/fdca-b2b-procurement-conference](https://fdca.memberclicks.net/fdca-b2b-procurement-conference)

10. **ADC Installation Innovation Forum (IIF)** – The ADC Installation Innovation Forum will be held from March 4-6, 2019 in Miami. Florida will host a panel presentation highlighting several successes on Tuesday, March 5th from 4-4:45 PM. This conference will feature several senior DOD officials and receive a keynote address from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Robert McMahon. More information on this event can be found at: [https://installationinnovation.org/](https://installationinnovation.org/)

11. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov); for Senate Bills (SB), go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov). For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session.

   - **SB 0620 Military Affairs** (Broxson)
     Military Affairs; Prohibiting a landlord from requiring a prospective tenant who is a servicemember to deposit or advance more than a certain amount of funds; providing an additional circumstance under which a servicemember may terminate a rental agreement; prohibiting certain construction or activities that are incompatible with the mission of a military installation on certain land under a rural-lands-protection easement, etc.
     Effective Date: 7/1/2019

   - **PKQ1 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** (PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee)
     PCB PKQ 19-01 -- Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

   - **HB 2339 Stetson University College of Law - Veterans Law Institute and Veterans Advocacy** (Latvala)
     Stetson University College of Law - Veterans Law Institute and Veterans Advocacy:
Provides an appropriation for the Stetson University College of Law - Veterans Law Institute and Veterans Advocacy. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2279 Northwest Florida State College - Veterans Success Center** (Ponder)
  Northwest Florida State College - Veterans Success Center: Provides an appropriation for the Northwest Florida State College - Veterans Success Center. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2393 Pawsitive Love Foundation - Teens Training Service Dogs for Veterans** (Ponder)
  Pawsitive Love Foundation - Teens Training Service Dogs for Veterans: Provides an appropriation for the Pawsitive Love Foundation - Teens Training Service Dogs for Veterans. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2403 K9s For Warriors - Warrior Resource Center** (Byrd)
  K9s For Warriors - Warrior Resource Center: Provides an appropriation for the K9s For Warriors - Warrior Resource Center. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2405 Five Star Veterans Center Homeless Housing and Re-integration Project** (Byrd)
  Five Star Veterans Center Homeless Housing and Re-integration Project: Provides an appropriation for the Five Star Veterans Center Homeless Housing and Re-integration Project. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2423 Veterans Helping Veterans USA, Inc.-Training Veterans for Success** (McClain)
  Veterans Helping Veterans USA, Inc.-Training Veterans for Success: Provides an appropriation for the Veterans Helping Veterans USA, Inc.-Training Veterans for Success. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2425 Marion County State Veterans Nursing Home** (McClain)
  Marion County State Veterans Nursing Home: Provides an appropriation for the Marion County State Veterans Nursing Home. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2433 BayCare Behavioral Health - Veteran's Intervention Program** (Zika)
  BayCare Behavioral Health - Veteran's Intervention Program: Provides an appropriation for the BayCare Behavioral Health - Veteran's Intervention Program. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2561 WestCare GulfCoast's Integrated Behavioral Health Services for Justice-Involved Veterans** (Latvala)
  WestCare GulfCoast's Integrated Behavioral Health Services for Justice-Involved Veterans: Provides an appropriation for the WestCare GulfCoast's Integrated Behavioral Health Services for Justice-Involved Veterans. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **SB 0718 Honor and Remember Flag** (Gruters)
  Honor and Remember Flag: Designating the Honor and Remember flag as an emblem of the state; authorizing the display of the flag at specified locations, on specified days, and in a specified manner, etc. Effective Date: 1/1/2020

- **SB 0718 Honor and Remember Flag** (Gruters)
  Honor and Remember Flag: Designating the Honor and Remember flag as an emblem of the state; authorizing the display of the flag at specified locations, on specified days, and in a specified manner, etc. Effective Date: 1/1/2020
- **HB 2633 Homeless Veteran Housing Assistance** (Sirois)
  Homeless Veteran Housing Assistance: Provides an appropriation for the Homeless Veteran Housing Assistance. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 6035 Homestead Tax Exemptions** (Hattersley)
  Homestead Tax Exemptions: Deletes provision that authorized surviving spouse of veteran to receive an ad valorem taxation exemption only if veteran had been permanent resident of Florida; deletes provision that placed restrictions on ability of first responders to receive an ad valorem tax exemption. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 3051 Building Homes for Heroes** (Grant (M))
  Building Homes for Heroes: Provides an appropriation for the Building Homes for Heroes. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 2981 Florida Medal of Honor Memorial - Highlands** (Pigman)
  Florida Medal of Honor Memorial - Highlands: Provides an appropriation for the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial - Highlands. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **SB 0886 Joint Resolution** (Brandes)
  Joint Resolution; Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to provide that the homestead property tax discount for certain veterans who had permanent, combat-related disabilities carries over to the benefit of the veteran’s surviving spouse under certain circumstances until he or she remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the property, to provide that the discount for the surviving spouse is transferrable to another homestead under certain circumstances, and to provide an effective date, etc.

- **SB 0888 Homestead Property Tax Discount** (Brandes)
  Homestead Property Tax Discount; Providing that if certain conditions are met, the homestead property tax discount for certain disabled veterans carries over to the benefit of the veteran’s surviving spouse until the surviving spouse remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the homestead property; providing that if the surviving spouse sells the property, the discount may be transferred to his or her new primary residence, subject to certain conditions, etc. Effective Date: On the effective date of the amendment to the State Constitution proposed by SJR 886 or a similar joint resolution having substantially the same specific intent and purpose, if such amendment to the State Constitution is approved at the general election held in November 2020 or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose

- **SB 0852 VA MISSION Act of 2018** (Diaz)
  VA MISSION Act of 2018; Urging Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the VA MISSION Act of 2018 is implemented in a manner consistent with the legislative intent and purpose of the act, etc.

- **HB 0713 VA MISSION Act of 2018** (Sabatini)

- **HB 7013 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children** (PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee)
  Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children: Extends scheduled repeal of compact & related provisions. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

12. Attachments:
Military Affairs Bill – SB620 (Broxson)
OEA Florida Defense Spending – 2017
Letter to Dep of the Interior Acting Secretary
TPG January End of Month Report
Rep Altman Appointment Letter

Terry McCaffrey
Executive Director
Florida Defense Support Task Force
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News Clips of Interest:

FDSTF
Across the Country
Dan Cohen, Posted on Feb 03, 2019 10:54 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156e255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=0f5cbe93b

Bob Ross will continue as executive director of the Connecticut Office of Military Affairs, after being re-appointed by Gov. Ned Lamont (D), according to The Day. Ross is also on the ADC board of directors. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R) has not yet named a senior military advisor, according to the Dayton Daily News. DeWine has said he wants the position to be cabinet-level. Karen Gwaltney Towns became the first military spouse sworn into the Missouri bar under a new rule that allows military spouses to practice in the state without taking exams, according to a press release from Sustainable Ozarks Partnership.

New civic leaders inducted into the Air Force
By Tech. Sgt. Robert Barnett, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs / Published February 04, 2019

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) – More than 40 Air Force civic leaders visited Washington, D.C., Jan. 29-31, for a civic leader conference with the Air Force’s most senior leaders.
The Air Force civic leaders are part of an Air Staff-level program, and members are comprised of community leaders selected by the Air Force major commands, National Guard Bureau and Headquarters Air Force.

During the conference, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein expressed their gratitude for the civic leaders and their support of the Air Force.

“Civic leaders, you are part of this family,” Goldfein said. “We live, we work, we go to school, we go to church in your communities. It provides us different perspectives by leveraging your expertise to help strengthen our joint war-fighting team. Thank you for everything you do to help us on this journey.”

In turn, the civic leaders learned about the Air Force’s priorities and progress while strengthening bonds and partnerships. While at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, the group discussed topics ranging from “The Air Force We Need,” to new approaches on acquisition and the Air Force’s broad responsibilities under the new National Defense Strategy.

“I’m here to learn how the Air Force protects our nation and how they go about executing their mission each and every day, and all the in’s and out’s about doing that,” said Ryan Binkley, civic leader from Alaska. “It’s clear our leaders are committed to modernizing the Air Force to meet [threats] and continuing to maintain the strongest military in the world.”

The conference was an opportunity to honor graduating members Tony Hughes, who represented Air Force Special Operations Command and Hurlburt Air Force Base, Florida, Lee Webber, who represented Pacific Air Forces and Anderson AFB, Guam, Frank Cioffi, who represented Burlington Air National Guard Base, Vermont and the National Guard Bureau, and Michael Bidwill, who represented Headquarters, Headquarters Air Force and Luke AFB, Arizona, with the Air Force Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition for their contributions to the Air Force mission.

The event was also used to induct the newest members into the group.

The new members are:

- Timothy Burke – representing the National Guard Bureau and Offutt AFB, Nebraska. He is the president of the Omaha Public Power District.
- Jeff Hoagland – representing Air Force Material Command and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.
- Scott Landguth – representing Air Force Global Strike Command and Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.
- Rod Nenner – representing Air Force District of Washington and JBA.
- **Tom Neubauer – representing Air Combat Command and Tyndall AFB, Florida.**
- Sandy Person – representing Air Mobility Command and Travis AFB, California.
- Dr. Ronda Saugé – representing AFRC, Air Mobility Command and Scott AFB, Illinois.
- Klaus Weiswurm – representing Air Education and Training Command and Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas.

**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Gaetz: Gulf Test Range ‘my top legislative priority’**
MIRAMAR BEACH – Oil and gas interests are “licking their chops” as the end of a ban looms on oil and gas leasing in part of the Gulf of Mexico that includes a military test range, Rep. Matt Gaetz said Thursday at an Air Force contracting conference at the Sandestin Hilton.

Protecting the Gulf Test Range from encroachment by oil and gas exploration “is my top legislative priority,” Gaetz told hundreds of defense contractors and other defense professionals at the Air Force Contracting Summit, which continues through Friday afternoon.

Currently, oil and gas leasing are prohibited within 125 miles of the Florida coastline under the federal Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act of 2006. The ban is set to expire in 2022.

The Gulf Test Range, covering more than 120,000 square miles, is used by a wide range of military units, including Eglin Air Force Base’s 33rd Fighter Wing and 96th Test Wing, and the Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field. The range accommodates air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing and space launches.

Gaetz, who represents Northwest Florida in Congress, said military munitions testing and oil and gas exploration are “completely incompatible,” pointing out the danger of mixing munitions testing “with things (oil and gas) that can catch on fire.”

Over the last two years, Gaetz said, $70 million in federal funding has been steered to the Gulf Test Range, to update its telemetry equipment. That equipment — automated communications gear which provides data on the performance of munitions, other military equipment and military personnel — has not been comprehensively updated since at least the early 1970s.

Gaetz argued Thursday that federal investment in the Gulf Test Range can provide a hedge against opening the area to oil and gas exploration. And, he added, it would be difficult to replicate the Gulf Test Range anywhere else in the United States……

Trump picks ex-oil lobbyist David Bernhardt for Interior secretary

BY TIMOTHY CAMA AND MIRANDA GREEN - 02/04/19 03:21 PM EST

President Trump is picking David Bernhardt, a former energy lobbyist, to be the Interior Department’s next secretary.

“I am pleased to announce that David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of the Interior, will be nominated as Secretary of the Interior,” Trump tweeted Monday.

Bernhardt, whose past clients include oil companies and others with business before the Interior Department, will lead an agency that oversees about 500 million acres as well as the energy production on that land.

He became the agency’s deputy secretary in 2017 and has led the department on an interim basis since former Secretary Ryan Zinke resigned amid ethics scandals in January. In the weeks since Zinke’s departure, Bernhardt has risen to the top of the list as the most likely candidate Trump would choose for the post.
“David has done a fantastic job from the day he arrived, and we look forward to having his nomination officially confirmed!”

Trump will have to send Bernhardt’s nomination to the Senate, where a majority of senators will have to approved him.

“It’s a humbling privilege to be nominated to lead a department whose mission I love, to accomplish the balanced, common sense vision of our President,” Bernhardt said in a statement Monday…..

NAS Pensacola

NAS Pensacola Navy Lodge Celebrates Navy Lodge Program’s 50th Anniversary

Story by Bruce Cummins, Naval Air Station Pensacola 01.25.2019

The Navy Lodge Program, created in 1969 in an effort to relieve difficulties associated with Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders for Sailors and Marines, is scheduled to celebrate 50 years of operations at various facilities around the world.

The Pensacola Navy Lodge marked the occasion with a cake-cutting ceremony and remarks from Carla Gutierrez, the NAS Pensacola Navy Lodge general manager.

“We [the Navy Lodge] are so excited to celebrate this milestone with our respective supporting commands,” she said. “We’re thrilled to celebrate the dedicated military service of so many people and are here because of the sacrifice of so many. We look forward to continue offering the Navy Lodge as the ‘Home Away From Home’ for all service members.”

Throughout the year, the Navy Lodge Program will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a series of events, activities and surprises for guests and the local military community. Events kick-off in January with cake cutting celebrations at all Navy Lodge locations worldwide.

NAS Whiting Field

US Navy Asks For Final Training Helicopter Proposals

By Dan Parsons | January 28, 2019

The U.S. Navy on Jan. 28 published the final request for proposals to build a replacement for its fleet of TH-57 training helicopters.

Industry hopefuls have until April 2 to submit proposals for the Advanced Helicopter Training System (AHTS) TH-XX. The IFR-certified TH-XX aircraft will replace the legacy TH-57B/C Sea Rangers used by the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard for advanced helicopter training for undergraduate pilots.
Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) anticipates awarding a single firm-fixed-price contract for a total procurement of 130 commercial aircraft through a base and up to four options, according to the RFP. Contract award is anticipated in the first quarter of fiscal 2020.

As a training system, AHTS includes the TH-XX aircraft and its associated Ground Based Training System (GBTS) to train contact, basic and radio instruments, basic formation, and tactical events including use of night vision devices, low level navigation, external load, search and rescue (SAR), hoist, shipboard operations and tactical formation, according to the RFP.

Proposals likely will come from three companies that are publicly competing for the work: Leonardo with its TH119 single-engine trainer, Airbus Helicopters with its H135 light twin and incumbent TH-57 Sea Ranger manufacturer Bell, which is offering the 407GXi.

The manufacturers were working off a draft RFP published in November. This RFP finalizes the specifications for the aircraft and anticipated delivery schedule for a commercially available, FAA-certified, IFR-capable training aircraft. Plans are to start buying new trainers in fiscal 2020 and have the entire TH-57 fleet divested by 2023.

Final specs for the TH-XX aircraft require that it is capable of continuous operations in temperatures ranging from -2 to 102 degrees Fahrenheit at the Navy’s rotorcraft training base at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Florida……

New Outlying Landing Field ‘Site X’ Open for Business at NAS Whiting Field

By Brian Garrett-Glaser | January 31, 2019
https://www.rotorandwing.com/2019/01/31/nas-whiting-field/

The Navy’s newest outlying landing field opened for helicopter training operations on Jan. 30, the culmination of years of collaboration between Escambia County, Florida, and the U.S. Navy.

Escambia County turned over to the Navy outlying landing field (OLF) Site X in Santa Rosa County, and the Navy ceased operations Jan. 29 at NOLF Site 8 in Escambia County after nearly 80 years of training aviators at the site.

The exchange was authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015, and the Navy and Escambia County signed a land exchange agreement to formalize their intentions in June 2016.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by representatives from the Navy, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, commander of Navy Region Southeast, called the exchange a “landmark event” and praised the cooperation between military installations and communities.

“Never before has a fully functional and vital military airfield been exchanged for a newly constructed airfield that meets the same capabilities and training requirements," Bolivar said at the ceremony. "This is a monumental achievement to have brought this ambitious plan to fruition."

The new outlying landing field, Site X, is located “about half the distance as compared to Site 8,” said Training Air Wing Commodore Col. Dave Morris, who leads aviation training at NAS Whiting Field. “This field is an example of the community's tremendous involvement in supporting the training of our future aviators. We couldn't ask for better partners than we have in Escambia and Santa Rosa County.”

Site X has two raised earth platforms that provide students with tactical practice landing on a small raised surface, according to the Navy. It also contains a confined area landing feature for aviators to practice landing in tight areas surrounded by a wall of trees.
NAS Whiting Field supports all initial helicopter training for the Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps, as well as approximately 60 percent of primary fixed-wing flight training, according to the Navy…..

Corry Station

CIWT Commissions New Cryptologic Warfare CWO

Story by Glenn Sircy, Center for Information Warfare Training 02.01.2019

PENSACOLA, Fla. – A senior chief cryptologic technician (collection) assigned to the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) was commissioned as a chief warrant officer (CWO) during a ceremony on CIWT’s quarterdeck onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida, Feb. 1.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ernesto Gomez, a native of Groton, Connecticut, and raised in Fajardo, Puerto Rico, was selected for cryptologic warfare CWO.

Navy CWOs are recognized experts who accomplish and lead Sailors in many of the fleet's toughest jobs. Navy cryptologic warfare CWOs are the Navy's information warfare technician/supervisors with expertise in all facets of information operations (IO), including traditional cryptology, command and control, computer network operations and space systems. They create warfighting options for fleet commanders to fight and win in the information age. They also deliver and operate reliable, secure and battle-ready global networks, and lead in development and integration of IO capabilities in the fleet……

Saufley Field

Navy testing water wells near Saufley Field for chemical linked to serious health problems

by Renee Beninate, Wednesday, January 30th 2019

ESCAMBIA COUNTY, Fla. (WEAR-TV) – On Monday, Pensacola resident Kenneth Higdon got a letter in the mail.

It started off by stating, “Dear property owner, the department of the Navy is conducting a private drinking water well investigation around Saufley Field beginning February 2019.”

Higdon has lived next to Saufley Field for nearly forty years.

"You always wanna hear there's no problem, but I don't think that's going to be the case,” said Higdon.

Now the Navy is testing private water wells in the area for a chemical that has been linked to cancer and birth defects.

They’re called poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or PFA’S.
"My father died of cancer, my mother died of cancer, I've got cancer so I'm real concerned about it,” said Higdon.

In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a health advisory for PFA’s…..

**Eglin AFB**

**Eglin reconstitutes noise committee for F-22**

By Jim Thompson, Posted Jan 28, 2019 at 6:42 PM, Updated Jan 28, 2019 at 7:18 PM


**EGLIN AFB** – A “noise committee” formed in connection with the arrival of F-22 Raptor fighter jets at Eglin Air Force Base from Hurricane Michael-devastated Tyndall AFB will hold its first meeting today at Eglin, according to base spokesman Michael Spaits.

In all, 31 F-22s are coming to Eglin from Tyndall, as are 18 T-38 Talons, jet trainers used in air combat instruction.

Noise committee members are: Valparaiso residents Joe Arthur and Rick Woelfl, private citizens appointed by the City Commission; Elliott Kampert, director of growth management for the Okaloosa County government; and Michael Beedie, Fort Walton Beach city manager. The committee is mandated by the Council for Environmental Quality, a White House office that coordinates federal environmental efforts.

According to Spaits, the committee will hear today from some of the base’s “subject matter experts” on noise and related issues.

While Spaits acknowledged the presence of the F-22s “is going to produce more noise,” he also noted that “Eglin has an excellent noise mitigation program.”

**Draken International Supports USAF F-35s at Eglin Air Force Base**

LAKELAND, FLA. (PRWEB) FEBRUARY 05, 2019

HTTPS://WWW.PRWEB.COM/RELEASES/DRAKENINTERNATIONALSUPPORTSUUSAFF35SATEGLINAIRFORCEBASE/PRWEB16081530.HTM

Draken International, the leading provider of 4th generation tactical flight support, has expanded its support of the United States Air Force (USAF) with the deployment of four L-159 Honey Badger fighter aircraft to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida from January 13-26.

During this deployment, Draken aircraft provided adversary air support to USAF F-35As operated by the 58th Fighter Squadron. The mission of the 58th Fighter Squadron is to plan and execute an F-35A curriculum for USAF training. In addition to supporting the F-35s, Draken also challenged MC-130s from the 14th Weapons Squadron out of Hulburt Field in Florida.

The support provided by Draken consisted of the replication of realistic threats for various air-to-air mission sets ranging from basic fundamentals to complex employment exercises. These advanced sorties flown by Draken required the integration of various military platforms as well as Draken aircraft within a multi-domain environment.
The United States Air Force’s ever-increasing demand for commercially provided adversary air services continues to surge as Draken International expands operations throughout the continental United States. With a substantial ongoing presence at Nellis Air Force Base employing fleets of A-4 and L-159 tactical fighter aircraft, Draken continues to fulfill requests for additional temporary training deployments such as this in order to satisfy combat readiness training requirements for other Air Force priorities.....

**Tyndall AFB**

**CFO Patronis Calls for Housing at Tyndall Air Force Base to be Top Priority**

By: Kayla Tucker, Posted: Jan 31, 2019 10:43 PM EST, Updated: Feb 01, 2019 11:13 AM EST  

**BAY COUNTY, Fla.** – On Thursday, Chief Financial Officer, Jimmy Patronis along with other state officials and members of the Air Force gathered for a meeting to discuss the future of Tyndall Air Force Base.

"This was an incredible opportunity to get a candid understanding of how valuable Tyndall is to the United States Department of Defense and the Air Force," said Patronis.

The same day, Patronis voiced his concern on the housing status of the base, saying progress isn't happening as quickly as it should. "We should've seen a private sector entity, like Balfour Beatty be able to react quicker than the state and or the federal government."

Over 600 Balfour Beatty Communities Base houses were damaged in Hurricane Michael and Commander Laidlaw says the issues they have across the base is one in the same for residents in Bay County.

"How do I keep this temporary roof on this building long enough to get a full roof or a new roof put on. We're working for a lot of those projects," said Colonel Brian Laidlaw, 325th Fighter Wing Commander.

With a country to serve, Patronis says this issue could hinder progress and possibly force people to relocate. "Right now they're living out of boxes, they're unsure where their long term residence solution is going to be and they love Northwest Florida but at some point, something's got to give."

Patronis is calling for more urgency to get housing issues resolved but he, along with other officials know the base will be back stronger than before.....

**Air Force commits $3 billion to rebuild Tyndall after Hurricane Michael**

By Ed Offley, News Herald Staff Writer, Posted Jan 31, 2019 at 5:00 PM, Updated Jan 31, 2019 at 5:26 PM  

**PANAMA CITY** – The Air Force is committed to spending $3 billion during the next five years to rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base, including an initial investment of at least $40 million by the end of 2019, senior service officials announced at a community forum Thursday.

Bay County officials said the ambitious reconstruction effort likely will create between 4,000 and 5,000 jobs, a major economic boon to the hard-pressed civilian community.
“We are fully committed to the rebuilding of Tyndall Air Force Base,” said John Henderson, assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and energy. A formal master plan for the base’s recovery from Hurricane Michael will be sent to Congress this spring that will guide the Air Force’s funding requests, he said.

Henderson and other Air Force officials on Thursday spent several hours detailing the damage the base suffered from the storm, and their blueprints for transforming the 80-year-old base into a state-of-the-art military facility that will meet the service’s requirements well into the next century. The first-of-its-kind “Tyndall Industry Day” attracted an audience of almost 500 people to the Holley Center at Florida State University-Panama City.

Addressing his remarks to the array of local political leaders and construction industry executives in the hall, Henderson said, “We cannot do this without your help. We have some immense challenges in front of us.”

Even though federal leaders from President Trump to Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson previously stated their support for restoring Tyndall to a state-of-the-art air base, the forum at FSU-PC left a number of local officials breathing a deep sigh of relief.

“There’s no doubt of their commitment,” said Bay County Commissioner Robert Carroll, who also chairs the county’s Long-Term Recovery Task Force. “We’re getting our opportunity to rebuild.”

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Patronis renews criticism of Tyndall housing firm

By Ed Offley, News Herald Staff Writer, Posted Feb 2, 2019 at 8:30 AM

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE – While a senior Air Force official has downplayed concerns that work on storm-damaged base housing here has not been carried out, Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis continues to level harsh criticism against the leaseholder responsible for residential property management.

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force John W. Henderson told The News Herald on Thursday that Balfour Beatty Communities, the civilian company under contract to manage and repair more than 600 single-family housing units on Tyndall, now is in compliance with its obligations to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Michael.

Henderson’s portfolio at the Pentagon includes oversight of Air Force housing issues.

Headquartered in Malvern, Pennsylvania, Balfour Beatty is a major player in the military’s public-private partnerships to manage military housing. According to the company’s website, it has long-term contracts at 56 military bases for a total of 43,000 individual housing units, including 21 of 68 Air Force installations…..

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NS Mayport

Littoral Combat Ship 15 (Billings) Delivered to U.S. Navy

NEWS PROVIDED BY Lockheed Martin, Feb 06, 2019, 15:37 ET
Billings is the eighth Freedom-variant LCS designed, built and delivered by the Lockheed Martin-led industry team and will be commissioned later this year. LCS 15 will be homeported at Naval Station Mayport, Florida, alongside USS Milwaukee (LCS 5), USS Detroit (LCS 7), USS Little Rock (LCS 9), USS Sioux City (LCS 11) and USS Wichita (LCS 13).

"We are proud to support the U.S. Navy surface fleet with delivery of another highly lethal and agile littoral combat ship," said Joe DePietro, vice president of Lockheed Martin's Small Combatants and Ship Systems. "The Lockheed Martin-led industry team has hit its production and efficiency stride, and we know LCS will fulfill critical missions around the world for many years to come."

Unique among combat ships, LCS is designed to complete close-to-shore missions and is a growing and relevant part of the Navy's fleet.

NAS Jacksonville

Sailor, civilian combine to save life at Fleet Readiness Center Southeast

Story by Clifford Davis, Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, 02.06.2019

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Naval Air Crewman 1st Class Philip Marshall was stopped by his command’s training lead petty officer a few days ago and asked for his CPR certification card – he could never have imagined how soon that training would prove critical.

Marshall and Fleet Readiness Center Southeast Flight Test Supervisor Manny Cabal put their training into practice Monday, and saved a man’s life who had just suffered a massive heart attack, according to First Coast Navy Fire Rescue Chief Mark Brusoe.

“If CPR hadn’t been started immediately, his family – who is now with him in the hospital – would instead be planning a funeral for next week,” Brusoe said. “But because of what these two guys did, he had a stint put in and he’s recovering.”

Marshall and Cabal both work with the Flight Test crew at FRCSE, a Naval aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul facility. Once an aircraft has been repaired at the facility, it’s their job to inspect it and ensure it’s safe for the pilots to fly.

Monday morning, they were busy moving office furniture when a man came in and asked for the building designation for the hangar in which they work.

“He said, ‘One of my guys is having a heart attack,’” Marshall said……

MacDill AFB

MacDill penalizes base housing operator over mold as Bilirakis launches congressional inquiry

By Howard Altman, Published February 1, Updated Yesterday
Tampa – When Amie Norquist and her family moved to MacDill Air Force Base in July, they thought they had found their ideal home.

“It was very convenient,” said Norquist, a military spouse and mother of four. “The housing in South Tampa is pretty expensive. We drove through the neighborhood there and it looked really nice.”

But within a month, her children started getting sick. Breathing problems sent her youngest to the emergency room twice, her 3-year-old came down with pneumonia, and another child’s existing health problems grew worse.

Norquist suspected mold. She asked Harbor Bay, the company that manages base properties, to check. Her fears were confirmed……

Tampa Bay Fiber Brings High-Speed Internet to MacDill Air Force Base

PRESS RELEASE PR Newswire, Feb. 6, 2019, 01:45 PM

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 6, 2019 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ -- For the first time in MacDill Air Force Base's history, civilian personnel will have access to high-speed Internet services during the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Day, which takes place on March 8, 2019, at MacDill Air Force Base (AFB), in Tampa, Florida. Locally based Internet provider, Tampa Bay Fiber, will provide wireless high-speed Internet access for the event.

The wireless signal transmitted over the air to infrastructure set-up by Tampa Bay Fiber technicians brings 5G technology Internet access during the event, and once the event ends, it's easily removed. Tampa Bay Fiber's 5G wireless Internet access is the fastest connection available in the marketplace.

In the past, the remote location of Hanger 3, MacDill AFB's special events space, has made it challenging to provide Internet services to the many hosted events like the STEAM Day.

Tampa Bay Fiber built a highly-dependable, optimized network to deliver its cloud communication system. Their network was further extended to connect directly to Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Microsoft Azure, Microsoft 365, IBM, Oracle, Netflix, Hulu, Akamai and many others. This direct connection results in the fastest internet experience for their clients. Unlike other carriers, Tampa Bay Fiber gets their clients closer to the content providers removing throttling and bottlenecks…..

Cape Canaveral AFS
Blue Origin's big New Glenn rocket wins fifth satellite launch contract

James Dean, Florida Today, Published 3:02 p.m. ET Jan. 31, 2019 | Updated 3:23 p.m. ET Jan. 31, 2019

The giant rocket that Blue Origin will build at Kennedy Space Center has won another customer.
Canadian satellite operator Telesat on Thursday announced a deal for multiple launches aboard Blue’s New Glenn, which will stand 313 feet tall and is targeting a first launch from Cape Canaveral in 2021. The launches will help Telesat deploy a mega-constellation of several hundred satellites that it plans to field in low Earth orbit to provide global Internet access.

The companies did not say how many launches the deal involved, its total value or how many satellites would fly on each rocket.

"Blue Origin's powerful New Glenn rocket is a disruptive force in the launch services market which, in turn, will help Telesat disrupt the economics and performance of global broadband connectivity," Dan Goldberg, president and CEO of Ottawa-based Telesat, said in a statement.

With a payload fairing boasting twice as much room as any existing rocket’s, the New Glenn could carry a large number of smaller satellites. The heavy-lift rocket, whose seven BE-4 main engines will generate nearly 4 million pounds of thrust at liftoff, can deliver 45 metric tons, or nearly 100,000 pounds, to low Earth orbit.

Seattle-based Blue Origin, founded by Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos, will build reusable New Glenn boosters and its upper stages in a massive new factory at KSC’s Exploration Park…..

Patrick AFB

Here's what those F-15s and F-16s are doing at Patrick Air Force Base

Emre Kelly, Florida TodayPublished 6:59 p.m. ET Jan. 31, 2019 | Updated 7:21 p.m. ET Jan. 31, 2019

Even birds of prey have to escape the bitter cold ravaging swaths of the nation.

In this case, Air National Guard aircraft – 10 F-16 Fighting Falcons and six F-15 Eagles – have a temporary home on the tarmac at Patrick Air Force Base, where they'll stay until next Friday. The Space Coast is hosting training exercises for the fighters from Ohio and Massachusetts, respectively.

"We're a northern-tier fighter squadron and we deal with a lot of training attrition based on bad weather," said Lt. Col. John Koegel, an F-15 pilot with the 104th Fighter Wing based at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, Massachusetts. "So what we'll try to do is find somewhere warm to go in the winter."

About 20 miles off the coast in the Atlantic Ocean, an airspace designated for the F-15s and F-16s, which hail from the 180th Fighter Wing in Toledo, Ohio, allows the pilots to conduct several training exercises. Most are focused on the basics of one-on-one dogfights, but others include a "zone" that must be defended by a few pilots against several more. Long-range intercepts are planned, too.

The "good team" and "bad team" changes per training mission.

"It's a pretty fair trade between the two units," Lt. Col. Koegel said. "Each can get desired learning objectives and run some of our younger guys who haven't flown against F-16s." …..

Air Force Likely to Take Space Force Under Its Wing – For Now
The White House still expects that the Space Force will eventually be its own branch of the military, despite signals from the Pentagon that the program will be housed under the Air Force.

“It’s going to be small, as small as possible footprint,” Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan told reporters this week.

The Pentagon plan, to be submitted to the White House as part of the department’s 2020 budget request, would establish a Space Force that is similar to the Marine Corps, which is housed within the Department of the Navy. The Space Force would have its own four-star chief of staff and a civilian undersecretary, according to Space News.

But a draft White House policy memo, which Space News said it has reviewed, states that the setup is a “first step toward a future military department for national security space” to be created after “periodic” reviews from DOD.

Some in Congress have been reluctant to support the creation of a new department.

“I want to emphasize space,” House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) said, according to Space News. “I don’t want to create more bureaucracy for the sake of bureaucracy.”

Small island, big mission – Ascension Island supports 45 SW

By Airman 1st Class Dalton Williams, 45th Space Wing Public Affairs Office / Published February 06, 2019

ASCENSION ISLAND AUXILIARY AIRFIELD – Ascension Island is an important piece of real estate. And like real estate, one thing remains true, and that is: location, location, location.

More than 5,000 miles away from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, sits a 35 square-mile dormant volcano, and atop of that sits an Air Force base that is fueled by hard work and relationships.

The 45th Mission Support Group, Detachment 2, is home to Air Force personnel and a population of less than 800 people who support the 45th Space Wing and other organizations around the world through two primary missions.

“Our first mission is maintaining the airfield,” said Maj. Robert Bouffard, 45th MSG, Det 2 commander. “We also have multiple sites supporting space missions, such as launch operations, tracking space debris and satellites.”

Ascension radar and telemetry sites look like big golf balls from a distance, but instead of rolling on the fairway, they provide vital radar and telemetry tracking functions for rocket launches. On December 23, 2018, they provided tracking for the Falcon 9 GPS III launch. The sites also track every time the International Space Station passes overhead……
Military training exercises are being held in the Ocala National Forest

By Wyatt Turbeville | Posted: Fri 5:21 AM, Feb 01, 2019
https://www.wcjb.com/content/news/Military-training-exercises-are-being-held-in-the-Ocala-National-Forest-505184111.html

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (WCJB) – If you're shaken up over the next few nights, there's no need to be worried, it's a military training exercise.

The Naval Air Station in Jacksonville is conducting live and inert bomb training at Pinecastle Range Complex in the Ocala National Forest.

Training started Thursday and will end on Sunday. Training will be conducted from 11 am to 11 pm each day.

If you have a noise complaint you're asked to call the Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility in Jacksonville.

US Southern Command

SOUTHCOM Commander Stresses Regional Cooperation During Trip to Central America

Antonio Ordoñez/Diálogo | 31 January 2019

U.S. Navy Admiral Craig S. Faller, commander of U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), concluded his first trip to Central America since assuming command in November 2018. Adm. Faller visited the countries of the Northern Triangle, where he met with Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran leaders, and stopped by several military sites, January 21-25.

The objective of his visit was to reaffirm the continuous commitment of the United States in support of partner nations and their security forces. The visit also enabled officials to address different regional security cooperation issues, and coordinate operations to counter narcotrafficking and related crimes.

“Honduras and its immediate neighbors, Guatemala and El Salvador, are among the first partners I will visit,” said Adm. Faller during a press conference in Honduras. “One of my first priorities was to travel to the region to meet with key partners, listen to their concerns, understand their perspectives regarding security challenges, and hear their ideas on how we can effectively work together to address those challenges.”……

NAS Key West

Michael Waltz leads Florida delegation seeking to keep drug task force in Florida

By Scott Powers, on January 31, 2019
U.S. Rep. Michael Waltz is heading up a push including all 27 Florida members of the U.S. House of Representatives urging the U.S. Military Southern Command to keep in the state of Florida the Joint Interagency Task Force South that fights drug smuggling.

Waltz, the Flagler County Republican and lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard who serves on the House Armed Services Committee, led an effort that drew in the other 26 members of Florida’s House delegation, in all 14 Republicans and 13 Democrats, a rarity. They cosigned a letter Thursday to Admiral Craig S. Faller, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, expressing full support to keep the task force in the Sunshine State. They joined Florida’s two Republican U.S. Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott who sent a similar letter last week, making it a unanimous push by Florida’s members of Congress.

The task force is a hub for coordinating drug interdiction efforts, not only between several American law enforcement agencies, but also among partner nations in the region, dedicated to stopping the trafficking of illicit drugs and dismantling illicit and converging threat networks in support of national and hemispheric security. The task force oversees an area of more than 42 million square miles stretching from the Caribbean to Cape Horn in the southern tip of South America.

The task force is likely to be moving a new headquarters because of a report released last year finding that its current location at Naval Air Station Key West is too small and not viable for long-term needs. So the question is whether it would find a new home in Florida or some other state or at a U.S. military installation in a territory or overseas……

**Defense Industry**

**Lockheed, Florida Nonprofit Collaborate on Employment Program for Military Vets**

Anna Forrester January 31, 2019 Press Releases


**TYSONS CORNER, VA, January 31, 2018** – Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) has entered into a partnership with a nonprofit organization as part of a program to generate civilian work opportunities for military veterans and drive job growth in Florida, ExecutiveBiz reported Wednesday.

Veterans Florida said Jan. 24 Lockheed will support the expansion of veterans workforce training and career service initiatives in line with the nonprofit’s long-term vision and effort to link transitioning service members with potential employers.

About Executive Mosaic: Founded in 2002, Executive Mosaic is a leadership organization and media company. Executive Mosaic offers highly coveted executive events, breaking business news on the Government Contracting industry, and robust and reliable content through seven influential websites and four consequential E-newswhires.

**USAF's New Excuses For Delaying Light Attack Aircraft Program Sound Like A Death Sentence**
The Air Force's top officer says the service had to put its most recent light attack aircraft program on hold to gather yet more data on how it might use such these planes and how they might operate together with attack helicopters, armed drones, and other platforms. He also implied that there had been a lack of interest from potential foreign partners. Beyond simply ignoring the service's own glaringly obvious need for this capability, these arguments for putting the program on ice are dubious at best and appear to be a pretext for outright canceling the effort, if it isn't effectively dead already.

U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General David Goldfein offered his latest take on what has most recently been known as the Light Attack Aircraft (LAA) program in an interview with Defense News on Jan. 26, 2019. The Air Force had announced it was shelving the LAA effort indefinitely earlier in January. It had planned to issue a formal request for proposals in December 2018.

In August 2018, the Air Force had alerted potential vendors of the upcoming competition. At the same time, however, the service bluntly stated that it had determined that the A-29 Super Tucano and AT-6C Wolverine, both single-engine turboprop aircraft, were likely to be the only aircraft that would meet its requirements. Brazil’s Embraer, in cooperation with Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC), had supplied an A-29 for two rounds of experiments between 2017 and 2018, while Textron had provided one of its AT-6Cs. Textron's Scorpion light jet and the AT-802L Longsword armed crop duster from Air Tractor and L3 had participated in the first phase of evaluations, as well.

Goldfein told Defense News that the Air Force had decided against issuing the request for proposals in the end because of uncertainty about the upcoming budget proposal for the 2020 Fiscal Year, which is now due out in a matter of days. He said the service had not yet finished crafting its over-arching strategy for employing light attack aircraft, either……

Small Motor Adds Powerful Punch to Coast Guard's Next Offshore Cutter

By Patricia Kime, 5 Feb 2019
https://www.military.com/dodbuzz/2019/02/05/small-motor-adds-powerful-punch-coast-guards-next-offshore-cutter.html

It's not much bigger than a dishwasher, but the Leonardo DRS permanent magnet motor, used for years to power oil rigs, will help propel the Coast Guard's new offshore patrol cutter, or OPC.

The Arlington, Virginia-based company was awarded a $10.7 million contract in 2017 to furnish nine hybrid electric drive systems for the Heritage-class OPC, the first of which is under construction in Panama City, Florida, by Eastern Shipbuilding Group.

Leonardo DRS is currently building its second system for the second OPC, the Chase, even as Eastern Shipbuilding just began cutting steel in January for the first ship in the class, the Argus.

Two 625-horsepower permanent magnet motors will power the OPC’s hybrid-electric drive system, designed to provide auxiliary propulsion to the ship's main diesel engines. The system will increase fuel efficiency, decrease emissions and reduce wear and tear on the main diesel engines, according to Greg Reed, senior director for business development in Leonardo DRS' naval power unit.

Reed said the auxiliary system will allow the ship to operate at slow speeds or "low load," reducing the need to run diesel engines at low loads, which causes significant stress and deposits buildup…..
Florida's space industry has its sights set on Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket

By: Jason Kelly, Melonie Holt, Updated: Feb 5, 2019 - 6:21 PM
https://www.wftv.com/weather/space/florida-s-space-industry-has-its-sights-set-on-blue-origin-s-new-glen-rocket/915210969

BREVARD COUNTY, Fla. – Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket has yet to liftoff from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Launch Complex 36, but customers have already lined up ahead of its maiden flight.

Canadian satellite operator Telesat signed a multi-launch agreement to deploy a constellation of satellites to provide global internet access.

"They haven't launched anything into orbit yet," said Dale Ketcham, of Space Florida. "They've done quite well in Texas in sub-orbital. I don't think that anyone doubts that they are going to get there. This is just the market expressing confidence in what Blue Origin is trying to do."

Blue Origin, which was founded by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, has built a complex to manufacture, integrate and operate the New Glenn rocket near the OneWeb Satellites factory and 9 miles from the launch pad.

Space Florida said it hopes others will follow suit.....

Embraer and Sierra Nevada Corporation Awarded Contract to Deliver 12 A-29s for the Nigerian Air Force

São Paulo, Brazil, February 6th, 2019 – Embraer Defense & Security and its partner Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) were awarded a contract to deliver 12 A-29 Super Tucano light attack aircraft to the Nigerian Air Force.

“SNC is proud to work with our partner, Embraer Defense & Security, to build A-29s in support of the Nigerian Air Force in addressing their on-going training and security needs,” said Taco Gilbert, Senior Vice President of ISR, Aviation and Security (IAS) at SNC. “The combat-proven A-29 is designed and built for the mission in Nigeria. It’s the most reliable and cost-effective solution for basic and advanced flight and combat training, close air support operations, ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance), counterinsurgency and irregular warfare scenarios.”

“The A-29 Super Tucano has become the global reference for light attack and advanced training with a proven track record in several combat zones around the world”, said Jackson Schneider, President and CEO of Embraer Defense & Security. “Embraer welcomes Nigeria as the latest member of this true international coalition that is helping bring peace to the world.”

The A-29 is conducting combat missions on a daily basis in theaters around the world. It has more than 46,000 combat hours and more than 360,000 total flight hours. With the Nigeria order, the A-29 is the choice of 14 air forces worldwide.....
The Section 809 Panel recently published its final volume of recommendations to reform defense acquisition so that it better supports the Department of Defense (DOD) in achieving its primary mission: delivering capability to the warfighter inside the decision cycle of our adversaries. Several of these 59 recommendations suggest changes that can reduce dysfunction and inefficiencies in the way DOD manages its budget. One of these recommendations is to allow portfolio management officials to more easily move money to where it is most needed in the short term, without jumping through an excessive number of bureaucratic hoops.

The financial relationship between DOD and Congress is complicated and can be contentious. As House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) notes, DOD’s justifications for budget requests sometimes can seem less like informed predictions and more like a guessing game: “I always joke that [in] the hearings, we have somebody from the Pentagon or somebody from a think tank comes in, scares the hell out of us by saying there’s this huge massive threat. … [These warnings are] all part of an effort to get us to spend a massive amount of money on any one of a thousand different things.”

Smith’s skepticism indicates a complicated reality: While many threats facing the nation are knowable, no one can predict the timing or manifestation of any single challenge requiring a funded defense capability. Acknowledging this unpredictability as a defining characteristic of the 21st century, and designing an acquisition system around it, is the first step to better defending the nation.

The culture of defense acquisition needs to change to enable and expect more real-time decision making about how capabilities are developed, funded and deployed. In the current system, years can elapse in the time it takes strategic planners to determine future needs and for funding to be directed to a government contract……

Other Of Interest

Army Looks to Adopt, Adapt Private Sector Innovations

Dan Cohen, Posted on Feb 06, 2019 01:55 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=076e4c36e8

The Army is incorporating innovations being developed in the private sector, but the applications require adaptation, according to Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins, commanding general of Combat Capabilities Development Command (CCDC).

“While we can probably adopt some of the technology that commercial [industry] is using for autonomous vehicles, we’ve got to be able to do more,” Wins said in an interview with National Defense
magazine. “We’ve got to be able to develop it for the conditions and the environments that we think we might be facing.”

CCDC was officially renamed this week from Research, Development and Engineering Command and has moved under Army Futures Command.

Wins said the move “gives us perfect alignment of the technology efforts that we’re doing to the largest degree towards the Army’s modernization priorities.”

### Survey: Military Families Want to Feel More Connected to Communities

Posted on Feb 06, 2019 01:54 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156e255f5e0e2d33ce307ef7&id=076e4c36e8

Almost half of military families do not feel connected to their local civilian communities, according to a new survey by Blue Star Families.

“Military family respondents identified increasing the availability of military spouse jobs as their top recommendation for improving a sense of belonging to their local civilian community,” Blue Star Families writes in an overview.

Spouses were the group most likely to feel disconnected from their communities but tend to feel more comfortable there the longer they live there, the results indicate.

For the second year in a row, “time away from family” was families’ top quality of life concern, cited by 51 percent of service members, 52 percent of spouses and 34 percent of veterans.

This is the ninth year Blue Star Families has conducted the survey.
Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #71 will be NEXT Thursday, 21 February 2019, beginning at 9:00AM ET via conference call / WebEX (agenda attached).

2. **Call In Number** –
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979       Access Code: 1869945

3. **Florida Defense Contractors Association (FDCA) Conference** – FDCA held their Annual B2B/B2G Procurement Conference on February 11-12, 2019 at the Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando, Florida. Speakers included Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25), Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23) and Secretary Anthony Principi and Dr. Bruce Grant. Terry and Bruce made several contacts with business in Florida who support defense in and outside the state. Many are interested in the Florida Defense exchange and increasing contacts with DoD for new business.

4. **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Announces New Oil Lease Sale** – According to the *Oil and Gas Journal*, BOEM “plans to hold a Gulf of Mexico-wide oil and gas lease sale in March that will include all available unleased areas in federal waters covering about 78 million acres. Lease Sale 252 will include about 14,696 unleased blocks in a range of 3-231 miles offshore across the gulf’s western, central, and eastern planning areas in 9-11,115 ft of water. Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks adjacent to or beyond the US Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. This will be the fourth offshore sale in the Department of Energy’s Outer Continental Shelf 2017-22 program, which plans a total of 10 sales.” Note there are 10 sales planned for the 2017-2022 timeframe that will honor the GOMESA rule that expires in 2022, but the next drilling plan that will extend beyond the 2022 time frame envisions leases east of the MML. The full article is below in the CLIPs.

5. **Tyndall F-22s Wanted in Virginia, Maybe not at Eglin** – Two articles this week should be concerning to defense supporters in Florida. In one article, it is noted that some in the community around Eglin would like to change operations at the 84 year old air base due to noise concerns. These issues have arisen due to environmental impact studies that are taking place due to the potential for additional noise in the area since the F-22 and T-38 operations were moved to Eglin after Hurricane Michael shut down training from Tyndall. In another article, it is noted that the entire Virginia Congressional Delegation is pushing to gain at least one of Tyndall’s F-22 squadrons to join the wing at Langley AFB. All of this against a backdrop of continued hope of Tyndall’s full rebuilt. With continued push to drill in the eastern gulf, it appears Florida missions and bases are in need of continued protection. See both articles below in the CLIPs under “Eglin AFB”.

6. **Congressional Budget Office Release Future Defense Budget Report** – According to a release from the CBO, they have completed a report on the future of defense spending in 2019 and impacts out to 2033. See article below in the CLIPs and the attached report.
7. **ADC Leadership Award Nomination Window Open** – According to ADC, the window is open to nominate our “outstanding defense community leaders throughout the United States by participating in its Defense Community Awards Program. Then, join key decision-makers from Congress, the Department of Defense and other ADC members in saluting them and highlighting their accomplishments at a special event during ADC’s National Summit in June. This is your opportunity to honor those who have gone above and beyond to support America’s defense communities.” Award winners are selected from four categories: Community or State Leadership, Military Leadership, John Lynch Base Redevelopment, and Congressional Leadership. Nominations are due by March 1. Go to [https://www.defensecommunities.org/awards/](https://www.defensecommunities.org/awards/)

8. **ADC Installation Innovation Forum (IIF)** – The ADC Installation Innovation Forum will be held from March 4-6, 2019 in Miami. Florida will host a panel presentation highlighting several successes on Tuesday, March 5th from 4-4:45 PM. This conference will feature several senior DOD officials and receive a keynote address from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Robert McMahon. More information on this event can be found at: [https://installationinnovation.org/](https://installationinnovation.org/)

9. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov); for Senate Bills (SB), go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov). For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session.

   - **HB 3351 Alternative Treatment for Veterans - University of South Florida** (Ponder)
     Alternative Treatment for Veterans - University of South Florida: Provides an appropriation for the Alternative Treatment for Veterans - University of South Florida. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

   - **HB 3311 McCormick Research Institute - Veterans Service Center** (La Rosa)
     McCormick Research Institute - Veterans Service Center: Provides an appropriation for the McCormick Research Institute - Veterans Service Center. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

   - **HB 3281 Florida Veterans Foundation Veteran Aid and Attendance Benefit Initiative** (Killebrew)
     Florida Veterans Foundation Veteran Aid and Attendance Benefit Initiative: Provides an appropriation for the Florida Veterans Foundation Veteran Aid and Attendance Benefit Initiative. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

   - **HB 3271 Trilogy Integrated Resources - Network of Care for Veterans and Military Service Members** (Smith (D))
     Trilogy Integrated Resources - Network of Care for Veterans and Military Service Members: Provides an appropriation for the Trilogy Integrated Resources - Network of Care for Veterans and Military Service Members. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

   - **SB 0910 Court-ordered Treatment Programs** (Gainer)
     Court-ordered Treatment Programs; Providing that veterans who were discharged or released under any condition, individuals who are current or former United States Department of Defense contractors, and individuals who are current or former military members of a foreign allied country are eligible in a certain Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2020

   - **HB 0719 Surviving Spouse Ad Valorem Tax Reduction** (Killebrew)
     Surviving Spouse Ad Valorem Tax Reduction: Authorizes surviving spouse of deceased
veteran to carry over certain discounts on ad valorem taxes on homestead property under specified conditions; authorizes discount to be transferred to another permanent residence under specified conditions; provides procedure by which applicant may file application after specified date & receive discount. Effective Date: on the effective date of the amendment to the State Constitution proposed by HJR 717 or a similar joint resolution having substantially the same specific intent and purpose

- **HB 0717 Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities** (Killebrew)
  Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-Related Disabilities: Proposes amendments to State Constitution to authorize surviving spouse of deceased veteran to carry over certain discounts on ad valorem taxes on homestead property under specified circumstances; authorizes transfer of discount to another permanent residence if surviving spouse remains unmarried. Effective Date: Not Specified

- **HB 3511 Miami-Dade Veterans Treatment Court** (Fernandez-Barquin)
  Miami-Dade Veterans Treatment Court: Provides an appropriation for the Miami-Dade Veterans Treatment Court. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **SB 0914 Educational Dollars for Duty Program** (Pizzo)
  Educational Dollars for Duty Program; Revising the Educational Dollars for Duty program; revising the ineligibility criteria for members of the Florida National Guard; providing that guard members who have earned certain college degrees before becoming a guard member are eligible for the program, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019

- **HB 3643 Veterans Alternative Accelerated Wellness Program** (Mariano)
  Veterans Alternative Accelerated Wellness Program: Provides an appropriation for the Veterans Alternative Accelerated Wellness Program. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 3549 K9s For Warriors - Training Service Dogs** (Fernandez-Barquin)
  K9s For Warriors - Training Service Dogs: Provides an appropriation for the K9s For Warriors - Training Service Dogs. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

10. Attachments:
- FDSTF Meeting #71 Agenda
- CBO Report on Defense Budget

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**Terry**

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News Clips of Interest:

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

BOEM plans Gulf of Mexico lease sale

By OGI editors, 02/13/2019

The US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management plans to hold a Gulf of Mexico-wide oil and gas lease sale in March that will include all available unleased areas in federal waters covering about 78 million acres.

Lease Sale 252 will include about 14,696 unleased blocks in a range of 3-231 miles offshore across the gulf’s western, central, and eastern planning areas in 9-11,115 ft of water.

Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks adjacent to or beyond the US Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

This will be the fourth offshore sale in the Department of Energy’s Outer Continental Shelf 2017-22 program, which plans a total of 10 sales.

BOEM estimates the upcoming sale contains 48 billion bbl of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 141 tcf of undiscovered technically recoverable gas.

All terms and conditions for Lease Sale 252 are available on the BOEM web site.

BRAC

DeWine takes steps to position Ohio as military powerhouse

By Kara Driscoll, Staff Writer, Updated Feb 10, 2019

With the creation of a new military cabinet position, Gov. Mike DeWine is strategically positioning Ohio as a military and aerospace powerhouse to attract defense-related jobs and to protect the state’s military installations like Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

DeWine appointed retired Col. Joseph Zeis Jr., a Centerville resident and Dayton attorney, last week to serve as senior advisor for aerospace and defense.

“I guess what’s amazing is this position hasn’t existed before,” DeWine told the Dayton Daily News. “Other states are doing this and have been doing this for some time and have been putting some money into it so I wanted someone to focus on this every day and Joe’s the right person.”
NAS Pensacola

Navy inspects water wells near NAS Pensacola for chemicals


PENSACOLA, Fla. (WKRG) – The Navy is testing private drinking water wells near Naval Air Station Pensacola, Corry Station and Saufley Field to determine if water is contaminated from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

PFAS are man-made chemicals that are not absorbed well in the soil and could migrate to groundwater. The chemical can be found in firefighting foam that NAS Pensacola uses when they train.

The Navy hosted the second of four meetings Monday night to let residents know about the process and what this could mean if there is contamination. The Florida Department of Health had representatives there to address the possible health effects.

Nearly 3,000 letters total have gone out letting people know if they have a private well and they get drinking water from close to the base, they need to come forward and let them test the water for PFAS…..

Eglin AFB

Eglin Noise Committee hears request to reroute jets

By Jim Thompson, Posted Feb 14, 2019 at 5:55 PM, Updated Feb 14, 2019 at 5:55 PM


EGLIN AFB – The two Valparaiso residents appointed to the recently reconstituted Noise Committee used the panel’s first meeting to ask that the base look into changing flight paths to keep military aircraft away from populated areas.

The committee, comprising Eglin Air Force Base officials, residents and local government representatives, was re-formed in connection with an ongoing assessment of the environmental impacts of the F-22 Raptor fighter jets and T-38 jet trainers moved from Tyndall Air Force Base to Eglin after Hurricane Michael all but destroyed the Panama City base.

An initial environmental assessment, abbreviated due to the need to quickly find a new home for the Tyndall aircraft, identified increased noise as the only likely environmental impact from the additional jets. Under an “interim beddown” proposal accepted by the federal government, the F-22s and T-38s from Tyndall could stay at Eglin for as long as three years.

Currently, the Air Force is conducting a broader environmental assessment involving Eglin and other bases that will find a permanent home — which may or may not be Eglin — for the fighter jets and training aircraft.

In the meantime, the Tyndall aircraft are, according to an Air Force document, expected to bring an additional 31,000 operations — takeoffs and landings, counted separately — to Eglin each year. Prior to
Their arrival, Eglin had 52,000 operations annually. The additional operations could “cause significant impacts to the areas to the west and southwest of Eglin,” according to the Air Force document…..

**Push for a third Raptor squadron at Langley AFB gets a congressional shove**

Hugh Lessig, Contact Reporter, Staff writer, 2-14-2019

The Virginia congressional delegation wants to land a training squadron of F-22 Raptors at Langley Air Force Base, a move that could add up to 800 jobs to the region.

In a letter to Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, the lawmakers cite ample space at the Hampton installation for additional stealth fighters, combined with the region’s longstanding support of the military.

Other advantages include nearby mid-Atlantic training ranges and a government audit that said the Air Force should consolidate its fleet into larger groups.

The Daily Press obtained a copy of the letter, dated Thursday and signed by all Republicans and Democrats that make up the state’s 13-member delegation. Sen. Mark R. Warner reportedly led the organizing effort.

The Air Force needs a new home for its F-22 flight and maintenance training squadron — essentially the F-22 school house — that was based at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

The base sustained heavy damage from Hurricane Michael. Plans are to rebuild, but the base would host the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter rather than the F-22.

Before the storm, Tyndall had the largest concentration of F-22s in the world. The eye of the storm traveled directly over the base's two runways and several hangars.

In December, the Air Force announced it would conduct a strategic search to determine the best location for the training squadron, known as the F-22 Flight and Maintenance Formal Training Unit, or FTU.

The letter notes Langley was built to accommodate three Raptor squadrons before Congress curtailed production of the stealth fighter. A third squadron could be brought in at minimal cost to taxpayers.

The base — also known as Joint Base Langley-Eustis — is currently “under-utilizing the air space and Air Force investment in ramp, hangar and operations support facilities,” the letter states.

In addition, Langley is home to the 192nd Fighter Wing of the Virginia Air National Guard, whose pilots fly and deploy with their Langley counterparts.

The 192nd “stands uniquely positioned to support the FTU, with experienced fighters and maintainers well versed on the platform,” the letter states…..

**NSA Panama City**

**Navy Puts $21 Million Towards Hurricane Michael-Related Repairs to its Buildings in Panama City**

AFCEA, February 11, 2019
URS Group Inc., Morrisville, North Carolina, is awarded a $21,000,000 modification on a firm-fixed-price task order under a previously awarded multiple award construction contract (N62470-13-D-6022) for Phase One of Hurricane Michael repairs for stabilization and repairs to multiple buildings at Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida. The work to be performed provides for removal of carpet, walls, windows and other unsalvageable items due to water penetration, clean-up of roofing materials and tarping of rooftops to mitigate further water intrusion. Repairs include roof replacement, roof decking, and sealing roof penetrations. The repairs also include correction of Architectural, structural, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, fire protection, electrical deficiencies and any other incidental related work as found due to damage from the hurricane. After award of this modification, the total task order value will be $42,510,000. Work will be performed in Panama City, Florida, and is expected to be completed by September 2019. Fiscal year 2019 operations and maintenance (Navy) contract funds in the amount of $21,000,000 are obligated on this award and will expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southeast, Jacksonville, Florida, is the contracting activity.

Tyndall AFB

Medical services return to Tyndall

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. -- With the progression of the base’s recovery efforts, the 325th Medical Group is ramping up its health care services for Tyndall Airmen.

Hurricane Michael, a category 4 hurricane that swept across the Tyndall landscape Oct. 10, 2018, may have delayed the medical group facility’s $54 million renovation project, but it did not alter the original intent of the renovation’s outcome -- to create an updated clinic layout, enhancing accessibility to health care services and improving patient flow.

During this time of peak construction, repairing the damages caused by the storm as well as the continuation of the facility’s modernization endeavor, the 325th MDG has returned a multitude of services to better serve its patients.

“Reopening our Medical Laboratory is a big step in the right direction for our return to normalcy,” said Lt. Col. Jennifer Idell, 325th MDG administrator. “Not only is it faster for our patients to have their medical lab screenings done on base, returning them to their work sections with minimal interruption, it is also essential to keeping Team Tyndall's personal mobility requirements current. We are also excited to extend lab services to our active duty family members, retirees and retiree family members, just as we were before Hurricane Michael.”

Tyndall AFB Recognized as Great American Defense Community

By: Kayla Tucker, Posted: Feb 13, 2019 08:02 PM EST, Updated: Feb 13, 2019 08:04 PM EST

https://www.mypanhandle.com/don't-miss/tyndall.afb.recognized-as.great.america
BAY COUNTY, Fla. – A new symbol of support and community was unveiled at Tyndall Air Force Base on Wednesday.

It recognizes the strong relationship the base has with Bay County.

The Great American Defense Community Award is given to five bases across the country each year. Each recipient must demonstrate how they are dedicated to improving the quality of life for service members, military families and veterans.

To celebrate, the base held a ceremony in front of the newly decorated water tower as different speakers reflected on their time in Bay County.

 Officials say the strong relationship between the base and the community started to form years ago but shown to be even stronger since Hurricane Michael.

"As time goes on, I think you'll see this relationship continue to grow and after the storm that we've had and the damage that our bases have suffered, seeing the community pull together and support the military members and getting the bases back in shape has been important," said Tom Neubauer, President of the Bay County Defense Alliance.

Colonel Brian Laidlaw, Commander of 325th Fighter Wing said, "From the very beginning, this has been a welcoming place for soldiers, sailors, airman, coast guardman to serve. This wasn't something that was done in one year or two years.. this is an award that was 78 years in the making and now finally, the community is getting the recognition its truly earned."....

FL National Guard / Camp Blanding

North Florida Land Trust marks record conservation year

By Teresa Stepzinski, Posted Feb 10, 2019 at 12:16 PM, Updated Feb 10, 2019 at 12:16 PM

The nonprofit North Florida Land Trust celebrated a record year for land conservation — spending about $18 million to preserve more than 6,100 acres of natural land essential to wildlife and water shed throughout the region.

Jim McCarthy, land trust president, said money from donors and at the local, state and federal level helped the conservation organization reach some historic acquisitions in 2018 — both the largest conservation easements and the largest uplands acquisition to date.

“We were also able to acquire two square miles of the Floridan aquifer recharge area, which is beneficial to everyone because the Floridan aquifer provides fresh water to more than 90 percent of Floridians,” McCarthy said.

Saying the organization is lucky, McCarthy praised its ongoing partnership with Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in southern Clay County and the U.S. Army National Guard, which provided more than $15 million in 2018 for land conservation surrounding Camp Blanding and within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) wildlife corridor.

The land trust in 2018 focused on preserving land in the corridor, which stretches from the Ocala National Forest to the Osceola National Forest, which is considered essential natural habitat and critical to the region’s water shed.
The corridor provides important habitat for the Florida black bear as well as many endangered species including the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snake and gopher tortoises.

The land trust currently leads two conservation programs within the O2O: the Regional Conservation Partnership Program with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Army Compatible Use Buffer partnership with the Florida National Guard which operate Camp Blanding. Encompassing 80,000-acres, Camp Blanding is central to the O2O landscape and partnership.

The organization earned the 2018 Environmental Stewardship Award from the Northeast Florida Regional Council for their work within the O2O. The award recognizes an organization that focuses on long-term protection, conservation and enhancement of Northeast Florida’s natural resources…..

### MacDill AFB

**Mold problems create health concerns at MacDill Air Force Base housing**

By: Jeff Patterson, Posted: Feb 11, 2019 06:00 PM EST, updated: Feb 11, 2019 07:44 PM EST


Amie Norquist and her husband were very happy when they moved into their housing at MacDill Air Force base in July of 2018.

"When we first drove through base it's very convenient, the kids can ride their bikes to school, they have a lot of friends out there," said Norquist. Her husband is active duty military and is assigned to MacDill. Soon after moving into their home on base, Norquist says her four children started having health problems.

"I would hear our two oldest coughing through the night in our beds. Our two youngest kids developed a really croupy sounding cough like all the time and had upper respiratory issues," said Norquist.

They soon found mold in the home. There was mold in the flooring from a previous leak. There was mold in the walls and in a storage area inside the home. They called the private company that is in charge of maintaining the housing. A company came in to fix the mold problems, but Norquist says it actually made things worse for them.

"We learned that they did not properly contain our belongings when they sanded all of the mold off the floors, so all the carpets were exposed, the blinds. None of the kitchen cabinets were covered, our furniture was not contained correctly," said Norquist.

The family decided to move and spent seven thousand dollars of their own money for the move and to replace furniture and clothing contaminated by the mold. Norquist says several families are having similar issues…..

### MacDill Guardsman saves life, receives Airman’s Medal

By Airman 1st Class Caleb Nunez, 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs / Published February 12, 2019

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) – “It was kind of automatic how everything happened,” he said, recalling the moment he risked his life to save another. “It wasn’t a decision, it was just a reaction.”

Airman 1st Class Peejay Jack, a 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron vehicle maintainer with the Florida Air National Guard, was awarded the Airman’s Medal by Maj. Gen. Lenny Richoux, the Joint Enabling Capabilities Command commander, during a ceremony at MacDill AFB Feb. 9.

The Airman’s Medal is awarded to those who distinguish themselves through a heroic act involving voluntary risk of life under conditions other than those of conflict with an armed enemy of the United States.

“I feel like I did what any other human being would have done,” Jack emphasized. “God put me in a position to help a man in need so he could get back to his family.”

During his morning commute to MacDill AFB, Jack witnessed a motor vehicle lose control and veer off the interstate at high speeds. Rushing into action, he repeatedly attempted to free the trapped victim through the broken window when the vehicle suddenly burst into flames near the engine. It was at this time another bystander managed to pry the door open with a crowbar and Jack was finally able to free the victim without causing further bodily harm. Within 30 seconds of the extraction, the vehicle was engulfed in flames, significantly reducing the chances of survival for the driver…..

6th Air Mobility Wing Airmen fuel Emerald Warrior 2019

Story by Airman 1st Class Scott Warner, 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs 02.12.2019

Team MacDill fueled Emerald Warrior 2019, a U.S. Special Operations Command sponsored total, joint tactical warfare training exercise, Jan. 14 to 25.

During the two-week training exercise, the 50th and 91st Air Refueling Squadrons and the Force Support and Logistics Readiness Squadrons from the 6th Air Mobility Wing supported Emerald Warrior’s training events.

“During my Emerald Warrior flight, our team offloaded around 30,000 pounds of fuel over Avon Park for six A-10 aircraft and a single AC-130 gunship,” said Capt. Luke Brown, a 50th ARS KC-135 pilot. “Emerald Warrior was unique with visibility as I could see payloads hit the ground; I definitely left with a broader sense of the mission and a deeper understanding of my part in it.”

MacDill’s Auxiliary Field located within Avon Park Air Force Range, Florida, is a remote military training facility and serves as a launch pad for exercise operations.

Since Emerald Warrior specializes in advanced tactical warfare under any conditions, it opened up the instructional playbook to enable a wide range of training scenarios with multiple aircraft.

“This training exercise is important because it certifies refueling pilots as well as combat pilots to be ready to deploy at any time,” said Brown.

Additionally, nine A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft from the 107th Fighter Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, travelled to MacDill AFB in January to participate in the training exercise. A U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk, AH-64 Apache helicopters, AC-130 Stringer II aircraft, an MC-130 Combat Talon II and other fighter aircraft also brought air power to the training…..
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA – WFTV News reports that team members of the Cape Canaveral Archaeological Mitigation Project are recording sites and rescuing artifacts vulnerable to destruction by hurricanes and storm surge on central Florida’s west coast. “Due to climate change and sea level rise, a lot of these sites are going to be eroded in 20 to 25 years,” said Thomas Penders, cultural resources manager for the 45th Space Wing. The team members are creating a 3-D map of the historic spacecraft launch complexes at Cape Canaveral, and examining a Native American burial mound at the Air Force Station with ground-penetrating radar. A 1960s missile graveyard and a fish company are also located on the property. “The fact that you have all of these things on top of each other in time is really interesting, as an archaeologist, to explore,” explained Lori Collins of the University of South Florida. To read about another recent discovery in Florida, go to “Afterlife Under the Waves.”

AVON PARK
Emerald Warrior: Combat Search and Rescue Training
ShadowSpear, 16 hours ago

AVON PARK AFB, FL – A distinct and repetitious sound rumbles through the air above Avon Park Air Force Range, Florida as a U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft violently unleashes 4,200 rounds per minute from its 30mm hydraulic rotary cannon, breathing fire upon its target.

The nine A-10s from the 107th Fighter Squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, provided close air support for a combat search and rescue scenario involving joint special operations forces during training exercise, Emerald Warrior, Jan. 22, 2019.

“Exercise Emerald Warrior is a certification and validation mission readiness exercise, which provides realistic and relevant readiness training to U.S. Special Operations Command forces and inter-agency participants in an irregular warfare scenario,” said Capt. Jason Davenport, the 107th FS Emerald Warrior project manager.

During the search and rescue scenario, Airmen from 127th Wing at Selfridge ANGB, trained as aircrew survivors of a simulated U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crash involving a Black Hawk pilot with the 2-10 Assault Helicopter Battalion from Fort Drum, New York. Together, they navigated their way to safety through Avon Park’s 160,000 acres of austere terrain that is home to alligators, venomous snakes and other predators.

While very realistic and dangerous, these meticulously planned training scenarios strengthen joint forces’ training with a focus on tactical warfare…. 
Homestead AFB
3 US Army soldiers hurt during training exercise at Homestead Air Reserve Base

By Ryan Gaydos | Fox News, 2-12-2019

Three U.S. Army soldiers were injured and rushed to the hospital early Tuesday after a night training accident at Homestead Air Reserve Base near Miami, officials said.

The soldiers, who were not identified, are a part of the Golden Knights – the Fort Bragg-based Army parachute team – and were conducting a HALO jump, base officials told WSVN-TV. The HALO jump requires soldiers to free fall from high altitudes before deploying a parachute.

The soldiers were conducting a training mission, Donna Dixon, a base spokeswoman, told The Associated Press. She said the injured soldiers were “medevaced” to Jackson Memorial Hospital’s Ryder Trauma Center in Miami for treatment….

US Southern Command

U.S. Navy Admiral Craig Faller of U.S. SOUTHCOM discusses defense partnership and security cooperation in Brazil

US Embassy in Brazil, Feb 12, 2019

On February 10-13, U.S. Navy Admiral Craig Faller, Commander of U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), is visiting Brasília and Rio de Janeiro and meeting with civilian and military leaders in order to discuss bilateral security cooperation with Brazilian counterparts in support of regional peace and Western Hemisphere stability. Brazil and the United States, the two most populous democracies in the Western Hemisphere, enjoy an increasingly close bilateral relationship, including increasingly in the area of defense, on specific areas such as research and development, information exchanges, training and education, joint military exercises, and commercial initiatives related to defense matters.

Today in Brasília, Admiral Faller is visiting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ernesto Araújo, the Chief of Defense, Lieutenant-Brigadier Raul Botelho, the Navy Commander, Admiral Ilques Barbosa Junior, the Air Force Commander, Lieutenant-Brigadier Antonio Carlos Moretti Bermudez, and visit the Aerospace Operations Command (COMAE). In addition, he is meeting with Chargé d’Affaires William Popp and other personnel at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia. In Rio de Janeiro, he will meet with Army Commander, General Leal Pujol, visit the Airborne Brigade at Vila Militar, tour the Multi-purpose Helicopter Carrier, Atlântico, and also visit the Itaguai Submarine Base.
The Admiral’s visit to Brazil follows earlier visits to the South American nation by Vice President Mike Pence, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and reflects the longstanding and close military ties between the hemisphere’s two largest democracies. Admiral Faller will be accompanied by former Ambassador to Brazil Liliana Ayalde, currently serving as the Civilian Deputy and Policy Advisor to the Commander.

**Defense Industry**

**Lockheed Martin Expands Its Research and Development Centre in Florida**

WASHINGTON (Sputnik) – Lockheed Martin announced in a press release that it is expanding its research and development facilities in the US state of Florida.

Since 2017, Lockheed Martin has created more than 1,000 jobs to support the facility and others in Orlando, with hundreds more expected over the next three to five years, the release noted.

Lockheed Martin's Orlando operations include both Missiles and Fire Control and Rotary and Mission Systems divisions.

Across Florida, the company's operations support an estimated 40,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs, with work spanning 1,300 Florida businesses and suppliers, according to the release.

On Monday, Lockheed Martin announced in a press release the latest US Navy contract that is valued at $184 million. The contract authorizes full rate production of Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program (SEWIP) Block 2 systems for aircraft carriers and other warships.

Lockheed Martin has provided the US Navy with SEWIP Block 2 development, production and engineering services since 2009 and has been delivering and supporting the installation of SEWIP Block 2 systems as the Navy upgrades electronic warfare defenses against anti-ship missile threats fleet wide.

**DoD Budget**

**Federal budget to be released mid-March, Pentagon budget expected to be nearly $750 billion**

WASHINGTON – The [Pentagon budget](https://www.militaryaerospace.com/articles/pt/2019/02/defense-pentagon-budget-dod-spending.html) for fiscal year 2020 is expected to be released, along with the rest of the federal budget request, beginning on March 11; the Department of Defense (DOD) is expecting a spending plan in the range of $750 billion. Space War reports. [Continue reading original article](https://www.militaryaerospace.com/articles/pt/2019/02/defense-pentagon-budget-dod-spending.html)
The Military & Aerospace Electronics take:

11 March 2019 -- Although no formal announcement has been made, White House officials notified legislators that summaries of President Donald Trump's message and top priorities will be released on March 11 or 12. Details of the budget, including the full DOD spending proposal, are expected in mid-March.

A $733 billion defense budget had been planned for fiscal year 2020 until Trump announced in October that it would be held to $700 billion. In December, Trump cited a $750 billion figure.

The higher figure is expected to be the Pentagon's working budget, which includes the agency's base budget and funds used for overseas contingency operations, which has been used in recent years to fund war efforts.

Service Secretaries Talk Budget

One month before the release of the administration’s budget request, the three military service secretaries talked about readiness, modernization and reform needs at an event Friday hosted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Here are some of their comments on budget priorities, according to a transcript.

**Army Secretary Mark Esper:** If we do not modernize the force now, we risk losing a future conflict against Russia or China. It’s that simple. We cannot continue to live off vehicles and equipment that came into the Army when I came into the Army, in the 1980s. So it is that urgent that we get this done and that we implement that budget.

**Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson:** We are using the authorities given to us to buy things faster and smarter, and we’re building the Air Force we need for the high-end fight.

**Navy Secretary Richard Spencer:** The foundation for readiness has been set…. Right now in the United States Navy… everyone understands they have the resources. This is all being done now to the – to the mantra of urgency. We have money. We have plans. We cannot buy time.

Long-Term Implications of the 2019 Future Years Defense Program

CBO, February 13, 2019

CBO estimates that if the Department of Defense implemented the plans described in its 2019 Future Years Defense Program, its base-budget costs (in 2019 dollars) would climb from the $617 billion requested for 2019 to $735 billion in 2033.

In most years, the Department of Defense (DoD) produces a five-year plan, called the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP), that is associated with the budget it submits to the Congress. This report describes CBO's analysis of the 2019 FYDP, which was issued in April 2018 and summarizes DoD’s expectations about the costs of its plans from 2019 through 2023. Because decisions made in the near
term can have consequences for the defense budget in the longer term, CBO projected the costs of that plan through 2033.....

**Other Of Interest**

**Privatized Housing Horrors in Capitol Hill Spotlight**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Feb 13, 2019 11:36 pm
[https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d333ce307ef7&id=a7cbb58a17](https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d333ce307ef7&id=a7cbb58a17)

A military spouse told lawmakers Wednesday that military housing conditions are so bad “I wouldn’t recommend my own children join the service, and my husband has been a Marine for 12 years.”

Crystal Cornwall was among witnesses in a Senate hearing into reports of widespread problems in privatized military housing, the Washington Post reported, as families described conditions senators called “shocking,” “disgusting” and “toxic.”

More than half of military families have had a negative or very negative experience with privatized housing, according to a Military Family Advisory Network survey out Wednesday that details the experiences of almost 17,000 families across all states.

DOD leaders and contractors said in the hearing that they are dedicated to doing better.

“The Department recognizes we have a moral obligation to military families to provide safe and quality housing, and we take that obligation seriously,” Robert H. McMahon, assistant secretary of defense for sustainment, said according to prepared remarks.

Army leaders announced Wednesday afternoon that they will seek an inspector general’s investigation into the problems.

“We will hold our chain of command and private contractors accountable,” Army Secretary Mark Esper and Army Chief of Staff Mark Milley said in a statement.

Video of the hearing is online, along with statements from military families, DOD officials and executives from Balfour Beatty Communities, Corvias Group, Hunt Military Communities, Americas Lendlease Corp. and Lincoln Military Housing.
Feb 22

Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #72 will be Thursday, 28 March 2019 (**NOT THE THIRD THURSDAY**), at the Four Points Sheraton Downtown, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301, beginning at 9:00AM ET. This meeting will include presentations and updates from our Florida National Guard and state Veteran partners, among other business.

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   **Call-In Number: 800-501-8979**
   **Access Code: 1869945**

3. **DoD Takes Action on Substandard Housing** – After hearings on Capitol Hill that describe privatized housing failures across the military, the Army has issued guidance to installation commanders (attached). Among the points approved by the Army is an acknowledgment that the Army is “deeply troubled by the deficient housing conditions experienced by Family members living in on-post housing and barracks across the Army” and “The situation is unacceptable, and we are failing our Soldiers and their Families by not providing the quality housing they deserve.” This is not only an Army issue as all the services have privatized housing and thus lose some control on how the housing on the installation is managed. Air Force Secretary Wilson also directed command level review of housing. See special section about Military Housing below in the **CLIPs**.

4. **Homestead ARB Stages Humanitarian Relief to Venezuela** – The Task Force has long pushed for HARB to get upgrades to the ramp that would allow it to be the primary staging base for operations in SOUTHCOM AOR. During the earthquake in Haiti it was heavily used and it is being used today to support Venezuela. At our recent visit we found that although the base has excellent ramp space and is in a strategic location, the ability to support large operations is limited. See article below in the **CLIPs**.

5. **Rep Ponder Files Military Friendly Bill in House** – Representative Mel Ponder (FL House District 4) filed HB 0891-Military-friendly Initiatives, which is a companion bill to SB620 filed by Senator Broxson several weeks ago. HB891 “Limits amount landlord may charge servicemember tenant for security deposit & advance rent; revises circumstances for terminating rental agreement; authorizes additional military installations to exchange information with local governments regarding compatibility of land development; provides that easement for certain military lands continues after tax sale or deed execution; revises definition of "activities" for purposes of certain military grant programs; authorizes funding of on-base construction projects in certain counties; requires school districts to accept certain military orders as proof of residency of dependent children; revises requirements for servicemembers & their families to be classified as residents for tuition purposes.” See below.

6. **Florida Codel Members Tour Hurricane Michael Affects** – This week members of Congress including Congresswomen Debbie Wasserman-Shultz (who chairs the VA-MilCon Committee), Congressman Neal Dunn and Congressman Al Lawson toured Naval Support Activity Panama City and Tyndall to survey damage and recovery efforts. They continue to support complete rebuild of both facilities.
7. **Governor DeSantis asks For Space Command** – On Tuesday, Governor DeSantis sent a letter (attached) to President Trump asking for the newly formed Space Command concept to land in Florida. The letter noted that Florida has the capacity to take on the mission and has shown it is the best state in the nation to place our servicemembers and their families. According to the press release (below in the CLIPs) the letter supports the fact that “President Donald Trump issued a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense establishing the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) as a Unified Combatant Command. Today, February 19, 2019, President Trump signed Space Policy Directive 4, establishing a new space-focused extension of the U.S. Air Force to be housed at USSPACECOM.”

8. **Governor DeSantis Proclaims March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day** – In the attached proclamation, Governor DeSantis honors the service of all Vietnam Veterans across the State. Please take time to remember the sacrifice and service of so many Floridians who served during that period of our history.

9. **ADC Installation Innovation Forum (IIF)** – The ADC Installation Innovation Forum will be held from March 4-6, 2019 in Miami. Florida will host a panel presentation highlighting several successes on Tuesday, March 5th from 4-4:45 PM. This conference will feature several senior DOD officials and receive a keynote address from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Robert McMahon. More information on this event can be found at: [https://installationinnovation.org/](https://installationinnovation.org/)

10. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov); for Senate Bills (SB), go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov). For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status (18 military / 48 veteran friendly bills).

     - **HB 3977 World War II Veterans Exhibition Collections and Programs (Stevenson)**
       World War II Veterans Exhibition Collections and Programs: Provides an appropriation for the World War II Veterans Exhibition Collections and Programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
     - **HB 4617 Home Builders Institute - Building Careers for Veterans (Roach)**
       Home Builders Institute - Building Careers for Veterans: Provides an appropriation for the Home Builders Institute - Building Careers for Veterans. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
     - **HB 0891 Military-friendly Initiatives (Ponder)**
       Military-friendly Initiatives: Limits amount landlord may charge servicemember tenant for security deposit & advance rent; revises circumstances for terminating rental agreement; authorizes additional military installations to exchange information with local governments regarding compatibility of land development; provides that easement for certain military lands continues after tax sale or deed execution; revises definition of "activities" for purposes of certain military grant programs; authorizes funding of on-base construction projects in certain counties; requires school districts to accept certain military orders as proof of residency of dependent children; revises requirements for servicemembers & their families to be classified as residents for tuition purposes. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
     - **HB 4411 Miami Military Museum Operations (Rodriguez (Ant))**
       Miami Military Museum Operations: Provides an appropriation for the Miami Military Museum Operations. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
- **HB 4663 Military-Connected Schools Initiative** (Williamson)
  Military-Connected Schools Initiative: Provides an appropriation for the Military-Connected Schools Initiative. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 4429 Armory Art Center-Brave Hearts Veterans Project** (Jacquet)
  Armory Art Center-Brave Hearts Veterans Project: Provides an appropriation for the Armory Art Center-Brave Hearts Veterans Project. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 4519 The Transition House, Inc. Homeless Veterans Program** (La Rosa)
  The Transition House, Inc. Homeless Veterans Program: Provides an appropriation for The Transition House, Inc. Homeless Veterans Program. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 4523 Friends of Post 84 Inc. - Affordable Housing for Veterans** (Ausley)
  Friends of Post 84 Inc. - Affordable Housing for Veterans: Provides an appropriation for the Friends of Post 84 Inc. - Affordable Housing for Veterans. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 6049 Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame** (Gregory)
  Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame: Removes provisions that prohibit use of state funds for administration of Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame & reimbursement of travel expenses for members of Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 4907 Bay Area Legal Services Florida Veterans Helpline** (Roach)
  Bay Area Legal Services Florida Veterans Helpline: Provides an appropriation for the Bay Area Legal Services Florida Veterans Helpline. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 4727 Empowerment Academy - Residential Housing Rehabilitation for Veterans** (Daniels)
  Empowerment Academy - Residential Housing Rehabilitation for Veterans: Provides an appropriation for the Empowerment Academy - Residential Housing Rehabilitation for Veterans. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 4709 Northeast FL Women Veterans - Decreasing Women Veteran Homelessness** (Daniels)
  Northeast FL Women Veterans - Decreasing Women Veteran Homelessness: Provides an appropriation for the Northeast FL Women Veterans - Decreasing Women Veteran Homelessness. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **SB 1226 Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Programs** (Taddeo)
  Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Programs: Requiring the chief judge of each judicial circuit to establish a Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program; requiring the chief judge to consider nationally recognized best practices when adopting policies and procedures for the program, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019

- **SB 1222 Services for Veterans and Their Families** (Harrell)
  Services for Veterans and Their Families: Requiring the Department of Children and Families to establish the Florida Veterans’ Care Coordination Program to provide veterans and their families with behavioral health care referral and care coordination services; requiring the department to contract with managing entities to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants to provide such services, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019

- **HB 0937 Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Programs** (Hattersley)
  Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Programs: Requires chief judge of each judicial circuit to establish military veterans & servicemembers court program; requires
chief judge to consider nationally recognized best practices when adopting policies & procedures for program. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 0365 Services for Veterans and Their Families** (Hattersley)
  Services for Veterans and Their Families: Requires DCF to establish Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide certain services to veterans & their families; requires DCF to contract with managing entities to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants; requires statewide delivery of services; requires collection of program implementation data & submission of data to DCF; requires report to Governor & Legislature; provides appropriation. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

- **HB 4981 Florida State University - Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative** (Alexander)
  Florida State University - Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative: Provides an appropriation for the Florida State University - Tallahassee Veterans Legal Collaborative. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

11. Attachments:
- Army Housing message for Installation Commanders
- Governor DeSantis Letter to President on Space Command
- Governors Proclamation for Vietnam Veterans Day
- Mil-Vet Friendly Bills

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Military Installation Housing**

MacDill families hope Congressional hearings on moldy housing will spur action

By Howard Altman, Published February 14, Updated February 15
MacDill Air Force base families who say they’ve suffered health problems after living in private on-base housing had their say before Congress this week. Two women came out of the meetings hopeful the federal government will address concerns about military families living in mold-infested, substandard structures — but still fear the problems won't get fixed.

“The past few days were amazing and felt like such a huge step in the right direction for our military families,” said Amie Norquist, 31, a mother of four and wife of an Army officer.

She and Traci Lenz, a 34-year-old mother of three and wife of an Air Force non-commissioned officer, both attended a Wednesday hearing of a Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee on the nationwide problems besetting base housing, 99 percent of which is owned and managed by private companies.

Norquist also testified Thursday during a closed-door roundtable meeting of a House Armed Services Committee subcommittee on the problem.

At least 16 families have come forward with concerns about mold and other housing problems at MacDill. The number of families affected is likely much higher, Norquist said, but many are still afraid to come forward for fear it could affect their military careers…..

Army Promises to Fix Private Housing Problems

Army leaders are outlining ways to improve privatized housing standards after damning congressional testimony and a barrage of negative news stories from Reuters and others, and a Military Family Advisory Network survey showing the majority of military families have had bad housing experiences.

“Our instinct is this is bigger even than what’s been reported,” Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley said Friday, according to The Hill, “and we want to get to the bottom of it, get to the bottom of it fast.”

At a hearing last week, Sen. Martha McSally (R-Ariz.), an Air Force veteran, told executives from housing privatization companies that they should be “embarrassed.”

“I hope all of you can look these service members and their families in the eye and tell them that you’re sorry, but then do the right thing starting now,” McSally said.

But Milley said the Army is also at fault.

“Just because someone said it’s privatized doesn’t wash our hands of the responsibility to take care of our soldiers and their families,” Milley said, according to Reuters.

Air Force orders review of military housing in wake of concerns raised about mold

By Dennis Joyce, 2-19-19

TAMPA – The Air Force has ordered a “100 percent review” of military housing at MacDill Air Force Base and throughout the service in the wake of news reports and testimony before Congress about mold and other health concerns.

In a letter to commanders Friday, as first reported by Reuters, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson says the review must be completed by March 1 “to ensure the health and safety of airmen and their families.”

Wilson also says in the letter that an assistant Air Force secretary will establish an action team by Tuesday to help in the review.

The action team is centered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, home of the Air Force directorate that manages property.

The letter also was signed by Gen. David L. Goldfein, Air Force chief of staff.

MacDill was singled out during congressional testimony last week as one of the Air Force bases where problems with mold in military housing are among the most serious.

About a half-dozen people came forward to talk about mold problems in the wake of a report earlier this month about families who have reported mold problems at MacDill housing…..

Calls For Change Amid Reports Of Housing Problems On Military Bases

By STEPHANIE COLOMBINI • 2-20-2019
http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/calls-change-amid-reports-housing-problems-military-bases

U.S. Army and Air Force leaders have ordered inspections of housing on their bases amid reports about unsafe conditions.

The news spurred Congress to hold hearings on the issue last week, where talk of creating a tenant bill of rights for military families has gained traction.

Health News Florida's Stephanie Colombini spoke with Howard Altman with the Tampa Bay Times. He's been reporting on housing problems at MacDill Air Force Base and talks about how it can affect families.

The need for good-quality housing is an issue a lot of people can relate to and is a problem both in and out of the military.

And there’s a growing body of research that suggests housing and health are really intertwined, so for members of the military who need to be in top shape to serve, how can this housing situation affect that?

If you’re downrange in a dangerous situation in Afghanistan, or you’re patrolling Syria or Iraq or someplace else, you’ve got to be at the top of your game mentally and physically.

And then you get a call from your spouse at home that the kids are sick and coughing, there are mushrooms growing in the living room or there’s mold in the air conditioning system--you’re not concentrating on the job at hand – a very dangerous and deadly job…..
Governor Ron DeSantis Asks President Donald Trump to Headquarter United States Space Command in Florida

Press Release, 2-19-2019

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis sent a letter to President Donald Trump requesting that the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) be headquartered in Florida.

“Today, I submitted a request to President Trump formally asking him to headquarter United States Space Command in Florida,” said Governor DeSantis. “As the world’s premier gateway to space, Florida has been the departure point for more cargo and humans to space than any other place in the world, so I believe our state is the logical choice to base this new command. In addition to my request to the President, I have also directed Space Florida to make it a top priority to pursue and secure this new headquarters here in Florida.”

On December 18, 2018, President Donald Trump issued a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense establishing the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) as a Unified Combatant Command. Today, February 19, 2019, President Trump signed Space Policy Directive 4, establishing a new space-focused extension of the U.S. Air Force to be housed at USSPACECOM.

Florida is perfectly positioned for this headquarters with several important strategic facilities and Air Force bases, including the Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Eglin Air Force Base in Valparaiso and Patrick Air Force Base in Cocoa Beach, which currently provides space launch operations support through the 45th Space Wing.

Florida’s growing commercial space industry provides jobs for nearly 100,000 Floridians in over 470 aerospace and aviation companies that do business in the state. These companies export more than $7.6 billion in goods annually, providing major economic impact to Florida. USSPACECOM headquarters would significantly reinforce the positive impact the space industry has on Florida’s economy…..

Florida Lawmakers Want New Space Command Based in State

By Vivienne Machi | 19/02/2019

Florida’s congressional delegation and governor are pushing hard for the Pentagon to base its future U.S. Space Command in the Sunshine State.

A bipartisan group of House members led by House Armed Services Committee (HASC) members Reps. Michael Waltz (R-Fla.) and Bill Posey (R-Fla.) on Tuesday sent a letter to Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, encouraging him to base the USSPACECOM headquarters in Florida.
“Florida, with its existing civilian and commercial space infrastructure and launch capabilities, is uniquely suited, and the logical choice to locate USSPACECOM headquarters to counteract” growing threats in the domain posed by near-peer adversaries, the letter said. The lawmakers also highlight the state’s substantial defense and aerospace industry presence and “long history of supporting America’s military community.” The letter was co-signed by 11 additional Florida representatives.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) also expressed his support for bringing U.S. Space Command to the so-called “Space Coast,” saying on Twitter that he plans to reach out to President Trump and personally push for the command to be based in his state, specifically at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.…

Trump approves Space Force plan under Air Force

By Washington Post News Service, 2-20-2019

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump signed a policy directive Tuesday that laid out a framework for the Space Force he has long sought but that fell short of his initial vision for a new service that is “separate but equal” to the Air Force.

In the document, the president directed the Pentagon to create legislation for Congress that would place the Space Force under the control of the Air Force Department, in a fashion similar to how the Navy Department oversees the Marine Corps. It marks a partial win for senior Air Force officials: They argued that creating a separate military department — as Trump had stated he wants — would create unnecessary Pentagon bureaucracy.

Trump signed the directive Tuesday afternoon in the Oval Office while flanked by senior defense officials that included acting defense secretary Patrick Shanahan, Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Air Force Gen. Paul Selva, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The president he was “thrilled” to do so, and believes it is just the beginning in an important process.

“Our adversaries... whether we get along with them or not, they’re up in space,” Trump said. “And they’re doing it, and we’re doing it. And that’s going to be a very big part of where the defense of our nation — and you could say “offense,” but let’s just be nice about it and let’s say the defense of our nation — is going to be.”

The plan, which requires congressional approval, could mark the first time the U.S. government has established a new military branch since the National Security Act of 1947 created the Air Force in the wake of World War II. The administration could still press for a full Space Force Department in the future, but it is unclear whether or when that would happen.

Trump also created a new position in December: chief of U.S. Space Command. The four-star officer will oversee the U.S. military’s operations in space, which are currently focused on communications, surveillance, and defending U.S. satellites from threats posed both by the elements and by adversaries such as Russia and China.…

U.S. Rep. Bill Posey Joins Republican Congressman Calling For U.S. Space Command HQ In Florida

By Kevin Derby, Sunshine State News // February 20, 2019
On Tuesday, Florida Republican U.S. Reps. Bill Posey and Mike Waltz wrote a letter to acting U.S. Defense Sec. Patrick Shanahan on the matter. Waltz, the only freshman Republican serving on the U.S. House Armed Forces Committee, has been increasingly vocal about his support for the space industry’s role in Florida.

“We write to express our support for the establishment of a U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM) and urge locating the headquarters in Florida,” the members wrote. “Space Command is a crucial step for the United States maintaining its position as a global leader in space innovation which is essential to national security and commerce in the 21st Century. According to the January 2019 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community, ‘countries—including U.S. adversaries and strategic competitors—will become more reliant on space services for civil and military needs, and China and Russia will field new counterspace weapons intended to target U.S. and allied space capabilities.’”

The members of the Florida delegation showcased why the Sunshine State makes sense to host the new branch of the military……

Space Florida envisions the state as the world’s commercial spaceport

By Scott Powers on February 20, 2019

Space Florida President Frank DiBello told a Florida Senate committee Wednesday that the Earth’s space industry already is at $345 billion a year and growing rapidly and his organization aims to make Cape Canaveral the global leader as a commercial spaceport.

Cape Canaveral, in part through deals Space Florida helped arrange between NASA, the Department of Defense and private-launch rocket companies such as SpaceX and Blue Origin, already is rapidly transitioning from being a government rocket launch center to one that handles both government and private space interests.

But there are at least 38 other launch sites worldwide, and the number is growing. So being competitive is key as the industry expects to soon start commercializing space in a number of ways, DiBello told the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space on Tuesday.

“We want to be able to do things using the powers that we have not only on the ground but in space. So that where we’re headed from a visionary point of view is to view Florida in the future as a global space commerce trade port, not unlike the way London served for several centuries past, opening up world trade from its port activities,” DiBello said.

“We want Florida to be the leading global enabler of this new era of commercial space, whether it’s for research, manufacturing, or services, bringing things out there and bringing value back,” he said…..

NAS Whiting Field

NAS Whiting Field receives environmental award
MILTON – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection presented the 2018 Plant Operations Excellence Award in the small community category to the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Public Works department on Feb. 12 at Northwest Florida College. This is the seventh consecutive year NAS Whiting Field has received the recognition.

“The driving factor in the award was the partnership between the environmental division, which is responsible for monitoring water quality compliance to ensure it’s safe, and the operations plant,” said Jeff Kissler, NAS Whiting Field Installation Environmental Program Director.

The operations plant is run by the installation contracting company, Electronic Meteorology Laboratory, LLC (EML), which is responsible for the treatment maintenance of the plant. Aaron Mitchell, physical scientist with NAS Whiting Field Public Works department said, “The successful partnership was due to the quick notification and response on any issues. They were proactive and very responsive.” Additionally, Mitchell noted that in 2018, “the department had no issues with drinking water monthly operating reports that were sent to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) by the 10th of every month, and were well below or within reportable levels.”

DEP selects winners based on excellence in operation, maintenance, innovative treatment, waste reduction, pollution prevention, recycling, or special achievements. The specific district, Northwest District in which the competition was based, runs from Escambia County to Jefferson County, and is one of six Florida districts. DEP regulates any community that serves 25 or more people for at least 60 days of the year, and small community water systems consist of systems that serve less than 3,000 people. The department is awarding a total of 18 facilities, including 10 domestic wastewater facilities and eight drinking water facilities statewide…..

Corry Station

3-Peat: CIWT Domain Recognized as NETC’s Top Learning Center

Story by Glenn Sircy, Center for Information Warfare Training, 02.14.2019

PENSACOLA, Fla. – In a message released by Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad, commander of Naval Education and Training Command (NETC), the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT), onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida, was recognized for winning the 2018 overall NETC Training Excellence Award (White T) for best Navy learning center, Feb. 14.

This is the third consecutive year CIWT has won the overall NETC Training Excellence Award (White T), and the second consecutive year CIWT swept all graded functional merit award areas.

“The CIWT domain team exemplifies the highest degree of training excellence found throughout NETC, said Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad, NETC commander. “The team’s continued success in the delivery of training ensures highly trained, lethal warfighters are ready to fight and win our renewed great power competition.”

The annual Training Excellence Award (TEA) program recognizes commands for demonstrating superior performance for training or training support. NETC uses metrics to determine how well the commands are
doing across various aspects of the mission, and the TEA award provides a way to track progress and make adjustments if needed……

NSA Panama City

Reps. Neal Dunn and Debbie Wasserman Schultz survey NSA PC facilities damaged by Hurricane Michael

By NEWS HERALD STAFF REPORT, Posted Feb 19, 2019 at 4:56 PM, Updated Feb 19, 2019 at 7:05 PM


Damaged facilities include Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD).

“It was very important for us to show Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz how the hurricane impacted this installation,” NSWC PCD commanding officer Capt. Aaron Peters said. “Of the 88 buildings occupied by NSWC PCD, 82 sustained damage, ranging from minor to severe damage resulting in 40 percent of our workforce to be displaced. As NSWC PCD moves forward we look for opportunity and return on investment within the next 10 years to rebuild stronger to enable vital capability to outpace our adversaries and defeat current and emerging threats.”

Wasserman Schultz is chairwoman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

“The support of Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz is an important step in helping NSWC Panama City rebuild the Warfare Center,” said Ed Stewart (SES), NSWC PCD technical director. “Our technical capabilities are unique to Panama City. It is vital that we rebuild in order to maintain current and future warfighter readiness.”

Tyndall AFB

U.S. Reps tour Tyndall

By NEWS HERALD STAFF REPORT, Posted Feb 20, 2019 at 5:16 PM, Updated Feb 20, 2019 at 5:16 PM

TYNDALL AFB – Continuing their tour of the area’s military establishments, U.S. Representatives Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (FL-23), Neal Dunn (FL-2), and Al Lawson Jr. (FL-5) visited Tyndall Air Force Base on Wednesday.

They were part of a group of visitors that toured Tyndall to assess damage done by Hurricane Michael and view construction progress. Attendees were also briefed on plans to turn Tyndall into a military installation of the future, according to a press release.
Wasserman Schultz is chairwoman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

The day before, U.S. Representatives has toured Naval Support Activity Panama City facilities.

**Senator Rick Scott Seeks Answers on Tyndall Rebuild**

My Panhandle, Posted: Feb 20, 2019 05:30 PM EST, Updated: Feb 21, 2019 12:06 AM EST


Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. - Senator Rick Scott is asking the Secretary of the Air Force for more information about the restoration of Tyndall Air Force Base following Hurricane Michael.

In a letter to Secretary Heather Wilson Scott wrote that he is concerned about reports of unacceptable housing at the base.

"Do the reconstruction plans help reduce redundancy and improve efficiencies at the base and in the community? Will the rebuilt base benefit military families and improve their quality of life and living conditions?" Scott wrote. "Are the plans for the reconstruction of Tyndall focused on future needs or solely on rebuilding Tyndall exactly as it was before the storm? Will the new structures be able to accommodate the kinds of aircraft we expect to be housed in the future at this installation?"

**ALS is back in session at Tyndall**

Story by Senior Airman Javier Alvarez, 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs 02.21.2019

https://www.dvidshub.net/news/311531/als-back-session-tyndall

Sixteen Airmen from various Air Force specialties are back in the classroom at the Tyndall Air Force Base Force Development Center for Airman Leadership School Feb. 11, 2019.

This is the first ALS course to take place at Tyndall since Hurricane Michael devastated the installation Oct. 10, 2018, said Master Sgt. Nicholas Kehoe, ALS commandant. The five week course is focused on fostering and developing future leaders and front line supervisors in the Air Force.

“To attend [ALS], you need to be, not just physically present, but also mentally,” Kehoe said. “It can be challenging to show up and focus on the course work with everything that's gone on around us. At the end of the day, our Airmen are quick to adapt and are resilient. And we know people are going to be successful here.”

The course, a stepping stone for Professional Military Education, is mandatory for Senior Airmen to assume the next rank and become front-line supervisors…..

**MacDill AFB**

**Tampa Chamber Of Commerce To Host Military Appreciation Event**

By GARNET BROWN GORDON-SOMERS • 2-21-2019

http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/tampa-chamber-commerce-host-military-appreciation-event
MacDill Air Force Base has the largest economic impact on the Tampa Bay area compared to all other companies and organizations.

The Tampa Chamber of Commerce is honoring the armed forces’ contribution to the area at its 21st Annual Military Appreciation event Friday.

“More than anything, it is a ‘thank you’ to military personnel for being great parts of our community,” said 2019 Chamber of Commerce Chair, Jamie Harden. “We’ll have our chamber members, board and a number of other guests coming out to celebrate the military and our community.”

The event is also intended to foster a relationship between the military and the Tampa business community.

“The MacDill annual economic impact on Tampa Bay is $3 billion every year,” Harden stated. “That’s bigger than any other business that we have in this community.”

Patrick AFB

Mike Waltz, Now on Key House Subcommittee, Wants to Boost Space Industry in Volusia County

By FLORIDA DAILY, 02.17.19
https://www.floridadaily.com/mike-waltz-now-on-key-house-subcommittee-wants-to-boost-space-industry-in-volusia-county/

U.S. Rep. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., wants to move quickly on a major goal of his first term in office: improving and increasing the space industry in Volusia County.

Last week, Waltz was named to U.S. House Space Subcommittee, which the congressman insisted will help him make a difference for business in the southern end of his district which stretches across St. Johns, Flagler and Volusia Counties.

“The ability to support the continued growth of our commercial space industry from the Subcommittee on Space is a tremendous privilege and will be critical to ensuring these 21st Century jobs remain in Central Florida,” Waltz said when named to the subcommittee.

Waltz expressed concerns about falling behind in the space race.

“This is not only a jobs issue for Florida,” Waltz insisted. “It is a national security issue for America. The 21st century space race is on.”

He is particularly worried about China, pointing to their recent landing on the dark side of the moon…..

Homestead ARB

US military planes from Florida land near Venezuela border with aid

By Associated Press, Posted: 2:37 PM, February 16, 2019Updated: 2:37 PM, February 16, 2019
HOMESTEAD, Fla. - The U.S. Air Force began flying tons of aid to a Colombian town on the Venezuelan border on Saturday as part of an effort meant to undermine socialist President Nicolas Maduro and back his rival to leadership of the South American nation.

The first of three C-17 cargo planes took off from Homestead Air Reserve Base in Florida and landed in the Cucuta. That border city, swollen by a flood of migrants from Venezuela, is a collection point for aid that's supposed to be distributed by backers of Juan Guaido, the congressional leader who is recognized by the U.S. and many other nations as Venezuela's legitimate president.

Commercial planes had been used for earlier shipments of aid, which is aimed at dramatizing the economic crisis — including hyperinflation and shortages of food and medicine — gripping Venezuela under Maduro. Critics say last year's re-election was fraudulent, making Maduro's second term illegal.

Maduro has been using the military, which remains loyal, to help him block the aid from entering Venezuela, describing it as "crumbs" from a U.S. government whose restrictions have stripped his administration of control over many of its most valuable assets.

US Southern Command
SOUTHCOM Commander Promotes Partnership During Visit to Brazil

Taciana Moury/Diálogo | 15 February 2019

U.S. Navy Admiral Craig S. Faller, commander of U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), visited Brazil February 10-13, 2019, to discuss bilateral security cooperation with civil and military Brazilian leaders. The objective of his visit was to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation with Brazil to ensure regional peace and stability in the Western Hemisphere.

Bilateral cooperation between Brazil and the United States expanded in the last few years, particularly in military school, research, and development exchanges. Both countries also regularly conduct combined military exercises, information sharing, and commercial initiatives related to defense.

On February 11, in Brasília, Adm. Faller participated in meetings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense (MD, in Portuguese). At MD, the SOUTHCOM commander gave a speech on Brazil-U.S. Partnership and Military Leadership.

Adm. Faller presented SOUTHCOM’s lines of action for years to come and its progressing strategy to MD officers. He said he intends to share those with other partner nations for all to contribute. “We build our strategy together. I have 36 years of professional experience and I believe in team work,” he said.

Colombian Defense Chief Visits SOUTHCOM

By SOUTHCOM Public Affairs, Feb. 20, 2019

The two leaders met at SOUTHCOM to discuss U.S.-Colombia defense cooperation. Jiménez and Faller also participated in a roundtable with other SOUTHCOM leaders focused on the command’s mission and its cooperation with Colombia and other partners in the region.

The enduring military partnership between the United States and Colombia dates back decades. Colombian and U.S. troops served under the United Nations Command during the Korean conflict. For many decades, U.S. and Colombian troops have worked alongside each other during exercises, humanitarian assistance missions, professional exchanges, and security operations to counter transnational threats.

Today, the two countries also partner to help other countries build capacity and address security challenges.

Recent examples of U.S.-Colombia defense cooperation include support for the hospital ship USNS Comfort’s medical assistance mission in 2018 and the ongoing, civilian-led delivery of humanitarian aid for vulnerable populations in Venezuela and host-countries in the region.

**U.S. Navy: Venezuela military, 'save your people'**

By Darryl Coote, FEB. 21, 2019 / 3:26 AM


Feb. 21 (UPI) – The head of the U.S. Southern Command warned Venezuela's military that it will be held accountable for any harm it causes civilians during the ongoing humanitarian crisis its country is experiencing.


The decorated Navy admiral said that they are prepared for confrontation with the Venezuelan military, WPLG reported.

"The president has been quite clear and our job as military professionals is to be ready," he said. "The world is united and we are working closely with our friends, the Colombians and others."

Previously, President Donald Trump has insisted that all options are on the table to deal with Venezuela, including the possibility of military intervention.

The commander's words come as tensions at the South American country's borders have spiked. Large amounts of aid on the Colombian and Brazilian sides of the Venezuelan border have been waiting days to be transported into the country to slacken the ongoing humanitarian crisis there…..

**Defense Industry**

**The Air Force just issued $750 million in launch contracts to ULA and SpaceX**

Emre Kelly, Florida Today, Published 3:15 p.m. ET Feb. 20, 2019 | Updated 3:16 p.m. ET Feb. 20, 2019
Spaceflight heavy-hitters United Launch Alliance and SpaceX were awarded contracts for a half-dozen missions totaling nearly $750 million, the Department of Defense and Air Force announced Tuesday.

Colorado-based ULA, a joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed Martin, was awarded $441 million for three missions expected to take flight between 2021 and 2022.

SpaceX, based in California, was also selected to launch three missions for $297 million. All are targeting 2021 for liftoff.

The selection of ULA and SpaceX, while not surprising, is noteworthy. Government contracts are a critical source of revenue for launch providers and help support their operations for years to come.

State set to welcome new rocket manufacturer to Cape Canaveral

A new rocket will fly from the Space Coast, and be built here, too, state officials are expected to announce Friday morning at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Texas-based Firefly Aerospace, which is developing rockets to launch small satellites, would set up a manufacturing facility in Kennedy Space Center’s Exploration Park and launch as soon as next year from a pad at Launch Complex 20.

The work would bring about 240 jobs.

Gov. Ron DeSantis is scheduled to make a major announcement today in Cape Canaveral beginning at 10 a.m.

Firefly has already secured a California launch pad and has been targeting a first launch of the two-stage, 95-foot Alpha rocket before the end of this year.

The more powerful Beta rocket, featuring three Alpha core stages strapped together, is in design.

Charging $15 million per launch, the company hopes to fly monthly by 2021, and eventually twice a month.


DoD Budget

Certainty Is Key in Air Force Budget, Chief of Staff Says

Dan Cohen, Posted on Feb 20, 2019 05:35 pm


https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5e0e2d33ce307ef7&id=df7b044b80
Budget stability and on-time appropriations are more important than spending levels, Air Force chief of staff Gen. David Goldfein said Tuesday at the Brookings Institution.

“My ability to build the Air Force we need is dependent 100 percent on budget stability,” he said, thanking Congress for reversing budget cuts that damaged readiness. “Now in ’19, we’re able to finally start climbing back out of the trough we’re in.”

Fiscal certainty today is critical to readiness down the road, he said.

“I’m the 21st chief of staff. In 2030, chief 24 will go to war with the force I built,” he said. “Such is the lead time for building forces. So the question is what kind of Air Force can I build today for chief 24?”

But he said the most lasting impact he and Secretary Heather Wilson can have is creating an Air Force culture that supports retention.

“When you have that kitchen table conversation about ‘Do I stay or do I go? Is it time for me to transition?’… we want that to be a hard decision,” he told Brookings’ Michael O’Hanlon. “One of the recognitions in that conversation is, ‘I don’t know that I’m going to have the opportunity to make a difference at the level I can within the United States Air Force.’”

Other Of Interest

Crestview woman up for Military Spouse of the Year

By Jim Thompson, Posted Feb 16, 2019 at 10:04 AM, Updated Feb 16, 2019 at 10:04 AM

CRESTVIEW – Almost as soon as the garage at the Barnett family’s home was emptied of donated Hurricane Michael relief supplies, it began to fill up again with household supplies and other items for people affected by the recent federal government shutdown.

And that, perhaps, is the best tangible evidence for Alicia Barnett’s nomination for Military Spouse of the Year, an annual recognition of spouses in each branch of the armed services by Armed Forces Insurance, a Kansas-based property and casualty insurance company serving military families.

Intangibly, though, Barnett’s nomination clearly is rooted in her deep spirit of service, motivated by her Christian faith. And, she says, by her mother, who was an ICU nurse, and her father, who was a paramedic.

“I just can’t help myself,” the self-effacing Barnett said softly in a recent telephone interview, a hint of mirth creeping into her voice.

More seriously, though, “The best way to show your Christianity is by serving others. I don’t quote the Bible, but I do understand the basics,” she said.....
Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #72 will be Thursday, 28 March 2019 (**NOT THE THIRD THURSDAY**), at the Four Points Sheraton Downtown, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301, beginning at 9:00AM ET. This meeting will include presentations and updates from our Florida National Guard and state Veteran partners, among other business.

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   **Call-In Number: 800-501-8979**
   **Access Code: 1869945**

3. **Navy Region Southeast gets New Commander** – According to the website, Navy Region Southeast headquartered at NAS Jacksonville Commander, “manages and oversees shore installation management support and execution for 18 installations within the Southeastern United States, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba”. According to an article in *The Florida Times-Union*, “Rear Adm. Babette “Bette” Bolivar was relieved of command Friday of Navy Region Southeast and was replaced by Rear Adm. Gary Mayes. Bolivar had been in command since February 2017. She now will be assigned to command Navy Region Southwest in San Diego. Prior to moving to the NAS Jacksonville, Mayes was assigned to the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics.” See article in CLIPs below.

4. **Task Force Supports Tyndall Rebuild Funding / new Space Command** – This week the Task Force Chair sent letters to Governor DeSantis requesting his continued support in ensuring that supplemental funding is secured to rebuild Tyndall into the base of the future. The spending bill passed by congress two weeks ago did not include funding for disaster relief or the Tyndall supplemental that was expected and we want to make sure that it does not get lost amongst the other pressing needs in the budget. In addition, the Task Force supports Governor DeSantis call to create the next Space Command under the US Air Force here in Florida and offers to move forward in developing a plan to coordinate partnerships that are required to make Florida the best place for Space. See two letters attached.

5. **DoD Publishes 2019 REPI Report** – The Department of Defense released its 2019 Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program report to Congress (attached). According to the report, Florida has benefit from $156,766,206.00 in REPI funds for projects around the state. In the “Way Ahead” section, the report noted that “As encroachment pressures around our installations and ranges grow, and as test, training, and operational requirements increase, the Department continues to engage and educate key stakeholders, such as the National Conference of State Legislatures, about military mission requirements and the effects of encroachment. The REPI program’s outreach efforts, in conjunction with the Department’s Office of Economic Adjustment’s community planning programs, offer cost-effective tools that enable partner organizations and communities to identify and adopt beneficial land-use policies and practices that support military needs.”

6. **ADC Installation Innovation Forum (IIF)** – The ADC Installation Innovation Forum is **next week, March 4-6, 2019 in Miami, Florida**. Florida will host a panel presentation highlighting several successes on Tuesday, March 5th from 4-4:45 PM. This conference will
feature several senior DOD officials and receive a keynote address from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, Robert McMahon. In prep for the conference, see attached report on “Implementing the Defense Community Infrastructure Project”. More information on this event can be found at: https://installationinnovation.org/

7. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status (18 military / 48 veteran friendly bills).

   - **HB 9153 Veteran's Boardwalk - Hillsborough County** (Grant (J))
     Veteran's Boardwalk - Hillsborough County: Provides an appropriation for the Veteran's Boardwalk - Hillsborough County. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
   - **HB 9143 Quantum Leap Farm Therapeutic Military Retreats** (Grant (J))
     Quantum Leap Farm Therapeutic Military Retreats: Provides an appropriation for the Quantum Leap Farm Therapeutic Military Retreats. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
   - **HB 9105 Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book** (Grant (J))
     Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book: Provides an appropriation for the Vietnam Veterans 50th Anniversary Commemorative Book. Effective Date: July 1, 2019
   - **SB 1518 Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans** (Wright)
     Alternative Treatment Options for Veterans; Specifying eligibility to receive alternative treatment; authorizing the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to contract with certain individuals and entities to provide alternative treatment options for certain veterans, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019

8. **Attachments:**
   - Tyndall Funding Letter
   - Space Command Support Letter
   - 2019 REPI Report
   - ADC Infrastructure Report
   - TPG End of Month Report

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**Terry**

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News Clips of Interest:

Space

Florida lands first blow in battle to house new Space Force

By: Tom Roeder, Feb 24, 2019 Updated 18 hrs ago

Colorado Springs is home to the bulk of the military’s space troops with Air Force Space Command and Army Space and Missile Defense Command at Peterson Air Force Base and other units at Schriever Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station and Fort Carson. But that didn’t slow Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis from making a pitch to put the Space Force in a new home.

“Today, I am formally sending a request to @real DonaldTrump to place the headquarters for the Space Force Combatant Command here in Florida @NASA Kennedy in Cape Canaveral,” DeSantis wrote on Twitter.

Today, I am formally sending a request to @realDonaldTrump to place the headquarters for the Space Force Combatant Command here in Florida @NASAKennedy in Cape Canaveral. This is part of Florida's history and is a logical fit for our state.

Trump on Tuesday signed “Space Policy Directive 4,” which called for the creation of a Space Force and placing the new service, temporarily, under the Department of the Air Force. The approach is designed to woo lawmakers who fear pushing space troops into a new service branch will balloon bureaucracy and costs.

The Space Force is still just a dream for Trump, who began crusading for the new service early in his presidency and continues to use the proposal as a crowd-pleaser at his rallies.

Battle for Space Force headquarters: Colorado Springs could have an ally in Air Force's top general.

Congress must create the service and set new policies that will outline its roles and missions. Lawmakers will also hold sway on where the new service is located and what real estate, if any, will be transferred to the branch......

Partnerships Spur Industry for Flourishing Space Commerce

by Marie Lewis for NASA News, Houston TX (SPX) Feb 26, 2019
http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Partnerships_Spur_Industry_for_Flourishing_Space_Commerce_999.html

Throughout NASA's history, the agency has worked with industry and academia to explore and utilize the space frontier. Contractors built rockets, satellites and spacecraft. Colleges and universities have worked with NASA scientists and engineers to develop technology to support investigations leading to discoveries.
As the 30-year Space Shuttle Program was drawing to a close, NASA again began plans to reach beyond low-Earth orbit. To allow a focus on exploration to the Moon and Mars, NASA has entered into partnerships with industry opening a variety of new opportunities.

A little more than two years after the final shuttle flight, SpaceX's Dragon and Northrop Grumman's Cygnus spacecraft began successfully launching atop their company's Falcon 9 and Antares rockets to resupply the International Space Station. The companies developed the rockets and spacecraft through public-private partnerships under the agency's commercial resupply services contracts.

More recently, NASA selected Sierra Nevada Corporation's Dream Chaser spacecraft to join with Northrop Grumman and SpaceX, in delivering critical science, research and technology experiments to the space station for the agency's second commercial resupply contracts from 2019 to 2024……

**STRATCOM Will Get a Piece of Space Force Mission, General Says**

By Oriana Pawlyk, 27 Feb 2019


No matter where President Donald Trump's latest combatant command ends up headquartered, a part of its mission will remain with STRATCOM, said the head of U.S. Strategic Command.

"We are going to continue to perform a lot of the mission for Space Command in the STRATCOM headquarters," Gen. John Hyten told lawmakers Tuesday at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

He said it will be called Space Command East or West, depending on where the official U.S. Space Command is based.

STRATCOM "will be Space Command East. Omaha is East … if [the new headquarters is] in Colorado," Hyten said. "If it's in Florida, it will be Space Command West. If it's in Alabama, it will be Space Command West." …

**Base Housing**

The military is getting serious about putting eyes on your mold and other housing problems

By: Karen Jowers, 2-25-2019


In the wake of reports from military families dealing with problems ranging from mold to mice to lead paint in their housing — and persistent frustrations in getting their concerns addressed — service officials are taking immediate steps to identify and fix problems, and to give their residents a voice.

It started with mandates from the highest levels to put eyes on the problem.
The Army characterizes its effort as an “installation-wide” housing inspection, and the Air Force as a “100 percent in-person health and safety check” of all family housing units. The Navy and Marine Corps are contacting all their service members, but are leaving it up to their service members to agree to a voluntary visit of their homes, for privacy reasons.

The Marine Corps is taking the effort a step further, by including off-base civilian rental properties in their visits, in addition to government and privatized housing.

The Army and Air Force are also looking into a possible “tenant bill of rights” that would allow service members to suspend their rent payments if their problems are not resolved. This remedy was brought up by military spouses during a Feb. 13 Senate hearing as an immediate step to help get problems resolved more quickly.

**Military offers inspections, promises better service in reaction to substandard housing**

By Scott Maucione @smaucioneWFED, February 26, 2019 8:03 am


Less than 10 days after a dramatic congressional hearing detailing rats, mold and lead paint in privatized on-base military housing, all of the military services are implementing some kind of stopgap policy to ensure service members and their families have a way to bring up housing issues to leadership without fear of retaliation.

The policies come as military families living in privatized on-base housing are reporting respiratory issues from mold, blood toxicity from lead paint and other issues like cancer that may be connected to sub-standard living conditions.

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**NAS Whiting Field**

**NAS Whiting Field Sailor receives Margaret Flowers Civic Award for community involvement**

Story by Julie Ziegenhorn, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, 02.22.2019


The Pensacola Council of the Navy League presented the 2019 Margaret Flowers Civic Award to NAS Whiting Field Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Clark at a luncheon Feb. 21.

The award recognizes military members who contributed countless hours of volunteer time to local religious, civic, educational, fraternal and other service organizations, and whose work “greatly enhances the quality of life” in the communities in which they live and serve.

Clark is the NAS Whiting Field volunteer program coordinator, volunteering at 96 community service events, and giving back more than 533 hours with organizations such as Meals on Wheels, the Shepard House, and local Milton schools. As volunteer coordinator, he organized activities for 600 people from Whiting Field who participated in 69 different community events. Through his efforts, eight new community service partnerships were formed with the installation. Clark is an Aviation Boatswains Mate
(Handling) at NAS Whiting Field, where he supports Navy outlying landing field operations for the aviation training mission.

Twenty-two award nominees from local military units and bases including NAS Pensacola, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Information Warfare Training Command at Corry Station, NAS Whiting Field, Marine Aviation Training Support Group 23, Naval Hospital Pensacola, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless, and the Air Force’s 479th Flying Training Group, among others, were honored at the luncheon that is held on Military Recognition Day each year in February.....

**Whiting Field receives FDEP 2018 Plant Operations Excellence Award**

Ensign Zackary Saylors and Jamie Link, Published 12:00 p.m. CT Feb. 23, 2019  

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection presented the 2018 Plant Operations Excellence Award in the small community category to the Naval Air Station Whiting Field Public Works department on Feb. 12 at Northwest Florida College.

This is the seventh consecutive year Whiting Field has received the recognition.

"The driving factor in the award was the partnership between the environmental division, which is responsible for monitoring water quality compliance to ensure it’s safe, and the operations plant," said Jeff Kissler, NAS Whiting Field installation environmental program director.

The operations plant is run by the installation contracting company, Electronic Meteorology Laboratory, which is responsible for the treatment maintenance of the plant.

Aaron Mitchell, physical scientist with NAS Whiting Field Public Works department, noted that in 2018, "the department had no issues with drinking water monthly operating reports that were sent to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) by the 10th of every month, and were well below or within reportable levels.".....

**Corry Station**

**Center for Information Warfare Training wins NETC Training Excellence Award**

Glenn Sircy, Center for Information Warfare Training, Published 7:00 a.m. CT Feb. 24, 2019  

The Center for Information Warfare Training at Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station was recently recognized for winning the 2018 overall Naval Education and Training Command Training Excellence Award for best Navy learning center.

This is the third consecutive year the center has won the overall NETC Training Excellence Award (White T), and the second consecutive year the center swept all graded functional merit award areas. The center was presented the award Feb. 14.
"The CIWT domain team exemplifies the highest degree of training excellence found throughout NETC," said Rear Adm. Kyle Cozad, NETC commander. "The team’s continued success in the delivery of training ensures highly trained, lethal warfighters are ready to fight and win our renewed great power competition."

The Training Excellence Award program recognizes commands for demonstrating superior performance for training or training support. To be considered for a functional merit award, commands must achieve a minimum score on established performance measures dealing with every aspect of a training center’s mission. The learning center with the highest cumulative score percentage from all the functional areas is awarded the (White T)…..

**Saufley Field**

**Navy finds PFAS, PFOS in private residences water well in Saufley Field area**

by Ly'Nita Carter, Monday, February 25th 2019


ESCambia COUNTY, Fla. (WEAR-TV) – The Navy found **PFAS, PFOS** in private residences water well in Saufley Field area.

According to the Naval Air Station (NAS), officials have received 20 preliminary lab results from the drinking water **well sampling at private residences** in the areas surrounding the western side of Saufley Field.

The report states, as of February 13, out of the 20 preliminary results, eight were found above the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lifetime health advisory levels. Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFAS), and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) was found in the samples.

The Navy says they commenced Phase 2 of its drinking water phase on February 15. This water sampling test was completed along the eastern boundary of Saufley Field.

According to the report, the Navy is providing bottled drinking water to the owners of private water wells in which the water concentrations exceed the EPA’s lifetime health advisory.

The Navy says they will work to validate the data and develop a long-term solution.

The results of the water sampling tests will be released by the Navy to only to the residents in which the well was sampled…..

**Eglin AFB**

**Bridge-to-bridge path gains momentum**

By TONY JUDNICH, Posted Feb 26, 2019 at 4:07 PM, Updated Feb 26, 2019 at 4:11 PM


**SHALIMAR** – The long-proposed, multi-use bridge-to-bridge path for bicyclists and pedestrians on Okaloosa Island is gaining momentum.
The Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council on Tuesday unanimously approved using $166,122 in bed tax reserves to pay for an environmental/cultural resource/biological assessment needed for the project.

The federal government-required study could last about six months and will determine which side of U.S. Highway 98 the path would be built on, county Public Works Director Jason Autrey said.

The county is working with Eglin Air Force Base and the Florida Department of Transportation on the project. With final approval, the 12-foot-wide, 4.3-mile paved path would stretch from Pier Road east of the Brooks Bridge to the Marler Bridge.

One of the many supporters of the pathway is local developer Jay Odom, who has pledged $100,000 toward its construction. That total price tag is anticipated to be $3 million to $4 million.

Odom told the TDC on Tuesday that the pledged money would be provided by himself and Tripp Tolbert, his business partner at The Island, the former Ramada Plaza Beach Resort. If the path gets built, it should be called “The Tolbert Trail,” Odom suggested.

If the county can find the money to pay for its entire construction, work on the path might begin in the fall……

**NSA Panama City**


NSWC PCD | Feb. 22, 2019

**PANAMA CITY, Fla.** – Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), Chair of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, and Rep. Neal Dunn, (R-FL), met with base leadership and toured the Naval Support Activity Panama City facilities destroyed by Hurricane Michael, to include the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) Feb. 19.

“It was very important for us to show Congresswomen Wasserman Schultz how the hurricane impacted this installation,” said Capt. Aaron Peters, NSWC PCD commanding officer. “Of the 88 buildings occupied by NSWC PCD, 82 sustained damage, ranging from minor to severe damage resulting in 40 percent of our workforce to be displaced. As NSWC PCD moves forward we look for opportunity and return on investment within the next 10 years to rebuild stronger to enable vital capability to outpace our adversaries and defeat current and emerging threats.”

Despite the damage, NSWC PCD guaranteed critical programs and Fleet support efforts continued without impact while also ensuring 100 percent accountability of personnel and their families.

“The support of Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz is an important step in helping NSWC Panama City rebuild the Warfare Center,” said Ed Stewart (SES), NSWC PCD technical director. “Our technical capabilities are unique to Panama City. It is vital that we rebuild in order to maintain current and future warfighter readiness.”……
Coast Guard station recovery from Hurricane Michael at least 5 years away

By Ed Offley, Posted Feb 27, 2019 at 7:33 PM, Updated Feb 27, 2019 at 7:33 PM

COAST GUARD STATION PANAMA CITY – Although this compact, 86-year-old facility was able to resume essential operations within 24 hours of Hurricane Michael’s landfall, the installation and its small staff of 100 Coast Guardsmen and women still face a long-term struggle to fully recover from the storm.

Tucked into the eastern end of Naval Support Activity Panama City on Thomas Drive, the station suffered catastrophic damage from the high winds and heavy rain that lashed eastern Bay County, said Boatswain’s Mate Master Chief Anthony Kannan, officer-in-charge of the small base.

A native of Morehead City, North Carolina, Kannan said he is no stranger to Atlantic hurricanes, having lived close to the Outer Banks before launching his 26-year Coast Guard career.

“I’ve been doing hurricanes all my life,” Kannan said, “but I have never seen one like this one.”…..

Tyndall AFB

Debbie Wasserman Schultz Intends to Help Panhandle Through Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee

By KEVIN DERBY, 02.22.19

With Democrats now in control of the U.S. House, U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., is leading an important subcommittee and is trying to use that new perch to help the Sunshine State recover from Hurricane Michael.

Last month, Wasserman Schultz became the chairwoman the U.S. House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

“The MilCon/Va Appropriations Subcommittee is the only one in the Congress that makes policy and provides funding for the entire life cycle of an individual’s service, from their time in the military and after they leave the service and join the ranks of veterans,” the South Florida Democrat’s office noted when she announced her new assignment.

This week, Wasserman Schultz headed to the Panhandle where she joined U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn, R-Fla., in touring military bases which were devastated by Hurricane Michael back in October.

“Northwest Florida desperately needs disaster funding.” Wasserman Schultz noted after touring the area. “On Tuesday I visited Naval Support Activity Panama City with Congressman Neal Dunn, M.D. and met with base leadership. The facilities sustained serious damage from Hurricane Michael – damages to the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division led to the displacement of 40 percent of the workforce.
“Not only are our military members dealing with sub-optimal conditions, but Hurricane Michael’s aftermaths have had a devastating impact on the region’s economy,” Wasserman Schultz added. “Maintaining military readiness and attending to the quality of life of our military personnel are top priorities. I will work to ensure military bases recovering from Hurricane Michael have access to needed additional funding.”

**Tyndall Makes Call for White Papers as Rebuilding Continues**

By: Kayla Tucker, Posted: Feb 26, 2019 09:33 PM EST, Updated: Feb 26, 2019 09:33 PM EST


**BAY COUNTY, Fla. -** As Tyndall Air Force Base continues to rebuild, its asking for input and ideas moving forward.

The base made a call for industry White Papers on Friday, meaning they are asking industries to offer up ideas for the planning, design and re-modeling of the base.

Colonel Brent Hyden is new to Tyndall and here to help with the recovery.

He says, even though this is a call for industry to submit ideas, ideas from anyone is welcomed and encouraged.

"The public is a key partner. The off base municipalities. Bay County and the state of Florida. It's a national priority to rebuild Tyndall and we can't do it without partnership and in order to make sure we minimize those partnership opportunities, we are reaching out and getting ideas from everyone. Shame on us if we don't ask," said Colonel Hyden.


**Tyndall AFB officials make plans to recover and build "base of the future"**


**PANAMA CITY, Fla. (WJHG/WECP) -** Recovering after Hurricane Michael has been a slow process. One place hit hard was Tyndall Air Force Base. Air Force officials say they're rebuilding Tyndall and one day it'll be the base of the future.

The Tyndall Program Management Office Rebuild Senior Planner Amy Vandeveer said as of now they plan to replace 200 storm damaged buildings on the property. Vandeveer says they're going to rebuild Tyndall to last for multiple generations.

"There is a lot of opportunities to rebuild Tyndall. Not the base we had but the base we need that will be technologically innovative," said Director of the Tyndall PMO Rebuild Colonel Brent Hyden. "It'll be cost effective and be weather resistant."

Colonel Hyden said they will house squadrons of new planes like the F-35 and bring new equipment to the base.
"We're doing planning on the flight line side of the base and incorporate the requirements for the envisioned airframes that are gonna be coming in over the next five years," said Hyden.

He also said they're working to improve living conditions and make the base more compact…..

Senators Float $1.1 Billion for Air Force in Disaster-Relief Bill

RACHEL S. COHEN, 2/27/2019

A bipartisan group of eight senators on Tuesday introduced a sweeping $13.6 billion disaster-relief funding package that includes $1.1 billion for Air Force installations affected during the 2018 hurricane season.

The majority of the Air Force allocation—$700 million for military construction—can be spent on planning, design, and construction projects related to Hurricane Michael through Sept. 30, 2023, according to bill text released this week. But lawmakers want to hold that money until the service submits a plan for how it will spend the funds.

If the bill becomes law, House and Senate appropriators expect the Air Force to report on its basing plans and future mission requirements for the installations that were devastated by Hurricane Michael last October. A “detailed expenditure plan” is also required within 60 days of enactment.

Another $400 million in Air Force operations and maintenance would be designated as emergency spending. Appropriators request periodic updates on how those funds are being used as well.

Republican Sens. David Perdue and Johnny Isakson of Georgia, Marco Rubio and Rick Scott of Florida, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Thom Tillis of North Carolina, Dan Sullivan of Alaska, and Doug Jones (D-Ala.) collaborated on the government-wide funding package to address the aftermath of a year fraught with powerful hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and wildfires.

“There is still a lot to do, especially when it comes to rebuilding Tyndall Air Force Base, [Fla.],”” Rick Scott said in a Feb. 26 release. “Disaster funding should not be a political fight and needs to be brought to the floor of the Senate as quickly as possible.”

Restoring Tyndall is expected to cost a few billion dollars, but an official overseeing the effort cautions the exact number could change as the service charts its next steps…..

FL National Guard / Camp Blanding

Camp Blanding unveils $70K pair of on-base community projects funded by Armed Forces Families Foundation

Starke, FL (PRUnderground), February 25th, 2019
Organizers from the Armed Forces Families Foundation and Florida Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) helped celebrate the opening of a new Gold Star families memorial garden and the reopening of a newly renovated Family Assistance Center at Camp Blanding during a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Last year, AFFF donated $31,542 for the construction for the new memorial garden and children’s playground, as well as $39,951 to cover the renovation of Camp Blanding’s Family Assistance Center, which is used to provide family readiness support and child and youth programming for the Florida National Guard.

The memorial garden will serve as a place that honors fallen service members and offers an on-base sanctuary for Gold Star families to come together to support one another. The space includes a garden area with benches, flowers, garden boxes, trees and more, as well as a play area for children.

The Family Assistance Center at Camp Blanding is located on the second story of a WWII-era building that required several significant upgrades. New upgrades to the center included the installation of new energy efficient windows, refinishing and replacement of hardwood flooring, a complete renovation of its bathroom facilities and the purchase of a new refrigerator and chest freezer. In addition to the structural upgrades, the center has been outfitted with a new EZ Child ID System, which will help further insure the safety of children at the center, as well as equipment for programs that teach children empowerment and safety tips.

NAS Jacksonville

Navy Region Southeast gets new commander in ceremony at NAS Jacksonville

By John Biasotti jbiasotti@jacksonville.com, Posted Feb 22, 2019 at 9:18 PM, Updated Feb 22, 2019 at 9:25 PM


At Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Rear Adm. Babette “Bette” Bolivar was relieved of command Friday of Navy Region Southeast and was replaced by Rear Adm. Gary Mayes.

Bolivar had been in command since February 2017. She now will be assigned to command Navy Region Southwest in San Diego.

Prior to moving to the NAS Jacksonville, Mayes was assigned to the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics.

The commander of Navy Region Southeast means supervising Naval 18 installations in the area.

The commander is the regional planning agent for the Navy, the regional environmental and public affairs coordinator, and the U.S. Environmental Protection agency liaison.

“The most important thing I’ll remember was the support from the Jacksonville community and the communities around the other installations,” Bolivar told the hundreds of people at the ceremony. She thanked the men and women who worked with her in the southeastern region for setting the bar high.

Mayes said he is happy to be back in Jacksonville. He previously flew aircraft out of Mayport. He said two of his three children were born in Jacksonville and he knows the city well.....
Gary Sinise and the ‘Lt. Dan Band’ Rock Florida in Honor of the Troops

BY LOUISE BEVAN, February 25, 2019 Updated: February 25, 2019

Gary Sinise is a jack of all trades. He also manages to be master of them, too. Not only is he a successful actor with a longeuous career, but he’s a long term philanthropist, and a musician with a particular dedication toward service to military veterans.

He regularly honors the troops who are in service to the U.S. military by performing with his celebrated cover band, the Lt. Dan Band, to entertain the troops in locations across the world. And it probably goes without saying that the band is a hit.

First Coast News covered the Lt. Dan Band’s most recent gig, on Friday, Feb. 22, 2019, at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida. The gig was, of course, free. The news team spoke to Sinise during the band’s pre-show sound check: “I could be five feet away from a North Korean guard, and that person has no concept of what freedom is at all,” Sinise said. “He’s there to serve at the pleasure of a dictator, and the people in the south have been free all those years because it was fought for and protected by the United States of America.”…..

Fleet Readiness Center Southeast targeting future with new turret maintenance capability

Story by Clifford Davis, Fleet Readiness Center Southeast 02.27.2019

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – With the cut of a ribbon, Fleet Readiness Center Southeast officially declared maintenance capability on the MX-20 electro-optical, infrared turret Wednesday.

The repair work on the “eyes” of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft will begin with about five units per year, and will be conducted at the Navy depot’s avionics facility on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

“This is a center of excellence for avionics,” said FRCSE Business Management Specialist Steven Schedlbauer. “We repair turrets for every branch of the military, so when the Department of Defense looked at who the depot source of repair was going to be, we were the natural choice.”

A main tenant of NAS Jacksonville, VP, or patrol squadrons, fly the Poseidon on missions to patrol and conduct intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance. One of the most important tools in their trade is the MX-20……

MacDill AFB

Air Force Secretary to visit MacDill on Wednesday to hear families talk about housing woes

By Howard Altman, 2-25-2019
TAMPA – U.S. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson is coming to MacDill Air Force Base on Wednesday to speak with families affected by mold and other problems at privatized housing on base.

Her visit comes in the wake of Tampa Bay Times reports that dozens of families have reported mold and other issues and that many are complaining of health problems and of slow or non-existent responses by housing management officials.

Wilson is the latest high-profile official to visit the base since the Times first wrote about the mold. U.S. Sen. Rick Scott and U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis have come to MacDill in recent days to investigate the housing problems. In addition, Bilirakis (R-Palm Harbor) and U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Sarasota) have launched Congressional inquiries and base officials have penalized Michaels Housing Management by reducing the amount of money paid out in performance bonus incentives.

Marco Rubio: Air Force Needs to Take Care of Mold at MacDill Air Force Base Housing

By FLORIDA DAILY, 02.28.19

With dozens of families reporting mold and other issues in private housing at MacDill Air Force Base, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., is pushing for answers.

Rubio wrote Assistant Air Force Secretary for Installations, Environment and Energy John Henderson on the matter this week.

“This letter concerns the current safety of military housing associated with MacDill Air Force Base’s Public Private Venture (PPV) privatized family housing. As reported in testimony from servicemembers’ families earlier this month to the Senate Committee on Armed Services, unhealthy living conditions, such as the prevalent and harmful existence of black mold in family housing is of great concern,” Rubio wrote Henderson on Wednesday.

“As you know, the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) was enacted as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996. Since the MHPI enactment, I am concerned that the Department has lost focus in conducting proper oversight of this critical part of our military readiness. We must ensure our military personnel are able to be fully focused on the task of defending our nation, not distracted from their efforts by unhealthy living conditions of their loved ones,” Rubio added.

US Special Operations Command

MacDill Matters: A Tampa special operations symposium could not be better timed

By Howard Altman, Published February 27

This is a time of transition for the nation’s Special Operations Forces.
They are still at the tip of the spear in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria and continue to make frequent deployments. And last year marked a 7-year peak in the number of commandos who died by suicide with 22, according to U.S. Special Operations Command, headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base.

But at the same time, the military is continuing to shift emphasis toward potential conflicts against Russia and China. And at the end of March, Army Gen. Tony Thomas will turn over command of SOCom to Army Gen. Richard Clarke at a ceremony March 29 (The outgoing U.S. Central Command leader, Army Gen. Joseph Votel, will turn over command to Marine Gen. Kenneth McKenzie Jr. a day earlier).

So with all this change churning, the timing of the Global SOF Foundation’s annual symposium could not be better.

Now entering its fifth year, the event, which runs between March 5 and 7 at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay Hotel, is one of the best places to get a finger on the pulse of the commando world……

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**Cape Canaveral AFS**

**United Launch Alliance Awarded Three Launch Mission Contracts By U.S. Air Force**

By Space Coast Daily // February 25, 2019


**BREVARD COUNTY • CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA** – The United States Air Force has announced that United Launch Alliance (ULA) was awarded a firm, fixed-price contract to launch three missions on the company’s Atlas V rocket.

This contract resulted from a competitive award under the Air Force’s Phase 1A procurement strategy.

“ULA is honored to be selected to launch three missions in this procurement block buy,” said Tory Bruno, ULA’s president and CEO.

“ULA’s commercially developed Atlas V rocket has been a workhorse for national security, science and commercial missions since 2002, launching 79 missions with 100 percent mission success and builds on the heritage of more than 600 Atlas program launches.”

The three missions include SILENTBARKER, Space-Based Infrared System Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (SBIRS GEO)-5 and SBIRS GEO-6. All will launch from Space Launch Complex-41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

SBIRS GEO-5 is expected to be the first mission to launch in March 2021…..

**FIREFLY AEROSPACE GRANTED LAUNCH SITE AT CAPE CANAVERAL**

Jaclyn Wiley / Editor-in-Chief, February 25, 2019

http://theavion.com/firefly-aerospace-granted-launch-site-at-cape-canaveral/

Firefly Aerospace, a Texas-based private space firm, has secured a launch site at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, from which it plans to conduct business operations and commercial space launches. Firefly
worked with Space Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation Spaceport Improvement Program to develop the deal, which includes the creation of a rocket manufacturing center in the Space Florida Exploration park. Vehicles built at the Exploration Park complex will be launched from Space Launch Complex 20 (SLC-20), at a cadence of over 20 launches per year.

Firefly Aerospace will utilize the Florida rocket manufacturing complex to build Firefly Alpha launch vehicles. Designed to serve the commercial small satellite market and capable of carrying 600-900 kgs to LEO, the Firefly Alpha is a two-stage orbital launch vehicle that will compete against rockets like the Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The Firefly Alpha, projected to cost $15 million per launch, is an expendable launch vehicle, meaning that it cannot be reused. Firefly has also announced plans to develop another launch vehicle, the Firefly Beta, which will consist of three Alpha cores strapped together.

Firefly Aerospace has had a troubled path before this announcement. The original incarnation of Firefly Aerospace, Firefly Space Systems, went bankrupt in 2016 and laid off its entire staff. The bankruptcy declaration came after a major European investor pulled out of the company following the economic uncertainty in Europe caused by Brexit. Firefly Space Systems’s assets were sold during this time, and were primarily bought by Noosphere Venture Partners, a venture capital firm. Noosphere reorganized the troubled space vehicle development company, and rebranded it as Firefly Aerospace……

**Homestead ARB**

**Trump administration considers sending more humanitarian aid for Venezuela**

By JIM WYSS and FRANCO ORDONEZ AND DANIEL CHANG, MIAMI HERALD, FEB 24, 2019 | 4:00 PM


CUCUTA, Colombia The day after military, police and civilian gangs loyal to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro inflicted a brutal crackdown on Venezuelans trying to reach international shipments of food, medicine and other supplies in Colombia, U.S. officials appeared to be preparing to send more humanitarian aid to South America from an air base in South Florida.

Witnesses reported activity at the Homestead Air Reserve Base, including C-130 transport planes. Sources with knowledge of the situation said the Trump administration may send another shipment of humanitarian aid to South America. But there was no word on when.

After Saturday's bloody clash on the international bridge that connects Colombia to the Venezuelan town of Urena, Colombian government officials said they would close the span to evaluate damage.

Venezuelan security forces shot tear gas and rubber bullets at people trying to reach the shipments Saturday and about 100 members of the Venezuelan military abandoned their posts and defected to neighboring countries, Colombian immigration officials reported…..

**What was all that military activity at Homestead air base? Not what some thought**

BY DAVID GOODHUE, FEBRUARY 26, 2019 03:36 PM, UPDATED FEBRUARY 26, 2019 04:05 PM

HTTPS://WWW.MIAMIHERALD.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/COMMUNITY/MIAMI-DADE/HOMESTEAD/ARTICLE226811749.HTML
If air traffic seemed heavier than normal over Homestead Air Reserve Base over the weekend, it was likely because of a joint-agency exercise held annually at the South Miami-Dade base and two other Florida locations aimed at coordinating regional emergency and natural disaster response.

Personnel from agencies including the Air Force, Coast Guard, FBI and Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue practiced loading and unloading large Air Force cargo planes, such as the C-17 Globemaster III and C-5 Galaxy, to acquaint them with the large aircraft, according to a United States Marine Corps press release.

The Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Miami participated in the drill by loading a 29-foot patrol boat into a C-17, which took off with the vessel “to conduct a load test,” according to the Coast Guard…..

Defense Industry

Lockheed's Hellfire, Harris Corp. and Longbow grab $58.3M in Orlando defense work

By Matthew Richardson – Staff writer, Orlando Business Journal, Feb 25, 2019, 1:32pm EST

Central Florida's military defense sector continues to boom as three contracts were awarded to two global military firms and one joint venture company made up of two government contractor powerhouses.

The U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy each awarded Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT), Harris Corp. (NYSE: HRS) and Longbow LLC — a partnership between Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman Corp. (NYSE: NOC) — contracts with a combined valued of $58.3 million, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Lockheed Martin got the largest of the three contracts. The U.S. Navy awarded the Bethesda, Md.-based company a $33.3 million, two-year deal for work on the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile. The company's Missiles & Fire Control campus in southwest Orlando will provide redesign, integration and test of radio frequency sensors for the missile. Part of the work also will happen in Wayne, N.J.; and Nashua, N.H.

Meanwhile, Lockheed Martin's southwest Orlando campus can take on even more work now, thanks to its $50 million, 255,000-square-foot Research and Development II building which opened Feb. 13. As a result, the company is on a hiring spree, as well, with nearly 500 jobs available for the campus.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy awarded Melbourne-based Harris Corp. a $14.6 million, five-month contract to provide services on the commercial broadband satellite program — a system that allows small and large naval combatant and support ships to communicate. All of the work will happen in Palm Bay, where Harris has nearly 200 jobs available.

Lastly, the U.S. Army awarded Longbow a $10.4 million, one-year contract for engineering services on the laser device and Hellfire air-to-surface missile, which attaches to the Longbow attack helicopter. All of the work will be performed in Orlando.

Military contracts help create jobs and subcontractor opportunities for the local economy, and Central Florida is a major player in the defense industry. The region snags about $4 billion in government contracts each year, the Orlando Economic Partnership reported, because the nation’s Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines simulation operations are based in Central Florida Research Park. That work helps make Orlando the modeling, simulation and training capital of the world.
DoD Budget
Congress Would Be Asked to Re-Fund Emergency-Impacted Milcon Projects

Dan Cohen, Posted on Feb 28, 2019 12:46 am
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=cad5279b48

The Trump administration’s fiscal year 2020 budget request will ask Congress to re-fund any military construction projects delayed because of the President’s emergency declaration to build a border wall, DOD leaders told lawmakers Wednesday.

Robert McMahon, assistant secretary of defense for sustainment, said in his testimony that DOD is still waiting for the Department of Homeland Security to specify how military construction funds would be used on the border before deciding whether to exercise the Section 2808 authority that would divert money previously appropriated for on-base projects.

“At this point, every unobligated dollar in the department is up for consideration,” McMahon said.

Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-Fla.) was overseeing the hearing as chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. She said taking the money then asking Congress to re-allocate it was a way to “circumvent” the legislative branch and asked specifically about recapitalization plans at Air Force Base Tyndall, which was devastated by Hurricane Michael.

McMahon said that no milcon projects would be called off permanently and that the ones most likely to be delayed if necessary are those that do not impact readiness.

The subcommittee also heard from each service’s assistant secretary overseeing installations. Their prepared testimony and video of the hearing are online.

The House passed a resolution this week that disapproves of the emergency declaration and would reverse the milcon cuts. Even if it passes the Senate, neither chamber seems to have enough votes to override a promised veto.

Looking Ahead: The FY 2020 Defense Budget

Dan Cohen, Posted on Feb 28, 2019 12:44 am
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=cad5279b48

The President’s budget is expected on Capitol Hill in just under two weeks. Here are some of the latest details emerging about what to look for in the defense spending request:

- The Army is moving $31 billion to modernization and readiness by cutting from at least 186 other priorities, according to Breaking Defense.
- To skirt defense spending caps, the administration will likely pad the overseas war account, which is exempt from the caps, as On Base has reported. It will set up a clash with Democrats and may split Republicans.
- Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) told Bloomberg he is fine with the budget tricks if that’s what it takes. “All I care about is the top line,” he said. “Others are more concerned with how things are divided up. All I want is the results.”
- The budget will include the first real details of how a Space Force would be structured within the Air Force and what it would cost. “A couple hundred million is probably all of the additional cost that you
would need in that first year,” Todd Harrison of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said in the Bloomberg article.

**Other Of Interest**

**General David Goldfein on building the Air Force of the future**

Adam Twardowski, Friday, February 22, 2019

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2019/02/22/general-david-goldfein-on-building-the-air-force-of-the-future/

On February 19, General David L. Goldfein, the 21st chief of staff of the Air Force, engaged Brookings Senior Fellow Michael O’Hanlon in conversation on the challenges faced by the Air Force in this era of great power competition.

General Goldfein began by describing the state of his and Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson’s thinking on the strategic and budgetary environment. He noted that the NDS was written with significant input by service chiefs, which has resulted in close alignment between the Air Force’s budget request and the strategic vision laid out in the NDS. Goldfein explained that the NDS ascribes five key missions to the Air Force: defending the homeland; ensuring a safe, secure, effective nuclear deterrent; defeating a peer threat; deterring rogue nations; and finally, maintaining momentum against violent extremism. Preparing to conduct these five missions together, with no more than moderate risk, is what gives rise to the need to grow the total Air Force to 386 aircraft squadrons from its current level of 312, Goldfein argued.

O’Hanlon brought up theoretical conflicts with Russia or China, asking whether war planners think about achieving conflict termination so as to avoid escalation to all-out conventional or nuclear war. Goldfein noted that it is critical for the nation’s armed forces to provide credible military options so that the secretary of state, for instance, can “negotiate to an end state so that we’re at a better place than we were when we started.”

Turning to budgeting, O’Hanlon asked Goldfein about challenges related to years of delayed budgets and continuing resolutions, in addition to sequestration. Goldfein said that “no enemy on the battlefield has done more damage to the United States military than budget instability.” For Goldfein, as chief of staff, his “ability to build the Air Force we need is 100 percent dependent on budget stability and [being] able to plan going forward.” Goldfein underscored the complicated and lengthy nature of the industrial and planning process required to build the force needed for national security by observing: “I’m the 21st Chief of Staff. In 2030, Chief 24 will go to war with the Force I built. If we go to war this year, I will go to war with the Force that John Jumper and Mike Ryan built [in the late 1990s and early 2000s]. Such is the nature of lead time for building Air Forces.”....

**Rep. Neal Dunn hosting Military Service Academy Day sessions throughout North Florida**

By NEWS HERALD STAFF REPORT, Posted Feb 28, 2019 at 8:00 AM

NORTH FLORIDA - Rep. Neal Dunn (FL-02) will host a United States Military Service Academy Day for students in Florida’s Second Congressional District, with informational sessions to be held in Columbia, Leon, and Bay counties on March 9th.

“High school and eighth grade students who are interested in attending a service academy are invited to come, along with their parents,” a news release stated. “Dr. Dunn has invited representatives from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, as well as the Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and Naval academies to attend. Students will have the opportunity to meet with Cadets, Midshipmen, and ROTC staff. The academy nomination process will be explained. This is an excellent opportunity for high school students to explore these outstanding higher education choices.”

No RSVP is required, and for more information contact Craig Deatherage at FL02.Academy@mail.house.gov or call 850-891-8610.

The US Air Force doesn’t want F-15X. But it needs more fighter jets.

By: Valerie Insinna, 2-28-2019

ORLANDO, Fla. – The U.S. Air Force wants more fighters. But it didn’t necessarily want the F-15X, and it didn’t intend to buy any in the upcoming fiscal 2020 budget, its top two leaders confirmed Thursday.

“Our budget proposal that we initially submitted did not include additional fourth-generation aircraft,” Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson told reporters during a Feb. 28 roundtable at the Air Force Association’s Air Warfare Symposium.

Wilson’s comments confirm reporting by Defense News and other outlets who have reported that the decision to buy new F-15X aircraft was essentially forced upon the Air Force. According to sources, the Pentagon’s Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation Office was a key backer of the F-15X and was able to garner the support of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Asked by one reporter, point blank, whether the Air Force wanted new F-15s, Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Dave Goldfein danced around the question.

“We want to buy new airplanes,” Goldfein said.

“We want to buy 72 aircraft a year,” Wilson added.

Air Force leadership has confirmed that, as long as current budget plans don’t change, it will request money for new F-15s in FY20. The service plans to purchase eight F-15X planes from Boeing in FY20, with an expected total buy of about 80 jets, Bloomberg reported Feb. 19.

It’s normal for the Pentagon to be intimately involved with each service’s portion of the budget — and even to overrule service leadership and move funding around to better support the White House’s aims — something that Wilson herself alluded to in her comments…..
Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #72 will be Thursday, 28 March 2019 (NOT THE THIRD THURSDAY), at the Four Points Sheraton Downtown, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301, beginning at 9:00AM ET. This meeting will include presentations and updates from our Florida National Guard and state Veteran partners, among other business.

2. **Call In Number** –
   - Call-In Number: 800-501-8979
   - Access Code: 1869945

3. **ADC Installation Innovation Forum (IIF) Completed** – The ADC Installation Innovation Forum took place in Miami Mon-Wed this week. Four Task Force members as well as several FDA members joined hundreds of national defense support community members and discussed important issues facing our military. See articles below in the CLIPs.

4. **New House Bill Supports Extension of MML** – House Bill 1379 - Gulf of Mexico Range Complex introduced by Representative Rodrigues Supports extension of current moratorium on drilling in Gulf of Mexico east of Military Mission Line. This bill reaffirms the resolution made last year and resolves that the “That State of Florida must maintain a united front in supporting an extension of the current moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line” and that “the Florida House of Representatives supports an indefinite extension of the restriction, specified in the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006”.

5. **Governor DeSantis Recognizes Florida’s Women Veteran’s** – Governor DeSantis signed a proclamation (attached) designating March 10-16 as Women Veterans Week. Florida has the second highest population of women veterans in the country and this week recognizes their significant contribution to the nation. Women veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the veterans’ population with more than 144,000 women veterans in the Sunshine State.

6. **The Principi Group** – The Florida Defense Support Task Force would like to thank the Principi Group for their outstanding work over the last 7 years in advocating on behalf of Florida’s military installations and missions. Their ability to engage senior decision makers in Washington and their tireless efforts on behalf of Florida have resulted in significant gains for our military installations. The Principi team was extremely effective in communicating the military value of Florida’s bases, ranges and air space to both DOD and Congressional members. It is clear that the team members have developed strong relationships with all our local defense community leaders as well as with Florida’s base commanders. Every base in the state has a success story about gaining missions or resources that is directly attributable to the work of the Principi team. The Principi team diligently engaged Congressional representatives and staffs, DOD, and other federal agencies to pursue the objectives in the Task Force Strategic Plan to protect and enhance Florida’s military infrastructure. The team spent a great deal of time in the communities and on the bases so that they truly understood all our issues and challenges and were then able to better assist us in protecting our bases and gaining missions. Along the way, the team was extremely gracious and generous in supporting every single Florida Defense Alliance event from our quarterly meetings to ADC
events – always providing valuable insights from a national perspective. The Principi team is comprised of superbly talented, honorable professionals who have formed very close and strong relationships with everyone in the Florida defense community and have always gone the extra mile to support Florida – exclusively. Their record of accomplishments is truly amazing and their body of work has made Florida’s military installations and missions much stronger. The current contract with the Principi Group expired on February 28, 2019. The contract was re-competed and in January and the Task Force voted to begin a new contract with the Principi Group. However, a new contract is currently on hold until the end of the current legislative session.

7. Senator Scott Support Florida’s Military Families – Senator Rick Scott sent a letter through Florida’s base commanders supporting good housing for military families. According to the attached letter, Senator Scott said that he “was disappointed to hear recent reports of unsatisfactory base housing conditions in Florida. Last week, I expressed my concerns at a meeting with Florida Base Commanders, and I have met with and requested information from our military leaders on what we can do to improve the lives of our service members.”

8. Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed – 2019 Session begins on March 5, 2019 and bills are being filed. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status (18 military / 48 veteran friendly bills).

   ▪ **SB 1620 Health Care Licensing Requirements** (Gainer)
     Health Care Licensing Requirements; Designating the "Exemption of License Requirements for the Treatment of Veterans Act"; exempting certain health care practitioners from specified licensing requirements when providing certain services to veterans in this state, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2019

   ▪ **HB 1265 Veterans Treatment Courts** (Ponder)
     Veterans Treatment Courts: Authorizes courts to create & administer veterans treatment courts; provides eligibility criteria; requires participant agreements & specifies requirements; exempts certain statements & information from recordkeeping requirements; specifies that act does not create right to participate. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

   ▪ **HB 1281 United States Space Command and United States Space Force** (Sirois)
     United States Space Command and United States Space Force: Urges Congress to support creation of US Space Force & establishment of Space Force & US Space Command in Florida. Effective Date: Not Specified

   ▪ **HB 1379 Gulf of Mexico Range Complex** (Rodrigues (R))
     Gulf of Mexico Range Complex: Supports extension of current moratorium on drilling in Gulf of Mexico east of Military Mission Line. Effective Date: Not Specified

9. Attachments:
   ▪ 2019 Women Veterans Recognition Week
   ▪ Senator Scott Military Family Support Letter

_Terry_

Terry McCaffrey
Executive Director
News Clips of Interest:

ADC

ADC Study: 200+ Projects Ready to Start with DCIP Funding

Dan Cohen, Posted on Mar 04, 2019 11:25 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=65bcbcdc2e

Congress could help start hundreds of infrastructure projects across the country by appropriating money to the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP), according to analysis the Association of Defense Communities released this week.

“This ready-to-go infrastructure plan makes national security the first priority,” ADC writes in “Implementing the Defense Community Infrastructure Program: A Survey of Projects Ready to Enhance Military Value.”

Congress created DCIP in the defense authorization bill to allow for DOD matching grants to state and local governments for critical off-base infrastructure needs affecting installations’ resilience and readiness.

A national survey helped ADC identify more than 200 projects in 28 states that could be eligible for DCIP funding. The report describes the projects, which range from transportation and public safety to utilities and other joint services.

The defense bill authorized up to $100 million for DCIP, but that would need to be officially appropriated by Congress.

Space

Space Force to cost $2 billion, include 15,000 personnel in first five years

By: Mike Gruss and Aaron Mehta, 3-2-2019
WASHINGTON — The Trump administration plans to spend $2 billion in new funding over a five-year period to create its Space Force, during which roughly 15,000 space-related personnel will transfer from existing roles.

Officials unveiled those details and the Pentagon’s legislative proposal for the new military service March 1. Defense leaders sent the formal proposal to Congress Feb. 27 after President Donald Trump ordered its creation in June.

While many of the details have yet to be determined — will the service have a bootcamp (unclear), its own service academy (no), their own uniforms (possible) or recruitment centers (probably) — a Space Force would share resources such as an acquisition chief, general counsel and chaplains with the broader Department of the Air Force….

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**Space Florida seeks federal grant to replace aging KSC bridge**

James Dean, Florida Today
Published 12:47 p.m. ET March 4, 2019 | Updated 4:25 p.m. ET March 4, 2019

A federal grant could help replace a deteriorating bridge that serves as a critical link for employees, tourists and spacecraft bound for Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

The project is urgent because engineering studies show the 55-year-old State Road 405 bridge over the Indian River Lagoon may not be safe for heavy freight and spacecraft to cross as soon as 2021.

Space Florida has applied for a U.S. Department of Transportation grant that would enable construction of a new span to begin in 2021.

The “Infrastructure for Rebuilding America” grant, or INFRA grant, also would support the widening of Space Commerce Way, a key corridor to the KSC Visitor Complex and Exploration Park, a growing space manufacturing hub.

Estimated total project cost: $165 million…..

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**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Francis Rooney leads Florida congressional delegation in warding off oil rigs**

By Jacob Ogles, on March 2, 2019

U.S. Rep. Francis Rooney wrote a letter to Interior Secretary David Bernhardt demanding oil rigs stay away from Florida waters.

And all 27 House members in the Florida Congressional delegation signed onto the message.
“Our beaches drive Florida’s more than $100 billion in tourism revenue,” Rooney wrote.

“Coastal communities and businesses — charter boat captains, hotels, restaurants, recreational outlets, tourist services of all types — all depend on a healthy and pristine marine environment. Even the most remote risk or perception thereof undermines our tourism-driven economy.”

That’s especially important for Rooney, a Naples Republican. He represents Florida’s 19th Congressional District, which runs along much of Florida’s Southwestern coast.

But it’s not just the risk of environmental damage. Rooney stressed that important military functions occur in Florida waters…..

**NAS Pensacola**

**Pensacola Coast Guard cutter hits New Orleans ferry dock while carrying Mardi Gras royalty**

Melissa Nelson Gabriel, Pensacola News Journal, Published 11:38 a.m. CT March 5, 2019


A Naval Air Station Pensacola Coast Guard cutter hit a New Orleans ferry dock late Monday while transporting the king and queen of the Zulu Mardi Gras crew during annual celebrations in the city.

Lt. Lora Ratliff, spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard's Eighth District, no one was injured in the incident and no waterways were closed because of the Cutter Cypress' collision with the downtown dock.

The Zulu Mardi Crew, also known as the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club, has taken part in New Orleans Mardi Gras for 110 years. The city's massive Mardi Gras celebrations end Tuesday night.

Ratliff said damage occurred to the Cypress cutter's bow, but she did not know the extent of the damage. She said the Coast Guard was investigating the incident……

**NAS Whiting Field**

**US Navy Receives First of 10 New TH-57 Flight Simulators**

By Brian Garrett-Glaser | March 1, 2019


The U.S. Navy's Training Air Wing Five has accepted the first new TH-57 flight simulator in nearly 40 years, the service announced yesterday. The new simulator – the first of 10 to be delivered over the next year – is now available for helicopter training operations.

“This simulator represents a significant technology advancement and upgrade to naval aviator training tools,” said Cmdr. Aaron Beattie, TW-5 rotary simulator integration lead officer, during a Feb. 28 ceremony at NAS Whiting Field. “It improves our ability to train student aviators in night vision environments and the simulator displays are a vast improvement over the 1980s technology our current simulators afford.”
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE — The Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund and Eglin Air Force Base’s 96th Medical Group Hospital will break ground on a new Intrepid Spirit Center, which helps diagnose and treat traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress in regional active duty service members.

The event begins 11 a.m. March 14 on Eglin.

The Intrepid Spirit Center will cost approximately $11 million to construct and will be equipped with the latest in brain technology and treatment facilities. It will span 25,000 square feet. Funding for the project is being raised privately through the IFHF.

The facility will be the eighth in a series of 10 built by the IFHF at military bases around the country at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and Camp Pendleton, California. Visit www.fallenheroesfund.org for more information.

MALVERN, Pa.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Mar 1, 2019--Officials with Balfour Beatty Communities recently announced that a comprehensive plan to restore military family housing at Tyndall Air Force Base has been submitted to both the Air Force and the senior lender for the project for approval. If these parties consent to the multi-phase plan, restored homes could be available as early as this coming fall. The comprehensive housing community restoration project is expected to take approximately two years.

As a result of Hurricane Michael’s devastation, all of the 867 family homes located on 500 acres at Tyndall Air Force Base were significantly damaged or destroyed. Neighborhoods like Bay View and Beacon Beach, which are comprised of older homes and are located just along the water outside of the main gate on highway 98, were particularly hard hit. While other neighborhoods in the community fared better, there was significant damage to roofs, windows and siding throughout, which left interiors vulnerable to water intrusion. As a result, comprehensive restoration work is needed, to include walls, flooring and HVAC systems. All of the homes to be restored will require a total interior demolition and remediation before the interior restoration can begin.

Balfour Beatty Communities has been partnering with both the Air Force and the senior lender on the project in working toward a strategic plan for Tyndall AFB Homes that goes beyond restoration and will focus on rebuilding a smarter, more connected community. The company is currently working with national partners to invest in new fiber optic infrastructure and improved cellular coverage, as well as
smart home technology as part of the planned upgrades. All homes will also be fully updated according to local codes for new residential construction.

### The F-22 is back at Tyndall Air Force Base - well, kind of

By: Valerie Insinna, 3-6-2019


TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The devastation caused by Hurricane Michael last fall pushed F-22 Raptor training and operations out of Tyndall Air Force Base, but pilots from the 43rd Fighter Squadron will be periodically returning to Tyndall for repairs to the Raptor’s stealth coating, the squadron commander said.

While the 43rd’s student pilots still conduct academic and simulator training at Tyndall, its F-22s and flying operations have moved 62 miles down the road to Eglin Air Force, Fla. However, since most of the unique infrastructure and staff needed to repair the Raptor’s low observable coating are still based at Tyndall, the F-22 will start going back to its home base for some LO maintenance procedures, said Lt. Col Ryan Wick, commander of the 43rd Fighter Squadron.

“They are able to do some LO maintenance at Eglin. Obviously they don’t have the full spray booth capability yet. They are working on those here at Tyndall, and in fact we’re starting to bring jets back to Tyndall and dropping them in to get LO maintenance done,” he told Defense News in a Feb. 25 interview.

Wick said Air Force maintainers at Tyndall could start doing LO repairs on the F-22 as soon as that week. Early work would probably be limited to “brush/roll” maintenance — sustainment of the coating performed using a brush or roll — while Tyndall’s LO coating spray booths could be ready in a matter of weeks.

### FL National Guard / Camp Blanding

It’s going to get loud: Artillery training planned at Camp Blanding

By Staff report, Posted Mar 7, 2019 at 2:31 PM


The Florida Army National Guard will conduct artillery training at the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Starke on Friday and Saturday.

The 105mm and 155mm howitzer training will cause an increase in noise, according to a news release. It is planned for noon-7 p.m. Friday and 7:30 a.m.to 7 p.m. Saturday.

Residents can discuss noise concerns with Camp Blanding’s Range Control Office at (904) 682-3351 or the Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office at (904) 823-0166.

### NS Mayport
US Navy awards $240m IDIQ construction contract at NS Mayport

NAVAL TECHNOLOGY, 4 MARCH 2019

The US Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast has awarded contracts to five businesses to deliver construction works for certain projects.

The $240m indefinite-delivery-indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) design-build multiple award construction contract (IDIQ-MACC) is related to projects at Naval Station (NS) Mayport, Florida, US, and the NAVAC Southeast area of responsibility (AOR).

One of the contracts was awarded to the Archer Western Federal JV to construct the P427 littoral combat ship (LCS) Operational Trainer Facility (LTF) at NS Mayport.

The company is expected to complete the work for the task order by January 2021.

Littoral Combat Ship Squadron Two commander captain Shawn Johnston said: “The LTF provides innovative, immersive, virtual reality training for LCS crews which allow them to be better prepared for the operational scenarios they will encounter at sea.

“It is not surprising that many other ship classes will begin to utilise similar high fidelity simulators. This increased LCS training capacity will allow the 14 LCS expected to call Mayport home.”

The LCS crew training is based on a virtual ship-centric concept and will involve classroom instruction, vendor training, shore-based trainers and sophisticated virtual reality training systems…..

MAYPORT MOVING FORWARD WITH LCS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, AS CONGRESS DEBATES NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION

By: Stephanie Brown @SBrownReports, March 7, 2019 4:05 PM

Jacksonville, FL - With the Senate set to vote next week on a House-backed resolution blocking President Trump’s national emergency declaration, the Defense Department still isn’t offering much insight on what military projects could be cut to make up the billions of dollars that would be shifted to the border wall.

The declaration would move $3.6 billion from already approved military construction projects toward border security. On Thursday, a Defense Department Spokesperson told WOKV that- at this time- there has been no decision on the specific projects that this funding will come from.

Despite that uncertainty, a local base with budgeted projects says they’re moving forward.

WOKV’s Washington Insider Jamie Dupree says Naval Station Mayport has more than $100 million worth of projects in the federal budget. While local lawmakers have said they would fight against any
change in that, the Defense directive is still unclear. Naval Facility Engineering Command Southeast now
tells us they are currently moving forward with everything that is planned.
And we’re now getting a better idea of what those projects entail.
Some of that $110 million tab recently came under contract. The budget allowed for $29.1 million for a
Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility Addition. That project came in under budget, with a $24.7 million
contract now awarded to Archer Western Federal JV…..

MacDill AFB
Air Force Secretary visits MacDill, hears families’
housing complaints

By Howard Altman, Published March 1, Updated March 1

TAMPA — Military families who have complained about mold and other issues with the privately-run
housing at MacDill Air Force Base were visited Friday by the Air Force’s top civilian official.
Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson quickly asked the base command staff to leave so the families could
speak freely.
Wilson visited MacDill in the wake of Tampa Bay Times reports that several families say they have
suffered health problems from being exposed to mold in their on-base homes. When the 9 a.m. “listening
session” started, a resident expressed concern about being able to speak freely without fear of being
retaliated against…..

Patrick AFB
Reserve Airmen Conduct Water Survival Training On
Banana River Near Patrick Air Force Base

By Senior Airman Cali Elliott, 920th Rescue Wing // March 1, 2019

BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA – Aircrew from the 39th and 301st Rescue Squadrons recently
participated in water rescue training along the Banana River, near Patrick Air Force Base.
This training is required every three years to maintain proficiency in emergency evacuation procedures
while flying over water.
Aircrew are trained on different aspects of survival equipment such as rafts, emergency kits, and
procedures for evacuating the aircraft above and below water.
The participants in the exercise were hoisted from the water by a flight engineer aircrew HH-60 Pave
Hawk helicopter.
The 39th Rescue Squadron fly in the HC-130PN King, an extended range combat search and rescue version of the C-130 Hercules. They provide air refueling in hostile or contested airspace…..

Nuclear Air Sampling Aircraft WC-135 Constant Phoenix On Display at Patrick Air Force Base

By Space Coast Daily // March 8, 2019

BREVARD COUNTY • PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA – The aircraft that performs atmospheric sampling for the Air Force Technical Applications Center was on display for invited guests to get a glimpse into how AFTAC personnel perform their nuclear treaty monitoring mission.

Based out of Offutt AFB, Neb., the WC-135 Constant Phoenix routinely conducts air sampling missions over the Pacific Ocean, Bay of Bengal, Mediterranean, Polar Regions, Indian Ocean, and off the coasts of South America and Africa in support of the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963.

The LTBT prohibits nuclear weapons tests or explosions in the atmosphere, in outer space or underwater. The treaty does not ban tests underground, but it does prohibit explosions if they cause radioactive debris to permeate beyond the territorial boundaries of the country responsible for the test.

To verify compliance with the treaty, signatories agree to a system of controls and inspections aimed at limiting nuclear weapon test explosions. One way to verify compliance is to conduct background collections in the atmosphere…..

Defense Industry
DoD Reportedly Cutting F-35 Purchase Request

AM Staff | Mar 06, 2019

The U.S. Dept. of Defense reportedly will cut its request for Lockheed Martin Corp.-built F-35 fighter jets in the upcoming FY 2020 federal budget. According to Bloomberg, citing Defense sources, the purchase of 84 aircraft projected a year ago in the lead-time planning for the program will be reduced to 78 jets when the budget is submitted to Congress in mid-March.

The F-35 is a series of three, Stealth-enabled single-engine aircraft designed for ground attack and combat, and deployed by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Marine Corps, and the defense forces of multiple allied nations. The program has been under steady scrutiny and criticism for the high cost of individual aircraft, and Lockheed and other contractors have made steady efforts to contain the costs for future deliveries.

Last month, the Pentagon granted a $90.3-million contract to Lockheed to identify and execute cost-reduction initiatives for the Joint-Strike Fighter jet program.

Current reported delivery costs for the program are $89.2 million/unit for the F-35A; $115.5 million/unit for the F-35B; and $107.7 million for the F-35C.

It is possible that the Pentagon’s purchase request will be increased by the Congress in its deliberation and approval of the budget. For example, in the current fiscal year Congress has authorized $9.34 billion
to purchase 93 F-35s, which is 16 more than DoD requested. For FY 2018, Congress raised the total to 90 F-35s, up from 70 requested.

DoD Budget
DoD Eyes $104B Budget for R&D in FY20

Darwin McDaniel, March 6, 2019 News  

The Pentagon plans to request $104B in funding for research and development in fiscal year 2020, $9B higher than what Congress appropriated for 2019, Bloomberg reported Tuesday.

The latest request would be the largest amount for research and development in the department's history, officials said.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan said the department's latest budget request would provide increased funding for military projects devoted to hypersonic weapons and space. The request will be part of President Trump’s fiscal 2020 budget proposal scheduled for release on March 11.

Shanahan said he expects the next budget to reflect the priorities and initiatives set in the latest National Defense Strategy, Nuclear Posture and Missile Defense reviews.
Mar 14

Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #72 will be Thursday, 28 March 2019 *(NOT THE THIRD THURSDAY)*, at the Four Points Sheraton Downtown, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301, beginning at 9:00AM ET. This meeting will include presentations and updates from our Florida National Guard and state Veteran partners, among other business.

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979  
   Access Code: 1869945

3. **Two Senior Defense Officials Resign** – Late last week two top DoD officials resigned. Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson announced that she will be leaving in May to return to academia as the President of the University of Texas, El Paso. Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy and Installations Phyllis Bayer who many of us just saw speak at the ADC conference in Miami last week will resign from government to pursue other opportunities. See article below in the CLIPs.

4. **Northwest Florida Defense Community Fly-in** – Bruce and Terry joined more than 35 community leaders from five northwest Florida counties for two days of meetings with congressional and military leaders in Washington DC. We met with members of the House and Senate and their staff to discuss pressing issues such as Tyndall AFB rebuild funding support, extending the moratorium on oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex, Space Force bed down in Florida, special operations forces and new weapons testing for fifth generation aircraft and hypersonic weapons. On the second day we met with DoD officials as well as industry officials to discuss current and future DoD missions and operations in northwest Florida.

5. **Defense Budget Request Released** – On Tuesday the department released its budget request that included a robust $750 billion dollar overall request focused on the return of “Great Power Competition”. Several articles below in the CLIPs cover the numbers.

6. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session is underweight. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status.
   - **HB 0885 Health Care Licensing Requirements** (Pigman)
     Health Care Licensing Requirements: Exempts certain health care practitioners from specified licensing requirements when providing certain services to veterans in this state; provides reporting requirements. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

7. **Attachments:**
   - Mil and Vet Bill Status

Terry
Terry McCaffrey
Executive Director
Florida Defense Support Task Force
News Clips of Interest:

Space Force

Funding for New Space Force Headquarters in 2020 Budget Request

By Oriana Pawlyk, 12 Mar 2019

The Pentagon's fiscal 2020 budget request offers some insight into plans for setting up the U.S. Space Force, the military's newest branch.

The Defense Department has requested funding for nearly 830 military service members and civilians to man the Space Force headquarters at the Pentagon, the Space Development Agency and U.S. Space Command, according to its fiscal 2020 budget request.

As previously disclosed, the Pentagon is requesting $72.4 million in fiscal 2020 to bring together manpower and resources at the headquarters level and $2 billion over five years to fund the Space Force.

While Space Force will fall under the Department of the Air Force, according to a directive signed by President Donald Trump in February, the service so far has oversight only over its initial creation, allocating dollars out of its budget as the first step in implementing the DoD's long-term vision.

The Pentagon is asking Congress for another $150 million for the Space Development Agency (SDA) and $83.8 million for U.S. Space Command, which will be the military's 11th unified combatant command.

"The [Defense Department] will transfer 587 military and civilian authorizations and funding from the National Space Defense Center, Joint Force Space Component Command (JFSCC), Joint Navigation Warfare Center [and] other organizations to USSPACECOM," the budget documents state. The command will get an additional 30 people, for a total of 617.…..

Shelby, Durbin Seem Skeptical of Space Force

Dan Cohen, Posted on Mar 14, 2019 12:08 am
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156e255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=0b123c7f6c

Two key senators didn’t seem all the way on board with the creation of a Space Force during a subcommittee hearing Wednesday with Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein.
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), the top Democrat on the Defense Appropriations subcommittee, said the new branch could become an “uncontrollable” bureaucracy, according to CQ.

Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) said Durbin was raising some “serious questions” and added one of his own: “What does this do to the Air Force?”

Wilson, who is leaving her position in May and has at times been critical of the Space Force proposal, said the plan “will elevate and enhance the influence of space leaders in the Pentagon for the long haul.”

The Trump administration’s budget asks for about $72 million to set the Space Force up as a separate branch within the Air Force, but Congress needs to authorize the branch before it can fund it.

Wilson’s principal assistant for space, John Stopher, is leading a task force that “is aggressively working through all of the important details that have to be completed” to deliver the plan to the Pentagon by March 22, Stopher told SpaceNews, which reported that the strategy will likely be a five-year phase-in plan.

**Pentagon officially stands up Space Development Agency, names first director**

By: Aaron Mehta and Valerie Insinna, 3-13-2019

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon has formally stood up the Space Development Agency, and named its new director, according to a memo obtained by Defense News.

The memo, signed out by acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan March 12, immediately stood up the SDA as a new office under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Mike Griffin.

The office will be directed by Fred Kennedy, the current director of the Tactical Technology Office, which falls under the purview of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Per his bio, Kennedy, a retired Air Force colonel, served as senior policy adviser for national security space and aviation in the National Security and International Affairs division of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy during the Obama administration…..

**In memo, Air Force secretary slams Space Development Agency as not ready for prime time**

By: Aaron Mehta and Valerie Insinna, 3-13-2019

WASHINGTON – The Space Development Agency was officially established as of March 12 — a move that goes against the wishes of the U.S. Air Force’s top civilian, who slammed the Pentagon’s plan for
adding bureaucracy, creating risk by removing jobs and starting a new project that has yet to be validated, according to a memo obtained by Defense News.

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson’s memo, dated Feb. 28, offers a scathing rebuke of the Space Development Agency, a pet project for both acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Michael Griffin.

The top Air Force official argues that the Office of the Secretary of Defense, or OSD, has not adequately laid out how to transfer the authority of the SDA to the Space Force, which was provisioned in a Jan. 19 memo by the defense secretary titled “Guidance for the Establishment of the Space Development Agency.”

The SDA also “appears to replicate existing ones already ordered by Congress,” she wrote. She points to a memo by the OSD, which states that the SDA would be modeled on organizations like the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, even as the service Air Force has launched a space-focused version of the agency called the Space Rapid Capabilities Office…..

Military Housing

Balfour Beatty Gives Update to Housing Restoration at Tyndall AFB

By: Kayla Tucker, Posted: Mar 08, 2019 08:13 AM EST, Updated: Mar 08, 2019 10:29 AM EST


BAY COUNTY, Fla. – Hundreds of men and women at Tyndall Air Force Base were forced to find other housing options after Hurricane Michael and it’s up to businesses like Balfour Beatty Communities to get things back in order.

Eight hundred and sixty-seven homes were damaged or destroyed in Hurricane Michael at Tyndall.

In February, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis voiced his frustration on the progress that wasn't being made to housing on base. "We should have seen a private sector entity like Balfour Beatty be able to react quicker than the state or the federal government," said CFO Patronis.

Since then, officials with Balfour Beatty say they are in full communication with our state and national officials and moving forward.

Mark Lavin, Balfour Beatty Senior Vice President of Development said, "Tyndall is coming back. It's going to come back in a big way. There's going to be missions there and that they're going to commit to spending this insurance money to fix this deal."

Lavin says he hopes the final stages of negotiation will come to an end at a meeting next week. "The terms sheets have been passed around and so there will be a good sit down and negotiations going on and hammering the last bit of the agreements."

He says the new homes will be built not only to the new codes but with more technology…..

Are troops signing agreements to keep quiet about their housing problems?

By: Karen Jowers, March 9, 2019
Privatized housing companies that are asking service members to sign agreements promising to keep silent about their poor housing conditions must immediately stop, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., told the service secretaries and service chiefs during a hearing Thursday.

“These organizations wave a non-disclosure agreement in front of them and say, if you sign this agreement, there may be a bonus or payment you’ll be entitled to if you don’t bring up what may be inadequate housing,” Tillis said, during a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

“I can’t imagine on any level why it would make sense to have a new tenant, these young kids, sign an agreement, not understanding the implications of it,” Tillis said, noting it could well be the first lease that service member has ever signed.

Non-disclosure agreements, or confidentiality agreements, are legal contracts that outline information that will be kept secret…..

Housing privatization brings corporate attitude onto bases

By: Maj. Gen. Charles J. Dunlap Jr., 3-10-2019

Is housing privatization the unqualified savior some seem to think? It is tempting to say so because it has produced new or refurbished housing at certain bases. Yet at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia; Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts; Patrick Air Force Base, Florida; and Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas, privatization is foundering. Perhaps more important, however, privatized housing may present a long-term risk to the Air Force way of life. The challenges are quite real, and we need to face them directly.

A hard truth: Huge corporate developers, driven by profit, dominate privatization deals. That free-enterprise philosophy is fine for civilian businesses, but not so fine for building a military ethic that serves interests other than the corporate bottom line.

Privatization can transform a focused military community with a distinct culture and a unique mission into an enterprise largely governed by commercial interests and values. Command has limited control over the developers’ activities. Among other things, developers can fill houses with renters who have no military connection — which has happened at several bases…..

Small solace for MacDill families, but mold problems are even worse across the Air Force

By Howard Altman, Published March 11, Updated March 11
TAMPA – Mold and other problems with family housing have drawn national attention to MacDill Air Force Base, but they’re even worse across the Air Force as a whole, according to a study ordered by the service’s top brass.

In the wake of news reports about the problems, base commanders were directed by Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Gen. David Goldfein, chief of staff, to conduct the review. The results were released Friday.

Here’s what they found at MacDill: Mold and moisture concerns were reported in 97 homes, or 17 percent of the total; vermin in 24 homes, or 4 percent; one home reported chipped or flaking paint; and 30 homes, or 5 percent, had other maintenance issues.

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

US to launch fresh round of Gulf of Mexico lease sale in August

By Compelo Staff Writer, 13 Mar 2019

Dubbed as Lease Sale 253, the sale is scheduled for August 2019, and will include all available unleased areas in the US federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, said DOI.

Nearly 14,699 unleased blocks will be up for sale in Lease Sale 253, which are located in the range of 4.8-371.7km offshore, in the Western, Central and Eastern planning areas of the US Gulf of Mexico.

The offered blocks are contained in water depths in the range of 3-3,400m.

DOI Land and Minerals Management Assistant Secretary Joe Balash said: “Offshore oil and gas resources are essential to our nation’s energy portfolio and America’s energy security.

“We all benefit from a strong offshore energy program, which provides thousands of well-paid jobs, and affordable, reliable energy that Americans need to heat homes, fuel our cars, and power our economy.”

Lease Sale 253, which will be held at New Orleans, will be the fifth offshore sale to be taken up under the 2017-2022 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Under the leasing program, the Gulf of Mexico will see 10 region-wide lease sales with two lease sales to be undertaken each year.

NAS Pensacola

U.S. Coast Guard Station Panama City post-Hurricane Michael

By Olivia Michael | Posted: Mon 6:06 PM, Mar 11, 2019 | Updated: Mon 6:18 PM, Mar 11, 2019
https://www.wjhg.com/content/news/US-Coast-Guard-Station-Panama-City-post-Hurricane-Michael-507000991.html
PANAMA CITY, Fla. (WJHG/WECP) – Unlike its sister station, Naval Support Activity, the Coast Guard Station in Panama City is not visible from the street. But much like other stations, the Coast Guard sustained its own set of damages.

At the Coast Guard Station in Panama City, the destruction left by Hurricane Michael still lingers. Cement slabs are now all that's left where buildings once stood and trailers take the place of offices.

Master Chief Mark Kannan said, "Upon arriving back to the base I knew that I had substantial damage to the base but I had estimated about 50 percent. Fast forward until today we are approximately about 85 percent loss of the infrastructure here."

While the base will rebuild, it won't be happening any time soon. "These things take a long time and a lot of this is depending on Congress approving a supplement budget and stuff like that. We kind of estimate roughly about five to roughly eight years before reconstruction will start here," said Kannan.

He added that with the help of outlying Coast Guard units, the Panama City base has been able to make do, but as the base returns to normal operations, it still faces challenges……

Corry Station

IWTC Corry Station Master Chief Ensures Navy Readiness and Lethality

Story by Glenn Sircy, Center for Information Warfare Training, 03.13.2019

PENSACOLA, Fla. – As the Navy’s top enlisted paygrade, master chiefs make up just 1 percent of the Navy, and are known to be afforded more responsibility than any other enlisted rank in the world. It is also known that chiefs, senior chiefs and master chiefs get the hard things done and “make the Navy run.”

During this new era of great power competition, a master chief petty officer at Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Corry Station, takes his role very seriously in ensuring his command team and students are prepared to fight and win.

Master Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Seth Lambert, originally from Wooster, Ohio, and now IWTC Corry Station’s training directorate senior enlisted leader, is not only leading the charge in his normal role off the podium, but he also allocates his time on the podium teaching and sharing his wisdom and experience with the Navy’s newest and seasoned information warfare Sailors and officers.

Lambert’s team is made up of 291 qualified instructors and they train and prepare roughly 8,000 information warfare Sailors and officers annually. Currently, he teaches the Command and Control Tactical Analysis, Afloat Cryptologic Management and the Cryptologic Resource Coordinator courses…..

Hurlburt Field

Air Force Gets First Upgraded 'Ghostrider' Gunship

By Oriana Pawlyk, 8 Mar 2019
The Air Force has received an upgraded version of its Ghostrider gunship. The 4th Special Operations Squadron, 1st Special Operations Wing, at Hurlburt Field, Florida, received its first AC-130J Ghostrider Block 30 gunship this week during a ceremony at Bob Sikes Airport in Crestview, Florida, Air Force Special Operations Command said in a news release Thursday.

The 4th Special Operations Squadron currently operates and maintains the AC-130U Spooky. The Block 30 model marks "a major improvement in software and avionics technology" over the original Block 20 software AC-130J, the release states.

"The Ghostrider is the newest and most modernized gunship in existence, fulfilling the same mission sets as the Spooky but with upgraded avionics, navigation systems and a precision strike package that includes trainable 30mm and 105mm weapons," according to the release.

The first Block 30 model will remain in a testing-only status for a year before it can deploy for battlefield operations, officials said.…

Eglin AFB

Contract for Eglin F-35 student dorm set to be awarded

By Jim Thompson, Posted Mar 8, 2019 at 5:44 PM, Updated Mar 8, 2019 at 5:44 PM

EGLIN AFB – A $29 million construction contract for a new dormitory for F-35 maintenance personnel training at the base is expected to be awarded within the next few days through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to the facilities engineer for Eglin’s 33rd Fighter Wing.

Eglin Air Force Base serves as the training center for all F-35 maintenance personnel, regardless of military branch. Eglin is also the maintenance training center for international military partners flying the fifth-generation stealth fighter jet. Additionally, Eglin serves as the testing center for the F-35 and trains F-35 pilots from the U.S. military services and partner nations.

Funding for the dormitory, proposed as a 288-bed facility, had been in some jeopardy because those dollars were part of the $3.6 billion in military construction funding that President Donald Trump could target as part of his declaration of a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border. The president declared the emergency after Congress appropriated $1.4 billion for the wall, far below the $5.7 billion the president had sought in a standoff that partially shut down the federal government for 34 days before it ended in January.

Under the emergency declaration, President Trump has access to more than $600 million in the U.S. Treasury’s asset forfeiture fund and $2.5 billion in Department of Defense funding for counter-drug activities, in addition to the $3.6 billion in military construction funding, for wall construction. The president has indicated he would use the Treasury forfeiture funds and the counter-drug activities funding before dipping into the proposed military construction outlays for the current fiscal year…..
Tyndall AFB

Tyndall recovery funding is focus of recent congressional hearing

By Jim Thompson, Posted Mar 9, 2019 at 1:05 PM, Updated Mar 9, 2019 at 1:05 PM

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The current shifting of Air Force operations and maintenance funding from other priorities to the reconstruction of Tyndall Air Force Base in the wake of Hurricane Michael has some federal lawmakers worried that Air Force readiness, in addition to other construction projects, could be adversely affected in the upcoming fiscal year.

The federal fiscal year doesn’t begin until Oct. 1, but the Air Force and the country’s other military services already are preparing spending plans which ultimately will require congressional approval.

Looking toward the upcoming fiscal year, John Henderson, an assistant secretary of the Air Force, told a congressional subcommittee Feb. 27 that “in some way, shape or form, we (the Air Force) will have to make up for those FY 19 (the current 2019 fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30) funds” now being redirected to recovery efforts at Tyndall. The Panama City base was nearly destroyed when Hurricane Michael, a Category 4 storm, scored a direct hit on the installation when it roared across the eastern Florida Panhandle on Oct. 10.

Already, Henderson told the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, the Air Force has redirected $350 million in operations and maintenance funding that had been allocated to other Air Force projects to recovery efforts at Tyndall. Henderson could not immediately tell the subcommittee where that $350 million had come from within the Air Force’s budget for the current fiscal year…..

House lawmakers question whether Tyndall Air Force Base, Camp Lejeune should be rebuilt

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY | STARS AND STRIPES, Published: March 13, 2019

WASHINGTON – House lawmakers on Wednesday questioned whether Tyndall Air Force Base and Camp Lejeune should be rebuilt after both military bases were devastated last year by separate hurricanes.

“It is in harm’s way now. It has been in the past and it will be in the future,” Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee subpanel on readiness, said about Tyndall. “And the question that this committee is asking — and we will expect an answer from the Air Force — does it make any sense to rebuild at that place?”

The congressman acknowledged there are important reasons why Tyndall, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Michael in October, is located along the northwestern coast of Florida about nine miles outside of Panama City. Those reasons include an offshore exercise testing range.

“But we’re going to ask the very, very hard question about just how much is going to be done at that base. And similarly with Camp Lejeune,” Garamendi said during a hearing to discuss the resiliency of military
bases to climate change as well as severe weather such as hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires. “Are there other places that certain parts of the mission or all of the mission should be conducted?”

MacDill AFB

Students learn about STEAM professions at Macdill AFB

By Jennifer Holton, POSTED MAR 08 2019 05:10PM EST, UPDATED MAR 08 2019 05:38PM EST

TAMPA, Fla. (FOX 13) – When seventh grader Abigail Bischoff first touched the Van de Graaff generator, the results came as a shock.

Within an instant, the middle-schooler’s hair stuck straight in the air.

Kathleen Kelly from the Museum of Science and Industry explained how the dome of the device is charged with electricity.

“When you put your hand on it, you start becoming filled with static electricity,” Kelly said. “You’re going to get filled with negative charge, which makes your hair stick up.”

Abigail said this is why she wanted to come to MacDill Air Force Base’s STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Day.

“It’s just fun to watch and be hands on,” she said.

Abigail was on base with 2,300 other students from the area to take part in a day that packed entertainment into education.

Colonel Stephen Snelson, MacDill’s 6th Air Mobility Wing Commander, said it was all about exposing young minds to STEAM professions…..

MacDill AFB provides wounded warriors unique treatment

By Senior Airman Caleb Nunez, 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs / Published March 13, 2019

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) – On November 20, 2011, Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Burgess, a psychological operations specialist, found himself deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. During a mission in which his unit was tasked with clearing improvised explosive devices from an area, Burgess accidentally stepped on one, causing it to detonate. Due to the blast, Burgess suffered multiple injuries that resulted in the traumatic amputation of his right leg and degloving from the ankle to the groin area, which is when the skin is completely torn off from the underlying tissue. He also suffered from compound fractures in his hands, injuries to his lungs and multiple broken bones.

Unfortunately, Burgess' story is not a unique one. According to a Veterans Affairs report, around 30 percent of veterans have disabilities as a result of their military service, which often prevents them from living a conventionally normal life during and after their service.
To minimize the impact of traumatic injuries, the dermatology office from the 6th Medical Group at MacDill Air Force Base offers a variety of treatments for those who suffer from scarring as a result of blast injuries, burns, amputations and other surgeries.

“We provide full-service clinical, medical and surgical dermatology to our active duty, retired and dependent patients,” said Dr. Thomas Beachkofsky, 6th MDG chief of dermatology. “Although we focus on the warfighter, we see anybody that has had some type of scarring event that is painful, uncomfortable or symptomatic.”

As one of the smallest medical specialties, with around 20 clinics across the Air Force, dermatology is often overlooked in terms of treating the traumatic injuries service members are subjected to in combat zones.

**Cape Canaveral AFS**

**After successful ISS mission, SpaceX's Crew Dragon arrives at Port Canaveral**

Emre Kelly, Florida Today, Published 1:00 a.m. ET March 10, 2019 | Updated 1:04 a.m. ET March 10, 2019

After nearly a week in space and successful rendezvous with the International Space Station, SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule sailed into Port Canaveral late Saturday and brought full circle its premiere mission for NASA.

About 100 people watched from Jetty Park Pier around 9:30 p.m. as the spacecraft fresh with re-entry scorch marks was moved into the Navy's submarine basin for eventual transport to and processing at SpaceX's Cape facilities. The company's Go Searcher ship is responsible for Crew Dragon's post-splashdown transport.

The arrival wraps up a successful demonstration mission for the capsule that SpaceX designed specifically to carry astronauts to the ISS. After launching from Kennedy Space Center's pad 39A at 2:49 a.m. last Saturday, it spent about five days at the station before its early Friday de-orbit burn and Atlantic Ocean splashdown.

"The vehicle really did better than we expected," NASA's Steve Stich said after splashdown. "It really sets us up for the rest of the year, and it’s a super exciting time to be in commercial crew.”

**Homestead ARB**

**Golden Knights host training exercise at Homestead Air Reserve Base**

7 NEWS WSVN, MARCH 12, 2019

HOMESTEAD, FLA. (WSVN) – Parachute teams from around the world put on a show in the sky at the Homestead Air Reserve Base.
The U.S. Army’s parachute demonstration team, the Golden Knights, hosted a joint training exercise with other branches of the military, Tuesday.

The British Army’s Red Devils, the U.S. Navy’s Leap Frogs and the U.S. Army’s Black Daggers all jumped into the action.

“So what we do is we come together. They learn from us, we learn from them. We interact pretty routinely on the demonstration cycle, so air shows and games,” said U.S. Army Battalion Commander Ned Marsh with the Golden Knights. “We see other teams fairly routinely, and it’s important for us to establish joint and combined interoperability and make sure we can work together.”

The Golden Knights conduct winter training sessions at the Homestead Air Reserve Base from mid January until mid March.

The jump is part of their annual training.

NAS Key West

Navy to Key West Boaters: Keep Away From the Fleming Key Weapons Bunkers

By Gwen Filosa, 10 Mar 2019
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/03/10/navy-key-west-boaters-keep-away-fleming-key-weapons-bunkers.html

The Navy on Friday cracked down on boats anchored in the restricted waters off Fleming Key near Key West, handing out 37 federal citations.

A number of the vessels were being operated as vacation rentals, said Trice Denny, spokeswoman for Naval Air Station Key West.

The enforcement operation was conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Key West Police Department and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

The local Naval Air Station's port operations and search and rescue departments provided support in the effort to clear vessels out of potentially dangerous areas near Fleming Key bunkers that store explosive materials…..

Energy

Gulf Power sheds light on solar farm plan

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER, dbuckhalter@jcfloridan.com, Mar 8, 2019

Gulf Power’s plan to put a solar farm in Jacob City met with some enthusiasm, questions, interest and judgment Tuesday, when the company held an open house at a church in that community to talk about their project with potential neighbors and other members of the public.
The solar farm would be located off Jackson Road, about 1.5 miles south of where that road meets State Road 162. It would be called the Gulf Power Blue Indigo Solar Energy Center. It would take an estimated 200-250 people to build it, with labor positions and spots for warehouse personnel as well as for solar installers, electricians and equipment operators.

All those jobs would go away once the work they involve is done and the solar farm would be mostly unmanned as it operates. The estimate on the length of the work is about nine months from when the physical work would begin.

**Defense Industry**

**Trump's $718B budget proposal for military defense could bring more work to Orlando firms**

By Matthew Richardson, Mar 13, 2019, 9:27am EDT Updated Mar 13, 2019, 10:04am EDT


President Donald Trump’s 2020 budget proposal for the U.S. Department of Defense is larger than all other U.S. department and agency proposals combined. And Orlando's defense community stands to see big gains because of it.

Trump's budget proposal for the Department of Defense is $719 billion — a $33 billion, or 5 percent increase, from the 2019 enacted level. To put that figure in perspective, for the 18 other proposals listed on the 150-page U.S. Government Budget for 2020 that was released on March 11, the combined proposed total is $562.3 million.

The steady increase for military spending will bring more contract opportunities to businesses in Central Florida, as the area is a known haven for innovative, immersive training programs for each branch of military. Orlando is also a key location for missile and other weapon designs, fighter jet manufacturing and military-grade vehicles. Plus, the local defense industry supports thousands of workers and suppliers in the area, too.

**DoD Budget**

**Budget Request Will Boost Defense, Cut Domestic Programs**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Mar 10, 2019 01:50 pm

https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156e255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=81e6ad8bf7

When President Trump’s fiscal year 2020 budget request hits Capitol Hill Monday, it will include a boost in defense spending and across-the-board cuts of about 5 percent to domestic spending, according to National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow.

“It’ll be a tough budget,” he said on Fox News Sunday.

The President is expected to request $750 billion in national security spending, almost all of that to DOD. That is more than is allowed under mandatory budget caps. To reach that number, the administration will ask for an increase in the overseas contingency operations (OCO) account, which is exempt from caps.
That approach is already getting pushback on the Hill.

“No one seriously thinks that Congress would pass a defense bill with $174 billion of OCO,” Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), the top Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, said, according to Politico. “So, OK, you just kind of set that aside, and you get down to the serious discussions of what we can do to keep our readiness from sliding backwards, what we do to keep pressure on the terrorists, to deal with the Russia-China threat. That’s what the conversation will be.”

Lawmakers are working on a deal that would raise or eliminate the spending caps, similar to deals they’ve reached in the past.

DOD Releases Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal

On March 11, 2019, President Donald J. Trump sent Congress a proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Budget request of $750 billion for national security, $718.3 billion of which is for the Department of Defense (DoD). The FY 2020 Budget maintains momentum from the sustained funding increases enacted in FY 2017, FY 2018, and FY 2019 to repair damaged readiness, and the Budget marks a key next step in how we operationalize the 2018 National Defense Strategy. Deterring or defeating great power aggression is a fundamentally different challenge than the regional conflicts involving rogue states and violent extremist organizations we faced over the last 25 years. The FY 2020 Budget is a major milestone in meeting this challenge and resourcing the more lethal, agile, and innovative Joint Force America needs to compete, deter, and win in any high-end potential fight of the future by:

1. investing in the emerging space and cyber warfighting domains;
2. modernizing capabilities in the air, maritime, and land warfighting domains;
3. innovating more rapidly to strengthen our competitive advantage; and
4. sustaining our forces and building on our readiness gains.

The Budget: Numbers to Know

Here are some of the figures inside the President’s budget:
- $750 billion in overall defense and security funding ($718 billion of which goes to DOD)
- $165 billion in OCO funds, a big boost to help skirt budget caps
- $8.6 billion for a southern border wall ($3.6 billion of which comes from military construction)
- $3.6 billion for milcon projects delayed for wall construction
- $72 million to set up the Space Force
- 3.1 percent increase in military pay
- 0 percent increase in civilian pay

Here’s the breakdown of the Pentagon’s budget request

By: Aaron Mehta, 3-13-2019
WASHINGTON – The Pentagon’s fiscal 2020 budget request includes increases in research and development, a cut to science and technology, and major investments geared toward the much-ballyhooed return to great power competition.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan has repeatedly referred to the FY20 budget as the “masterpiece” document that has been shaped by conclusions based on a series of long-term strategies including the National Defense Strategy, the Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review.

But with Congress already expressing skepticism about the budget proposal, due in part to its reliance on $164 billion in overseas contingency operations, or OCO, funding, the department’s “masterpiece” may be in trouble before it gets out of the gate.

The inclusion of $9.2 billion in “emergency” funding—which officials confirm will be used to backfill military construction dollars taken from FY19 appropriations to build a wall on the southern border, as well as build new construction along that border—only complicates matters. Up to $3.6 billion of that emergency funding is being eyed to backfill those costs…..

Other Of Interest

Wilson to Leave Air Force

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson will leave her job at the end of May. Wilson confirmed the reports via Twitter.

“Today I informed the President I will resign as Secretary of the Air Force to be President of the University of Texas at El Paso. It has been a privilege to serve with our #Airmen—I am proud of the progress we have made to restore the readiness & lethality of #USAF.”

Wilson was often mentioned as a potential secretary of defense nominee.

Assistant Sec. Bayer Quits; Navy Promises Not to Eliminate Position

The top Navy official overseeing installations has resigned, the Navy announced Friday in a brief statement. It said Phyllis Bayer, assistant secretary for energy, installations and environment, plans to “retire from government and pursue other opportunities.”

The service said it has already begun searching for her successor, stating again that it will not eliminate the position, which has been discussed as a way to elevate the Navy’s IT chief, as On Base reported.
“While Navy leadership has been recently evaluating options with this portfolio due to competing priorities, the Secretary of the Navy remains fully committed to the role and responsibilities,” the statement said.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer promised lawmakers Thursday that he plans to “keep everything in place as it is.”

A look at the military’s impact in Northwest Florida

By Savannah Vasquez, Posted Mar 9, 2019 at 4:30 PM, Updated Mar 9, 2019 at 4:31 PM


If you’ve lived in Okaloosa, Walton or Santa Rosa counties for any amount of time, you may have noticed that in addition to the appealing Gulf of Mexico, there is another steady denominator: the presence of the U.S. military.

It’s apparent when driving across Okaloosa Island, as much of the island has remained in its natural form due to the military’s ownership. It’s noticeable at popular shopping centers and businesses that offer discounts to both active and former military. Flags honoring the five branches fly at Destin Commons and other businesses, and veteran-owned businesses pepper the area.

“Every indication that we have, people either travel through here on temporary duty, or they’re stationed in this area, or they come on vacation to visit friends and they love the area because it’s so pretty,” said Brooke McLean, a retired airman and president of the Air Force Enlisted Village in Shalimar. “It’s also a very military-friendly town.”

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Okaloosa County has a median age of 36, and over the past 14 years the median age has trended younger. In addition, Okaloosa has the highest percentage of its population in both the 20-44 age range and the 45-64 age range. Those age ranges reflect the typical age ranges of active-duty military members and newly retired veterans.

A robust population of active and retired military ages in Okaloosa County stretches back to World War II, according to Tom Rice, a retired Army 1st sergeant and board member of Veterans Florida….
Mar 29

Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #73 will be Thursday, 18 April 2019, via Conference Call / WebEx

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979 Access Code: 1869945

3. **Governor Ron DeSantis Attends Task Force Meeting** – Florida Governor Ron DeSantis attended the March Task Force meeting and provided his guidance for the Task Force. The Governor noted his top three priorities for military and defense are 1) to remain the most military and veteran friendly state in the country by concentrating on being the best on quality of services for our service members and veterans, 2) protect our active duty component and installations because it is good for Florida and more importantly, for national security, and 3) increase defense industry in the state including creating a workforce that is ready to fill jobs that support our installations and military missions / equipment our force need. The Governor also noted that he is very committed to rebuilding Tyndall, protecting the Gulf range from oil drilling and getting the US Space Force to Florida. Finally, the Governor thanked the Task Force and the Florida Defense Alliance for our work and asked that we continue our momentum. See news release and article below in the CLIPs.

4. **California Stands Up New Defense Support Effort** – According to an article (below in CLIPs) from Dan Cohen, “More than a dozen nonprofit organizations have formed the California Defense Communities Alliance (CDCA). CDCA held its inaugural meeting Tuesday in Sacramento. The new alliance includes groups with the shared mission of supporting DOD presence throughout California while advocating on behalf of active duty and veterans in their communities, according to a press release.” California is interested in supporting their military programs and is building this organization that is similar to the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) at the same time that the Florida House has introduced a budget that does not fund EFI which houses and supports the FDA. According to the article, “‘The establishment of the CDCA gives the Governor’s Military Council a single place to coordinate statewide efforts aimed at protecting and growing California’s military infrastructure,’ said Rocky Chavez, chair of the Governor’s Military Council. ‘Keeping California as the best military state is important to the California economy and to our nation’s defense.’”

5. **House Moves Forward on Three Military Friendly Bills** – The House has voted to move favorably in two committees on HB 1379 which is a resolution to support an indefinite extension on the moratorium on Oil Drilling and Exploration in the Gulf of Mexico. This week, the Senator Hooper filed a companion resolution in the Senate; SB 1820 Moratorium on Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico (see below). The House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee heard and favorably approved Committee Substitute (CS) to HB 891 which was a truncated version of the bill filed by Representative Ponder which contains four important provisions that support military members and their families. Several military friendly provisions were stripped from the original bill including the provision requested by USSOUTHCOM to limit the rental contract deposit that hurt military members in south Florida. Finally, House Memorial (HM) 1281 by Representative Siros moved through its
first committee favorably. The Memorial urges “Congress to support the creation of the United States Space Force and establishment of the Space Force and the United States Space Command in Florida”.

6. **Florida Officially Losing F-22 Training to Virginia** – After Hurricane Michael, Tyndall’s F-22 training program moved to Eglin temporarily due to close proximity to the undamaged simulator systems still at Tyndall. Due to a push from Virginia to gain the mission, the Air Force has announced the move to Virginia. According to an article in the *Panama City News Herald*, “The Air Force has identified Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia, as its preferred site for the formal pilot and maintenance training unit for the F-22 Raptor fighter jet, a mission relocated from Tyndall Air Force Base after Hurricane Michael”. According to the article, the move is a loss of “31 Raptors, 18 T-38 Talons (jet trainers used to train F-22 pilots in aerial combats) and hundreds of Air Force personnel” that had moved to Eglin which will now leave Florida. The loss is promised to be filled with F-35 and MQ-9 Reapers if funding is found to rebuild the base. See article below in the *CLIPs*.

7. **Navy Region Southeast is Addressing Compatible Wind Energy** – Alternative energy programs like wind and solar farms are outstanding opportunities for clean energy production, but large wind energy facilities can also cause issues for military operations especially around airfields. Navy Region Southeast is working to help Florida and other southern states create state statutes that limit the impact to military installations and missions due to industrial wind energy facilities. According to Navy Region Southeast, “The singular message is - Navy Region Southeast has been tasked by OSD and Navy leadership to initiate service coordination and discussion regarding development of state legislation addressing compatible siting for industrial scale wind energy facilities in Florida.” See four attached documents on wind energy compatibility with military missions in Florida.


9. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session is underweight. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov); for Senate Bills (SB), go to [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov). For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status.
   - **SB 1820 Moratorium on Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico** (Hooper)
     Moratorium on Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico; Supporting an extension of the current moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line, etc.
   - **HB 7105 Death Benefits for Survivors of First Responders and Military Members** (Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee)
     Death Benefits for Survivors of First Responders and Military Members: Revises & provides certain death benefits to law enforcement officers, correctional & correctional probation officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, & members of Florida National Guard & United States Armed Forces; provides for distribution of such benefits; provides that such benefits are in addition to other benefits; provides requirements for employer to procure insurance; specifies funding sources for such
benefits; authorizes specified number of hours of educational expenses to be waived by certain educational institutions & provides requirements therefor; requires SBE & BOG to adopt rules; specifies that surviving spouse & children of deceased servicemember may receive only one educational benefit; provides declaration of important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2019

10. Attachments:
   - Governor’s Medal of Honor Day Proclamation
   - Wind Siting – Florida Overview Ranges
   - Wind Siting – Example South Carolina Wind Siting Measure
   - Wind Siting – White Paper on Florida Military Compatibility and Aviation Safety Act
   - Wind Siting – Florida Presentation

Terry McCaffrey
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News Clips of Interest:

FDSTF
California Nonprofits Form Alliance to Support Military Communities

Dan Cohen, Posted on Mar 24, 2019 01:50 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=700fc733de&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=80e4e1bf42

More than a dozen nonprofit organizations have formed the California Defense Communities Alliance (CDCA). CDCA held its inaugural meeting Tuesday in Sacramento.

The new alliance includes groups with the shared mission of supporting DOD presence throughout California while advocating on behalf of active duty and veterans in their communities, according to a press release.

“The establishment of the CDCA gives the Governor’s Military Council a single place to coordinate statewide efforts aimed at protecting and growing California’s military infrastructure,” said Rocky
Chavez, chair of the Governor’s Military Council. “Keeping California as the best military state is important to the California economy and to our nation’s defense.”

Members will work together to “advance collaboration and communication among the military, elected officials, and other community leaders to enhance statewide understanding of the many contributions defense organizations make to California and our nation,” according to the charter.

F-22 training unit formerly housed at Tyndall to be moved to Virginia

By Jim Thompson, Posted Mar 26, 2019 at 6:13 PM, Updated Mar 26, 2019 at 6:14 PM

EGLIN AFB – The Air Force has identified Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia, as its preferred site for the formal pilot and maintenance training unit for the F-22 Raptor fighter jet, a mission relocated from Tyndall Air Force Base after Hurricane Michael.

The Air Force had previously announced that a new, permanent home would need to be found for the F-22’s, as three F-35 squadrons would be moved to the Tyndall, possibly as early as 2023.

Pilot and maintenance training for the fifth-generation F-22 stealth fighter moved to Eglin Air Force Base immediately after Michael. With Tyndall AFB, which had housed F-22 training, severely damaged by Hurricane Michael, the transfer brought 31 Raptors, 18 T-38 Talons (jet trainers used to train F-22 pilots in aerial combats) and hundreds of Air Force personnel to Eglin, where they have been operating from Eglin’s 33rd Fighter Wing flightline.

The F-22 training unit is at Eglin under the terms of a “temporary bed-down” agreement with the federal government that included a quick assessment that noise would be the only local environmental impact from having the aircraft at Eglin. Under that temporary agreement, F-22 training could stay at Eglin for as long as three years.

“The F-22s being here now is an interim step,” Eglin AFB spokesman Mike Spaits explained in a January interview…..

Patt Maney receives state award from DAR

By Special to Gatehouse Media Florida, Posted Mar 26, 2019 at 3:44 PM, Updated Mar 26, 2019 at 3:59 PM

ORLANDO – Retired Brig. Gen. Patt Maney was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution’s Medal of Honor at the DAR’s 117th annual State Conference on March 22.

The award, presented by State Regent Dawn Crumly Lemongello, is the most prestigious honor presented by the DAR. Maney was nominated by the DAR’s Choctawhatchee Bay chapter for his community, judicial and military service.

“I am shocked, humbled and honored to receive such an award from such a prestigious, historic and patriotic group,” Maney said. “Like so many others, I have just done my duty and tried to live as my parents taught.”

Since moving to Okaloosa County in 1975, Maney has been an active member of the community.
He acquired the bell of the USS Okaloosa, a World War II Liberty ship, and a Huey helicopter for a display honoring local Vietnam veterans at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. He started the annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down and spearheaded efforts to create the Okaloosa County Vet Center in Shalimar.

He served as Okaloosa County judge for almost 29 years. He established a house-arrest program and, with the State Attorney, a worthless check diversion program. He also started the county’s Mental Health Court and Veterans Treatment Court…..

**Governor Ron DeSantis Meets with the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

News Release by Staff, 3-28-2019

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis joined the Florida Defense Support Task Force and spoke at their monthly meeting in Tallahassee.

“It was great to speak with the Florida Defense Support Task Force this morning to discuss ways we can continue to lead within the military industry,” said Governor DeSantis. “By keeping our bases strong, recruiting private businesses and remaining the most military-friendly state in the nation for our active service members and veterans, we can ensure Florida remains in front of this important industry.”

The Florida Defense Support Task Force was created in 2011 with the mission to make recommendations to preserve and protect military installations, support the state’s position in research and development related to military missions and contracting, and improve the state’s military-friendly environment for service members, military families, veterans and businesses that bring military and defense-related jobs to the state.

The defense industry provides an annual economic impact of $84.9 billion and accounts for more than 801,000 jobs in Florida.

**Gov. DeSantis speaks at Defense Task Force Meeting in Tallahassee**

Posted: 5:21 PM, Mar 28, 2019, Updated: 5:21 PM, Mar 28, 2019

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Florida's governor wants the state to be number one when it comes to treating and protecting veterans.

At the Defense Task Force Meeting on Thursday, Governor Ron DeSantis said improving Florida's Department of Defense will help increase a strong sense of security in the state.

He'd like to rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base, which was damaged during Hurricane Michael. He said he wants to protect the Gulf for military purposes.

The governor also wants more opportunities for Floridians.

"I think one of the best things we can do for that is, you know, focus on work force development and education," said DeSantis. "I mean the fact of the matter is these are good jobs. You know, they require
DeSantis also said he's has a strong interest in the Space Force, which the President recently created.

**Housing**

**Legislation Would Protect Families in Privatized Housing**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Mar 19, 2019 07:03 pm  
[https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=bac1db30be](https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=bac1db30be)

A bipartisan proposal would give installation leaders and military families more protections against bad conditions in privatized military housing, according to Military Times.

“It is unacceptable that some military families around the country have little or no recourse when private contractors provide substandard housing,” said Rep. Mike Levin (D-Calif.), who introduced the legislation in the House.

The bill would seek actions against a landlord for substandard conditions, such as withholding rent pay, requiring them to pay moving costs, and blocking charges to end a lease early.

It would also create health and safety standards across the services, upgrade DOD to an electronic work order system and ask inspectors general to investigate allegations of retaliation against a service member who has reported a problem.

A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate.

The service chiefs are also working on what they call a “tenant bill of rights.”

**Space**

**House Memorial Urges Congress to Make Florida Home to U.S. Space Force**

By SUNSHINE STATE NEWS, March 26, 2019 - 2:45pm  

House Memorial 1281 by Rep. Tyler Sirois, R-Cocoa, passed the first of its two committees of reference with unanimous support today. The memorial requests Congress to approve the creation of the United States Space Force and the establishment of the Space Force and United States Space Command in Florida. It follows a recent White House proposal by President Donald Trump, and Gov. Ron DeSantis’ call for the Space Force to be headquartered in Florida.

“The United States and Florida are positioned as global leaders in commercial aerospace,” stated Sirois to members of the House Local, Federal and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. “With Florida’s spaceport infrastructure, deep-water seaports, and partnerships with NASA, the 45th Space Wing and the other three combatant commands located in Florida, we are the best choice for the headquarters of U.S. Space Command.”
Last month the president signed Space Policy Directive-4, which sets the framework for the establishment of a sixth branch of the Armed Forces through the development of a legislative proposal to be considered by the United States Congress. The Space Force would be a part of the United States Air Force. Its Space Command headquarters would become Florida’s fourth military command, joining U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command, both in Tampa, and U.S. Southern Command in Doral.

House Memorial 1281 will be heard next by the House State Affairs Committee. Upon approval by the Florida Legislature, copies of the memorial will be remitted to members of Congress and President Trump, urging their support for the headquarters in Florida.

Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond nominated to lead new US Space Command

By ROSE L. THAYER | STARS AND STRIPES, Published: March 27, 2019
https://www.stripes.com/air-force-gen-jay-raymond-nominated-to-lead-new-us-space-command-1.574531

President Donald Trump has nominated Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond to lead the new U.S. Space Command, the Defense Department announced Tuesday.

Raymond leads the Air Force’s Space Command, based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado, and is the Pentagon’s top official with a focus only on space. He will continue to lead Air Force Space Command while taking on this new role.

The Senate must first confirm his nomination.

In December, Trump directed the Pentagon leadership to create U.S. Space Command, which will be a unified combatant command that operates similar to other unified commands, such as U.S. Special Operations Command or U.S. Central Command. There are 10 unified combatant commands, which include forces from multiple branches of the military to perform ongoing missions. The new Space Command will be the 11th.

The U.S. Space Command is a step forward in national security efforts in the space domain, but different than the president’s call to build a new military branch called Space Force. It will focus on conducting all joint space warfighting operations and ensure the combat readiness of global forces. Space Force will eventually consolidate existing military and civilian personnel involved in military space activities under its own operations.

Space Force nominees coming within ‘weeks,’ Shanahan says

By: Aaron Mehta, 3-28-2019

TAMPA BAY, Florida – The nominees to lead President Donald Trump’s new Space Force could be announced in “weeks, not months,” according to Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan.

Travelling in Florida Thursday, Shanahan said that he already has nominees in mind for the top spots of the Space Force.

Under a proposal from the Pentagon, the new service will live under the secretary of the Air Force. However, it will be led directly by an under secretary of the Air Force for space (who must be nominated
and confirmed by the Senate) and the service’s chief of staff, a four-star position who will also serve on the Joint Chiefs.

Members of Congress have expressed concern that the new Space Force, along with the new Space Command and Space Development Agency, will lead to increased overhead, particularly among uniformed officers. Congress has already imposed a cap on the number of general officers in the Pentagon, with the goal of reducing that total by the early 2020s…..

**NAS Pensacola**

**Spanish tall ship Elcano to be docked at NAS Pensacola, visitation times updated**

Jacob Newby, Published 12:30 p.m. CT March 28, 2019 | Updated 4:26 p.m. CT March 28, 2019

The Spanish Royal Navy tall ship Juan Sebastian de Elcano will not dock at Plaza de Luna when it sails into Pensacola this weekend, as was originally planned.

Elcano Capt. Ignacio Paz Garcia made the decision this week to instead dock the third largest tall ship in the world at Naval Air Station Pensacola. The tall ship will sail in Saturday, and the first day of public visitation will be Sunday.

"The decision came down to a series of factors, but the most important one was the inability to assemble, essentially, a gangway to allow the ship to dock at Plaza de Luna, but at the same time be deep enough where it would anchor," said Lipo Davis, son of Maria Davis, the honorary vice consul of Spain in Pensacola…..

**NAS Whiting Field**

**Training Air Wing Five installs new commodore**

By Ramon Rios, Posted Mar 14, 2019 at 5:07 PM, Updated Mar 14, 2019 at 5:07 PM

**WHITING FIELD** – The Naval Air Station Whiting Field wing that helps train “lethal military professionals,” in the words of Rear Adm. Gregory Harris, chief of U.S. Naval air training, was placed under new command at a Thursday morning ceremony.

Navy Capt. Doug Rosa, who had served as deputy commodore of Whiting Field’s Training Air Wing Five since August 2017, was appointed commodore of the wing in a change-of-command ceremony attended by nearly 300 people, including several Santa Rosa County commissioners, who host the 75-year-old installation.

Rosa will be responsible for an estimated 43 percent of the Chief of Naval Air Training Command’s total flight time and more than 14 percent of Navy and Marine Corps’ flight time world-wide, according to the public affairs office at NAS Whiting Field.
The outgoing commodore, Marine Col. Dave Morris, had served in that post since September 2017, and will head to an assignment at the Pentagon. Morris came to the wing in March 2016 as deputy commodore…..

Hurlburt Field

Review finds some problems with housing at Hurlburt

By Jim Thompson, Posted Mar 23, 2019 at 2:51 PM, Updated Mar 23, 2019 at 2:51 PM

HURRBURT FIELD – Nearly 25 percent of the on-base residents contacted at Hurlburt Field as part of an Air Force-wide review of conditions in privatized housing had complaints about their homes, according to one of the installation’s public affairs offices.

In an email responding to questions about Hurlburt Field’s results in the mandated “100 percent review” of privatized on-base Air Force family housing, Staff Sgt. Victor Caputo of the 1st Special Operations Wing public affairs office wrote that “380 residents were contacted and 93 provided comments voicing concern on the condition of their housing.”

The email did not detail the specific unfavorable comments. However, Caputo did note that out of those complaints, 37 residents — all of whom lived in some of the older housing on the base — requested an additional inspection of their homes.

“All 37 housing units were inspected by a team of experts from safety, bioenvironmental and civil engineering career fields,” Caputo said in the email. As a result, moisture issues (which can lead to mold problems) were addressed in 15 homes (40 percent of the inspected units), chipping paint issues were addressed in five houses (13 percent), and pest issues were addressed in four residences (11 percent), Caputo said.

In comparison with housing inspection results across the Air Force, Hurlburt residents appeared to fare a little worse, statistically speaking, than their fellow airmen, except with regard to pest complaints. Following the review, ordered Feb. 19 by Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, the Air Force reported that in the 9,861 homes where a further review was requested, 25 percent had complaints about mold and moisture issues, 5 percent had complaints about lead-based paint and 13 percent had complaints about pests…..

Eglin AFB

Eglin wildfires spreading

By Jim Thompson, Posted Mar 22, 2019 at 12:28 PM, Updated Mar 22, 2019 at 6:44 PM

EGLIN AFB – Firefighters were continuing late Friday afternoon to battle two wildfires that began Thursday on the base’s test ranges in Santa Rosa County and had consumed a total of 2,400 acres as of the last report from Eglin’s Wildland Support Branch.

According to the update, delivered late Friday morning, the fire that began on Test Area A-77 west of State Road 87 and north of Holley “is currently at 1,900 acres and is approximately 35 percent contained at this time.”
Because Test Area A-77 is a UXO location—a test range where unexploded ordnance is in the ground—firefighters can’t attack the blaze directly, but must construct fire lines—areas cleared of vegetation and other fire fuels—to contain it. Friday’s plan for fighting that fire, according to the morning update, included “improving existing lines and scouting for opportunities to continue to construct fire lines.”

It was also possible, according to the update, that firefighters could “conduct a burnout operation that would increase the fire to around 4,000 acres but would make containment and control much easier and quicker.” In a burnout operation, a fire is deliberately set within a controlled area to consume fuel as the original fire advances.

“If it is determined a burnout is necessary, there may be temporary smoke impacts to coastal areas along Highway 98 in the Florosa/Hurlburt Field area,” according to the update.

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**Two Eglin wildfires ’100 percent contained’**

By Jim Thompson, Posted Mar 24, 2019 at 6:07 PM, Updated Mar 24, 2019 at 6:07 PM


**EGLIN AFB** – Two of the three wildfires on the Eglin Air Force Base reservation were reported to be “100 percent contained” as of late Sunday afternoon, while the third blaze was reported to be “approximately 80 percent contained.”

That news came in the latest daily update on the fires, issued at 5 p.m. Sunday by Brett Williams, spokesman for the Eglin Wildland Support Branch. The Eglin Wildland Support Branch is leading the effort to extinguish the fires, two of which have been burning since Thursday. The Avon Park Wildland Support Module, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Longleaf Alliance also have been working to control the wildfires.

“Significant progress was made on the wildfires today,” Williams said in Sunday’s email update. “Currently, none of the wildfires are a direct threat to any structures or the public.”

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**NSA Panama City**

**Naval Support Activity Panama City has a new commander at the helm**

WJHG, Posted: Tue 5:44 PM, Mar 19, 2019 | Updated: Tue 6:31 PM, Mar 19, 2019

[https://www.wjhg.com/content/news/Naval-Support-Activity--Panama-City-has-a-new-commander-at-the-helm-507364371.html](https://www.wjhg.com/content/news/Naval-Support-Activity--Panama-City-has-a-new-commander-at-the-helm-507364371.html)

**PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (WJHG/WECP)** – Tuesday, the Naval Support Activity Panama City held a Change of Command ceremony before a crowd of family, friends community leaders and coworkers.

Cmdr. Jay Sego has been the commanding officer since July 2017 and was instrumental in modernizing the installation power grid enabling restoration of power immediately following Hurricane Michael. Under his leadership the base excelled in shore operations, energy conservation, community relations and quality of life for the sailors and their families.
Taking the helm, Cmdr. Kevin Christenson was most recently the Executive Officer for Naval Surface Warfare Center - Panama City Division. Prior assignments include Naval Support Activity Bahrain and Commander, Navy Region Southeast.

Cmdr. Sego’s next duty station is with the Commander, Navy Installations Command in Washington, DC.

**Eglin AFB**

**USAF modifies Carrabelle site plans**

By DAVID ADLERSTEIN, Posted Mar 28, 2019 at 7:29 AM, Updated Mar 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM


Environmental concerns expressed by Carrabelle residents and shared by Mayor Brenda La Paz with Air Force officials have led to modifications in a proposed enhancement of an existing tracking site along the Carrabelle River.

In the draft, released in January, of an environmental assessment of the four remote sites that comprise the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range, revised plans for the Carrabelle Tyndall Enterprise Live Mission Operation Center (TELMOC) call for using just a fraction of the 120,000 cubic yards of fill dirt originally proposed when plans were introduced last year.

“We got some comments from folks in Carrabelle and we addressed those comments and looked at the proposed action and made some changes,” said Mike Spaits, a spokesman for environmental public affairs at Eglin Air Force Base.

“We were proposing to bring a whole lot of fill dirt to elevate the telemetry device and as a result of comments, we determined they don’t need to bring in all that fill dirt,” he said.

The site, at the end of Marine Street at the once-active Coast Guard station, about four miles from the Gulf of Mexico, currently houses the main 485-foot TELMOC communications tower and 100-foot communications tower to support air combat training occurring in the Eglin training range. Instrumentation at the site includes Air Combat Training System equipment, a Situational Awareness Data Link and associated ground equipment.

Following the unveiling of the proposal last fall, former city commissioner Gathana Parmenas, charter captain Frank Stephenson and Rod Gasche, a retired Marine master sergeant and former wildlife officer with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, led a group of Carrabelle citizens who raised concerns about the impact the enhancements would have on the environment.

**Tyndall AFB**

**House lawmakers question whether Tyndall Air Force Base, Camp Lejeune should be rebuilt**

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY | STARS AND STRIPES Published: March 13, 2019


WASHINGTON – House lawmakers on Wednesday questioned whether Tyndall Air Force Base and Camp Lejeune should be rebuilt after both military bases were devastated last year by hurricanes.
“It is in harm’s way now. It has been in the past and it will be in the future,” Rep. John Garamendi, D-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee subpanel on readiness, said about Tyndall. “And the question that this committee is asking — and we will expect an answer from the Air Force — does it make any sense to rebuild at that place?”

The congressman acknowledged there are important reasons why Tyndall, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Michael in October, is located along the northwestern coast of Florida about nine miles outside of Panama City. Those reasons include an offshore exercise testing range……

Balfour Beatty charts path forward with Tyndall housing destroyed in Hurricane Michael

By ERYN DION, News Herald Reporter, Posted Mar 17, 2019 at 10:53 AM, Updated Mar 17, 2019 at 10:53 AM

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE – As the United States Air Force touts plans to turn Tyndall Air Force Base into an “air base of the future,” real estate company Balfour Beatty has plans to do the same with the base’s housing.

Like the base itself, the 867 homes on the 500-acre property fared poorly as the eye of Hurricane Michael passed over on Oct. 10, the 155-mpg eyewall winds cutting a 50-mile-wide hole through Bay County. Where Mexico Beach just to the east was swallowed in record-setting storm surge, Tyndall bore the brunt of the historic eyewall winds so strong the equipment used to monitor them malfunctioned.

Earlier this month, Balfour Beatty submitted its plan to repair and restore the base’s housing to the Air Force and the senior lender for the project for approval. Total restoration would take about two years but, if all goes to plan, the first homes could open back up by the fall.

“Currently our plan is to initiate restoration work in all areas throughout the community,” said Mark Lavin, senior vice president of project management and development for Balfour Beatty Communities. “We expect those neighborhoods that suffered the least amount of damage to come back online first, as the timeline for their repair and restoration will be significantly shorter than the neighborhoods requiring more extensive repairs and/or rebuilding.”

Least amount of damage, though, is relative. Like the rest of Bay County, destruction to the base’s communities wasn’t uniform. Older homes in the communities of Bay View and Beacon Beach along the water outside the base’s main gate on U.S. 98 fared worse than newer homes in other neighborhoods, but Lavin said all of the homes on the base received significant damage. So far, 48 homes throughout the various neighborhoods have been deemed a total loss…. 

Senator Rick Scott visits Port Panama City to share plans for ports, Tyndall, and more

By Jarell Baker | Posted: Thu 10:11 PM, Mar 21, 2019 | Updated: Thu 10:53 PM, Mar 21, 2019
https://www.wjhg.com/content/news/Senator-Rick-Scott-visits-Port-Panama-City-to-share-plans-for-ports-Tyndall-and-more-507498291.html

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (WJHG/WECP) - A well-known visitor stopped by Port Panama City Thursday; Senator Rick Scott.
During his visit, Senator Scott shared his plan for getting $140 million to help improve ports in Florida, including Port Panama City.

"All of our ports have been growing in the last eight years but the federal government has not been a great partner," said Scott. "While I was governor, we put up the federal share to get projects done. They owed that money back."

Panama City Port Authority Executive Director Wayne Stubbs said the money will fund bulkheads and several other projects.

"We're out of space. That means we need more dredging. We finally found some dollars for dredging but in the years ahead we'll need to expand our facilities," said Stubbs.

Scott said the money will be used to beef up security as well.

"Whether that's at our airports, our seaports, we have to invest more money to make sure we're all protected," said Scott.

Scott also spoke about securing money to help Tyndall Air Force Base rebuild.

"Tyndall's gotta have the money. We've got a disaster bill that we still haven't got approved. Hopefully, we vote on that in the next couple of weeks," said Scott…..

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### Senate Disaster Aid Bill Includes $2 Billion for Tyndall Cleanup

Dan Cohen, Posted on Mar 27, 2019 07:55 pm

[https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=c140c4d1f2](https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=c140c4d1f2)

Senate Republican appropriators included $2 billion in a proposed disaster aid package for the military to rebuild from severe hurricane damage last fall. The overall relief package for $13.45 billion is in limbo after President Trump questioned the funding it includes for Puerto Rico, according to [Politico](https://www.politico.com). The aid package released Tuesday by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) includes a total $1.1 billion to the Air Force with $400 million for Hurricane Michael damage at Tyndall Air Force, Fla., in October. Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, N.C., would see $315 million for Hurricane Florence damage, according to a [Defense News](https://www.defensenews.com) report.

The Pentagon has requested $9 billion for recent storm damage, as reported by [On Base](https://www.onbase.com). The Air Force said Wednesday that almost $5 billion will be needed to rebuild Tyndall and recover from flooding damage to Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., according to [Defense News](https://www.defensenews.com).

Shelby’s proposal does not appear to address Offutt damages.

The Air Force warned if it doesn’t receive $1.2 billion by June, it will reduce projects and pilot training hours at Tyndall and Offutt.

“We desperately need the supplemental funding to recover from the natural disasters that hammered Tyndall and Offutt,” Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson said at a Heritage Foundation event. “There are other decisions we’ll have to make if we don’t [have supplemental funding] by May or June.”
NAS Jacksonville

Pence arrives in Jacksonville to attend Trump fundraiser

By Vic Micolucci - Posted: 11:17 AM, March 28, 2019Updated: 11:26 PM, March 28, 2019

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Vice President Mike Pence made two stops in Florida on Thursday, visiting the Mother Teresa Museum in Naples and giving remarks to the Ave Maria University student body in the morning before flying to Jacksonville.

Air Force Two touched down on the tarmac at Naval Air Station Jacksonville just after 4 p.m. and Pence came off the plane and greeted supporters on the runway.

"It was exciting. I mean, look at that thing, wow. You don’t get to see stuff like that," supporter Judith Youngblood said. "That’s the first time in 83 years I got to see something like that.

"It’s the first time I’ve met him," supporter Bob Fox said. "I’ve campaigned for him, never met him."

A Secret Service motorcade then took Pence to a private fundraising event for President Donald Trump's 2020 re-election campaign. Video showed traffic was stopped momentarily on San Jose Boulevard as the motorcade headed south…..

Patrick AFB

F-35 stealth fighters swoop over Space Coast ahead of Melbourne Air & Space Show

Rick Neale, Florida Today, Published 6:40 p.m. ET March 28, 2019

Eight years ago, Paul Ogletree was wrapping up his senior year at Merritt Island High and working at T.J. Maxx on North Courtenay Parkway.

Now, Ogletree is an Air Force staff sergeant — with one of the world's most unique aviation jobs. He is a dedicated crew chief with the new F-35A Lightning II Demonstration Team, which makes its North American debut this weekend at the Melbourne Air & Space Show.

"321 forever. I always loved going to the beach," Ogletree said Thursday afternoon, standing on the tarmac at Orlando Melbourne International Airport after the two F-35s landed for the show.

"Growing up, my stepfather was a missile guy, so he was stationed out at Patrick Air Force Base. I went to Roosevelt Elementary and lived here for 18 years, and then I joined," said Ogletree, who previously logged five years maintaining C-130 Hercules at Little Rock Air Force Base…..
**US Central Command**

**New General Oversees US Central Command**

Carla Babb, March 28, 2019 9:19 PM  

**PENTAGON** – Marine Corps Gen. Kenneth "Frank" McKenzie has taken charge of U.S. Central command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, central and southwest Asia.

Speaking at the change of command ceremony Thursday at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., McKenzie said his command "remains at the ready to do what has to be done" as the U.S. wraps up counter-Islamic State operations in Iraq and Syria, and continues efforts to pressure the Taliban in Afghanistan.


Votel praised U.S. and international efforts in the region and military leaders from other nations attending the ceremony…..

**US Southern Command**

**Chilean, US Special Forces Strengthen Interoperability**

Guillermo Saavedra/Diálogo | 26 March 2019  

The United States and Chile formed a multinational force to combat a terrorist group whose actions destabilized peace and created insecurity in Latin America. Their units deployed air and land assets to swiftly neutralize the threat and rescue kidnapped service members, while minimizing the impact on the population.

The scenario was one of the simulations carried out as part of exercise Northern Star 19, which, for the third time, gathered units of the Chilean and U.S. special forces on the U.S. Gulf Coast. The exercise took place January 15-30, at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Mississippi.

More than 110 special forces service members from the United States and 54 from Chile took part in Northern Star 2019. Special forces units of Canada, the Netherlands, and Uzbekistan also joined the exercise to form the multinational force…..

**NAS Key West**

**BLUE ANGELS TAKE THE SKIES NEXT WEEKEND**

By Keys Weekly, March 21, 2019
The Naval Air Base’s “Southernmost Spectacular” on March 30-31 is an event that Keys residents anticipate every year with excitement. This year’s theme is “Women in Aviation.” It will be held on the Boca Chica Air Field at MM 8. The famed Blue Angels dazzle the crowds with truly spectacular feats of flight, and they are joined by other flight demonstration teams showcasing maneuvers used in aerial combat. The Navy also opens up the base to food vendors, live music and attractions like helicopter rides. The Naval Air Base has been a part of the Keys community since 1917, and it’s a special opportunity for a peek (up) into their operations.

**Show Schedule:**
Saturday and Sunday, March 30-31
Gates open at 9 a.m.
Air show starts at 10:30 a.m.
Blue Angels fly at 2:30 p.m.
General admission and parking are free

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**Here are the Air Force bases DoD says are most at-risk to climate change**

By: Tara Copp, 3-28-2019


Earlier this year, the Pentagon released a report on which mission-critical installations faced the most risk due to extreme weather events, including floods, drought and wind. That list generated push back from Congress, which sought further clarity on the issue.

On Tuesday, Rep. Jim Langevin, D-R.I., released the Pentagon’s updated list, which ranks each service’s most at-risk installations. For the Air Force, it’s Hill Air Force Base in Utah. DoD found Hill to be at risk of flooding, desertification, wildfires and drought.

Langevin said he still questions how DoD calculated that risk. For example, the overall list does not name any Marine Corps installations, such as Camp Pendleton in California, which has faced wildfire threat, or Camp Lejeune, which was badly damaged by Hurricane Florence last year.

In its letter to Langevin, DoD said the bases were selected by the importance of their operational roles. In addition, while DoD said it was a “top 10 list” for each service, there were more than 10 bases named for each service.

“The revised report continues to leave off overseas bases, and it fails to include massive military installations like Camp Lejeune. Most importantly, it continues to lack any assessment of the funds Congress will need to appropriate to mitigate the ever increasing risks to our service members,” Langevin said……

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**Defense Industry**

**Matt Gaetz Cheers Trump Calling for $125 Million for Air Force Military Construction in the Panhandle**

“President Trump has once again proven his deep and abiding commitment to the United States Armed Forces, especially Northwest Florida’s military mission,” Gaetz said on Monday. “This proposed budget includes $124.8 million for Air Force Special Operations in Northwest Florida. This is a tremendous victory for Florida’s First Congressional District, which remains America’s preeminent location for military training, testing, and development. I’m proud to have worked closely with President Trump in order to ensure our airmen will have the facilities they need to accomplish their missions.”

Gaetz’s office listed some of the provisions included in Trump’s proposed budget which still has to clear Congress. These include:

- $16.5 million in Special Operations Forces Combined Squadron Operations Facility for Eglin Air Force Base (Duke Field)
- $72.9 million in Special Operations Forces Aircraft Maintenance Unit Weapons Hangar for Hurlburt Field
- $16.5 million in Special Operations Forces Combined Squadron Operations Facility for Hurlburt Field
- $18.9 million for Special Operations Forces Maintenance Training Facility for Hurlburt Field

After serving in the Florida House, Gaetz was elected to Congress for the first time, replacing retiring U.S. Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., who led the U.S. House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Central Florida gets piece of Boeing's $4B contract to build Super Hornet aircraft

By Matthew Richardson – Staff writer, Orlando Business Journal, Mar 22, 2019, 3:27pm EDT

The U.S. Navy wants a swarm of newly upgraded Super Hornet aircraft and is paying Chicago-based Boeing Co. (NYSE: BA) a hefty amount to build them, including some work in Central Florida.

The military branch awarded a $4 billion, five-year contract to Boeing for the firm to build 78 F/A-18 — better known as Super Hornet — aircraft. The contract is specifically for the full rate production of 61 F/A-18E variant, and 17 of the F/A-18F variant — both models being Block III configurations.

When compared to the Block II, the Block III Super Hornet upgrades network capability, longer range, reduced radar signature, and more. The life of the aircraft also will be extended from 6,000 hours to 10,000.

Palm Bay in Brevard County will contribute a small piece of services on the work, while most will happen in El Segundo, California and other locations. The contract has a completion date of April 2024.

Boeing is hiring six workers in Brevard County, too. The firm needs a manufacturing engineer, senior mechanical systems design engineer, structural and payload design engineer, procurement agent and environmental analyst…..
DoD Budget

Disaster Aid Bill Facing a Tricky Path as It Heads to Senate

BY ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press March 24, 2019, at 8:50 a.m.

WASHINGTON (AP) – A battle over funding for Puerto Rico is complicating the path forward for a long-delayed disaster aid bill that's a top political priority for some of President Donald Trump's Republican allies as it heads to the Senate floor this week.

At stake is $13.5 billion emergency relief legislation to help southern farmers, rebuild hurricane-damaged military bases, repair water systems, and assist victims of last year's California wildfires, among other purposes.

The measure has wide backing from both Democrats and Republicans and is perhaps most ardently backed by Trump loyalists such as David Perdue, R-Ga., and Thom Tillis, R-N.C., who face potentially difficult re-election fights next year.

The White House, however, isn't pleased with the bill and is particularly opposed to efforts by Democrats to make hurricane relief to Puerto Rico more generous. Senate Republicans are supporting food aid to the devastated island and are working with top Democrats like Patrick Leahy of Vermont to try to speed passage of the measure by adding additional help for Puerto Rico.

The House passed a companion $14.2 billion version of the legislation in January, but it got tangled up in the politics of the partial government shutdown and Trump's demands for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The measure is especially sought by lawmakers from southern states like Florida, Georgia and North Carolina, which were hit by hurricanes Michael and Florence last year. There's money to respond to an earthquake in Alaska, California wildfires and floods in South Carolina, and for the ongoing recovery effort in Puerto Rico, which was devastated by back-to-back hurricanes in 2017.

And now there's widespread flooding in Nebraska, Iowa and other Midwestern states…..

Pentagon delivers reprogramming request, seeks supplemental for $9 billion hurricane damage

By: Aaron Mehta, 3-25-2019

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon has requested to reprogram $600 million in funding and plans to ask Congress for more supplemental dollars to deal with a series of natural disasters that have left the Air Force and Marines reeling, according to a new memo obtained by Defense News.

Signed by Acting Secretary of Defense Pat Shanahan and dated March 23, the memo is addressed to the service secretaries and chiefs of staff of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. In it, Shanahan
writes that “Our primary challenge is hurricane and storm damage, which we estimate at just under $9 billion across multiple fiscal years.”

In the memo, Shanahan notes the Pentagon has submitted to Congress a “$600 million prior approval reprogramming request for near-term hurricane recovery actions sourced from within our own budget. Shanahan adds, “We understand the effect on readiness if Congress does not approve the reprogramming action.”

In addition, the acting secretary says he plans to “work with Congress to enact a supplemental to cover hurricane, storm, and flooding recovery costs that the Department is not typically expected to absorb.”

A series of natural disasters inside the U.S. have left the Air Force and Marines, in particularly, searching for ways to cope with large, unexpected bills…..

**Air Force cuts spending to deal with disaster repairs**

By: Jamie Dupree, Updated: Mar 27, 2019 - 2:08 PM


The Air Force announced Wednesday that it would delay over 50 projects at military bases in 18 states in order to funnel money into disaster relief work at a base in Florida which was leveled by a hurricane last October, as the Air Force Secretary warned that without a special disaster relief package from Congress, other bases would likely see spending cuts in coming months as well.

"Yesterday, I had to make some decisions," Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson told a gathering at the Heritage Foundation in Washington on Wednesday, detailing how 61 different improvement projects were being put on hold, in order to pay for initial recovery work at Tyndall Air Force Base in the Panhandle of Florida.

"There are 61 projects in 18 states that we have held commitment of funds for," Wilson said, issuing a list delaying work on everything from water system repairs at Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio to HVAC repairs at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma to air system renovations at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Florida, and much more.

**Air Force says it needs $4.9 billion in disaster relief to repair 2 bases, including one in Florida**

By: Associated Press, Posted: 2:22 PM, Mar 27, 2019, Updated: 2:22 PM, Mar 27, 2019


WASHINGTON (AP) – The Air Force said on Wednesday that it needs $4.9 billion in extra funding over the next three years to rebuild and repair two key bases heavily damaged by natural disasters.

"We desperately need the supplemental funding," Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson said, citing hurricane damage to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida last fall and flood damage at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska this month.

The call for emergency funding comes amid debate between the Trump administration and Congress over the White House's proposal to repurpose billions of dollars in military construction money to help extend a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border.
The money sought by the Air Force — $1.2 billion this year and $3.7 billion in the 2020 and 2021 budget years — would have to be approved by Congress. Wilson said that if Congress does not take action by May or June the Air Force will have to put off dozens of construction and other improvement projects and perhaps take other cost-saving measures.

Tyndall, which is a fighter base, took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael last October. Offutt, home to U.S. Strategic Command headquarters, which oversees the nation's nuclear forces, was damaged by Missouri River flooding……

House Dems Say No Backfill for Wall-Diverted Funds

Dan Cohen, Posted on Mar 27, 2019 07:57 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156e255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=c140c4d1f2

A key House Democrat said this week she will not support adding military construction funding in fiscal year 2020 to backfill projects delayed to build a southern border wall ordered by the president.

“If the administration follows through and steals money from previously approved projects, the chairwoman’s mark will not provide funding for backfill. I am not joking,” said Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), who chairs the Appropriations Committee’s milcon panel, referring to the version of the bill the committee will eventually consider.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) is trying to block a shift of $1 billion in excess money from the Army’s recruitment budget to build a wall, Politico reported.

Energy

Gulf Power solar farm gets green light

By DEBORAH BUCKHALTER, dbuckhalter@jcfidian.com, Mar 28, 2019, Updated 16 hrs ago

Jackson County Commissioners this week formally approved a development order authorizing Gulf Power’s plan to build a solar farm near Jacob City.

Construction of the project will provide 200-250 temporary jobs, company officials estimate. The jobs available include general labor positions and spots for warehouse personnel as well as for solar installers, electricians, and equipment operators.

Gulf Power plans to build its Blue Indigo Solar Energy Center on a 697-acre parcel of land off Jackson Road, about 1.5 miles south of where it meets State Road 162 (AKA Jacob Road).

The company hosted a public meeting on the proposal earlier this month at St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Jacob City, and several displays were provided showing the proposed layout and offering other information.

The center would generate 74.5 megawatts of solar energy, enough to power the equivalent of 15,000 homes. The energy option reduces carbon emissions and can lower costs. Company officials say it would be like taking 12,000 cars off the road in terms of the emissions it would eliminate.

Company officials also said the operation will be quiet, would have no lights operating at night, would not use water in its processes, and would not increase traffic on the surrounding roadways. Gulf Power
also said that, during construction, it would create no dust or other adverse effects for the general surrounding community or adjacent farms, specifically mentioning that it would have no negative impact on productivity of their soils.

In approving the project Tuesday, local officials gave the company two years to complete the project, but allowed for a possible extension if more time is needed. It limited the footprint to no more than 795,916 square feet of impervious surface.....

Other Of Interest

Former Blue Angel Keith Hoskins named senior VP of Navy Federal Credit Union's Pensacola operations

From staff reports, Published 1:08 p.m. CT March 22, 2019 | Updated 2:29 p.m. CT March 22, 2019

Keith Hoskins, former commanding officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola, has been named the new senior vice president of Navy Federal Credit Union’s Greater Pensacola Operations.

Hoskins will lead more than 7,500 team members and oversee the second phase of expansion of Navy Federal's $1.2 billion Beulah campus.

“I have been a Navy Federal member for 21 years, and I am proud and humbled to now have the opportunity to serve as the lead executive for Navy Federal’s Pensacola campus,” Hoskins said in a statement. “We have a talented team who is committed to helping our members and making a positive difference in the Pensacola community. I look forward to continue to build upon the foundation of success that Debbie Calder and the entire team have built.”

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Hoskins had a distinguished, 27-year military career. He was a Blue Angels flight demonstration pilot from 1999-2001, served as commanding officer of Strike Force Squadron 15 and as national director of NROTC at Navy Service Training Command.....
Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #73 will be Thursday, 18 April 2019, via Conference Call / WebEx.

2. **Call In Number**
   - **Call-In Number:** 800-501-8979  
   - **Access Code:** 1869945

3. **North Carolina takes Action to Limit Wind Farm Encroachment** – According to an article in the *Marine Corps Times*, “North Carolina could permanently ban big wind-power projects from the most energy intensive parts of the state’s Atlantic coast, but a state senator said Wednesday the move is necessary to prevent hindering military training flights. Legislation introduced by Republican Sen. Harry Brown would prohibit building, expanding or operating sky-scraping wind turbines within about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the coast. The bill would apply to the area that stretches from the Virginia border to south of the Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base.” Wind farms have become a major issue for military aviation. See article below in the CLIPs.

4. **Oil Lobby Pushes Hard to Start Exploration and Drilling in Eastern Gulf** – The oil lobby is shifting into high gear to drill in the eastern Gulf of Mexico as little is being done to extend the moratorium that has ensured access to the Gulf Range complex to military testing since 2006. If not extended, the range will become limited while requirements for the range are increasing with new weapons and technology, especially hypersonics, which pose an ever increasing threat. According to an article this week in *Florida Politics*, “Florida voters may have spoken out against offshore drilling in 2018. But Explore Offshore, a group created by the American Petroleum Institute (API), is pushing to expand the practice throughout U.S. waters, including in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic.” The article touts safe exploration and says Floridian’s don’t need to worry because they will not be able to see the rigs since they are “…talking here about federal waters, the outer continental shelf,” Nicholson said, adding that they’re asking for exploration in the range of 80 to 120 miles off the shore. “There is absolutely no possibility of visual access to any of this activity,” he added.” Nowhere in the article did members of *Explore Offshore* mention the impact to military test or training operations that takes place in the same area. In other news, both Georgia and Oregon passed laws in the last several days that protect their coastline from offshore drilling and neither has a military range at risk. In another story, Sen Rick Scott says he may not vote to confirm the new Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, if he does not honor his agreement with former Secretary Zinke to “keep Florida off the table” when he was the Governor. See multiple articles below in the CLIPs.

5. **Congressman Matt Gaetz Defends the Gulf Range at Hearing** – On April 2, 2019 the Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Chief of Staff, Gen General David L. Goldfein testified before the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) on the FY20 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the Air Force. As part of the testimony, Congressman Matt Gaetz questioned the service leaders on the impact of oil drilling on the Gulf Range. Congressman Gaetz noted that the current plan in Congress is to trade space in the range to support drilling for extending the length of the moratorium. Both leaders testified that any decrease in the size of the range would be a serious issue to testing new
capabilities that require more rather than less space. Congressman Adam Smith, Chairman of the HASC, said “We will absolutely work on that issue, it is very important”. To see the exchange, go to https://armedservices.house.gov/hearings?ID=688E8536-568B-4F5D-98DA-A9D158B47F1B. The subject discussion begins at 2hrs, 37min, 40sec on the video.

6. **Governor DeSantis Selects New Adjutant General for the Florida National Guard** – Governor Ron DeSantis announced the selection of Maj Gen James Eifert, USAF, on Tuesday to take command of the Florida National Guard. Maj Gen Eifert will replace MG Michael Calhoun who retires this week. According to an article from Florida Trend, “Before his March 2017 appointment to that post, he spent two decades in Florida, the final four years as an assistant adjutant general in St. Augustine. He also was the commander of the 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville”. The change of command ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Camp Blanding. See articles below in the CLIPS.

7. **Military Friendly Bill Moves Through Senate Committee** – Wednesday afternoon SB 602 by Senator Doug Broxson on Military Affairs was favorably forwarded by the Military, Veterans Affairs and Space Committee. The bill’s main tenants include prohibiting a landlord from requiring a prospective tenant who is a servicemember to deposit or advance more than a certain amount of funds; providing an additional circumstance under which a servicemember may terminate a rental agreement; prohibiting certain construction or activities that are incompatible with the mission of a military installation on certain land under a rural-lands-protection easement. This bill retained several items that had been stripped from the house version (HB 891) sponsored by Rep Ponder that also moved through its second committee this week. See article below in the CLIPS.

8. **SASC Issues Report on Obstacles to Military Spouse Licensure** – The Senate Armed Services Committee issued a report last week that outlines states support to military spouses with respect to professional licensure. According to the attached report, finding from both the DoD and the National Governors Association saw “inherent delays resulting from State-specific requirements and occupational board review of the substantial equivalency of the applicant’s current license as potential obstacles. Resolving delays can come from expediting the State processes (through endorsement, temporary licenses, and expedited application processes), exempting military spouses from state requirements, or developing interstate processes such as occupation-specific interstate compacts. Forty-seven States have attempted expediting licensing for military spouses, 3 States have exempted military spouses from State requirements, and 35 States have approved 1 or more occupation-specific interstate compacts that support military spouses.” Florida program noted on page 10-11. See attached report for details.

9. **Florida Defense Exchange** – Florida moving forward rapidly on creating the Florida Defense Exchange – focused on helping small businesses compete for defense contracts. This is an EFI initiative working with DEO. The Simple Vue out of Atlanta has already begun work putting together a plan for this exchange. We have included partners from the Florida Defense Contractors Association and the SBDC and PTAC to ensure this portal is user friendly. This is the same company that set up the Georgia Defense Exchange over a year ago. Funding for this interactive portal was provided by DOD. This exchange is intended to assist small businesses compete for Federal defense contracts in Florida. We expect this exchange to be up and running by the end of August.
10. Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit – The Florida Chamber has just announced that their annual Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit to be held in Jacksonville on August 13-14, 2019. More details available at: https://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

11. Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed – 2019 Session is underway. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status.
   - **HB 8031 Hidden Heroes** (Ponder)
     Hidden Heroes: Recognizes Florida's military & veteran caregivers, also known as "Hidden Heroes." Effective Date: Not Specified

12. Attachments:
   - SASC Report on Military Spouse Licensure
   - Military and Veteran Bill Status

_Terry_

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**News Clips of Interest:**

FDSTF

North Carolina may ban wind power near coast, military flights

By: Emery P. Dalesio, The Associated Press, March 29, 2019  
RALEIGH, N.C. – North Carolina could permanently ban big wind-power projects from the most energy intensive parts of the state’s Atlantic coast, but a state senator said Wednesday the move is necessary to prevent hindering military training flights.

Legislation introduced by Republican Sen. Harry Brown would prohibit building, expanding or operating sky-scraping wind turbines within about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the coast. The bill would apply to the area that stretches from the Virginia border to south of the Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base.

"It would have a major impact to the areas of North Carolina with potential for wind energy development," said Brent Summerville, who teaches about wind energy in Appalachian State University's sustainable technology program.

Brown said he's trying to keep high structures out of current or future flight paths around the state's major military bases, a Coast Guard helicopter installation, and the coastal bombing range where Air Force from a base in Goldsboro and Navy pilots from Virginia Beach, Virginia, practice missions day and night.

If there's a conflict between a nascent wind power industry and the tens of thousands of jobs tied to the military in Eastern North Carolina, "I think you do need to make choices," said Brown, whose district includes Camp Lejeune….

Military lease relief bill gets nod

By Scott Powers on April 3, 2019

A bill that would give active-duty service members a break in signing leases and provide other support for assignments in Florida got rousing approval in the Florida House Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space on Wednesday.

Similar bills have been shot down in the past couple of years because they, like HB 620, would require landlords to waive first-and-last month deposits for members of the military and their families who’ve just been transferred in, and opponents have charged that is taking away property owners’ rights.

But on Wednesday, the HB 620’s sponsor Republican Sen. Doug Broxson of Gulf Breeze made an impassioned argument that military members and their families are sacrificing much and deserve breaks, especially in Florida’s hyper-heated rentals market.

Affordable housing is hard for anyone to come by in many communities, notably in South Florida.

“Here’s the reality: rents in South Florida are very, very challenging,” Broxson said. “One, frankly there is not enough rental property. So the landlords are in a very favorable position that they can basically name the terms that they want to, to make sure they not only lose rents but the type of tenant that they have.”

Space Command

Colorado is front-runner for Space Command home

By Paul Brinkmann, MARCH 29, 2019 / 10:13 AM
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., March 29 (UPI) – The new branch of the military dedicated to space is likely to be based in Colorado, at least temporarily, according to experts and an industry advocate in Florida.

The new Space Command, the Department of Defense has said, "would focus on conducting all joint space warfighting operations and ensuring the combat readiness of global forces." It also would accelerate U.S. space capabilities to address threats to U.S. satellites and other assets while deterring enemies.

Beside Colorado, other states seeking the new space military operation include California, which has the largest aerospace economy, and Florida, which has Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station launch sites. Politicians in Texas, Louisiana, Virginia and Alabama also have pitched locations in their states, according to news reports.

Space Command could become a part of Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, which is the home of the U.S. Air Force Space Command. But that is not to be confused with the proposed Space Force or even the U.S. Space Command, which is currently being re-established.

The Air Force Space Command, which was formed in 1982, consists of more than 26,000 space professionals, supports U.S. military operations worldwide through the use of many different types of space operations, including the 45th Space Wing at Cape Canaveral and the 30th Space Wing at Vandenburg Air Force Base, which coordinate rocket launch activities.

Colorado took the driver's seat in the quest to host the new Space Command entity Tuesday when Trump nominated Gen. John W. "Jay" Raymond to be the head of the U.S. Space Command. As the current head of the Air Force's Space Command, Raymond is based at Peterson…..

Military space gets big boost in Pentagon’s $750 billion budget plan

by Sandra Erwin — March 31, 2019


Pentagon officials hailed the Trump administration’s plan to spend $14.1 billion on national security space programs in 2020 as a bold but necessary move to preserve and strengthen U.S. military dominance.

The nearly 20 percent increase in military space spending sought by the Trump administration comes as the White House and the Pentagon prepare to stand up a new Space Development Agency, reestablish U.S. Space Command and plead their case to Congress for establishing a new Space Force within the Department of the Air Force.

“Future wars will be waged not just in the air, on the land or at sea but also in space and cyberspace, dramatically increasing the complexity of warfare,” David Norquist, acting deputy secretary of defense, told reporters following the rollout of the Pentagon’s budget March 12.

Norquist said budget priorities were shaped by the administration’s National Defense Strategy, which emphasizes strategic competition with China and Russia. The space investments, he said, support the military’s transition to a more resilient architecture that allows forces to operate in a contested environment…..
Space Florida mounting an aggressive campaign to get Space Command headquarters

Chabeli Herrera, Contact Reporter, Orlando Sentinel, 4-1-2019

Space Florida is mounting a full-court press campaign to bring the headquarters of the United States’ 11th combatant command, Space Command, to Florida.

At its board meeting Monday in Tallahassee, the state’s spaceport authority discussed the communications and tactical campaigns it has organized to try to get Space Command, a unified branch that would help provide more effective command on space operations across military branches.

The board’s new chair, Lt. Gov. Jeanette Núñez, stressed that the effort is “front and center” for the state, as Florida competes with Colorado, California, Alabama, New Mexico, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and Virginia for the headquarters.

“The governor is not shy in utilizing his relationship with the president and the administration to make sure Florida is named the home to Space Command,” Núñez said, citing President Donald Trump’s close relationship with Gov. Ron DeSantis. Trump endorsed DeSantis in the 2018 election.

In February, DeSantis sent a letter to Trump requesting that the Space Command be based at Kennedy Space Center, calling it “a logical fit for our state.”

To clinch the headquarters, Space Florida is working in Washington, D.C., to try to determine what the Pentagon is envisioning for Space Command. In its fiscal year 2020 budget, the Pentagon is requesting nearly $84 million to establish the unit….

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

Group pushes to expand offshore drilling—including off Florida’s coast

By Ryan Nicol on April 2, 2019

Florida voters may have spoken out against offshore drilling in 2018. But Explore Offshore, a group created by the American Petroleum Institute (API), is pushing to expand the practice throughout U.S. waters, including in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic.

Explore Offshore has set up a bipartisan leadership team consisting of former U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson and Democratic former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia. Nicholson also is a former Republican Party head.

Nicholson recently joined David Mica, executive director of the API’s Florida Petroleum Council, to pitch the push at a gathering of the National Federation of Independent Business in Tallahassee.

The voter-approved Amendment 9 banned offshore drilling in state waters, which extend 3 to 10 miles off Florida’s coast, depending on the location.

In a conversation with Florida Politics, Nicholson and Mica say they’re looking well beyond that range in their proposal to drill offshore…..
Top Republican on climate subcommittee supports offshore drilling despite bipartisan outcry

E.A. CRUNDEN, APR 2, 2019, 3:15 PM

The top Republican on the House subcommittee devoted to climate change offered a strident defense of offshore drilling during a hearing on Tuesday despite significant bipartisan opposition to the issue. His comments come as Republicans struggle to find their footing on climate change and offer a plan of their own to answer growing calls for action.

Lawmakers and local community leaders spoke out during the hearing on three separate bills seeking to limit or block offshore drilling in Pacific and Atlantic waters. In early 2018, President Donald Trump announced plans to open up virtually all U.S. waters to offshore drilling.

The hearing highlighted the bipartisan opposition to offshore drilling shared by states on those coasts, with lawmakers from South Carolina and Florida among those railing against the Trump administration’s ambitions. But Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA), the top Republican on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, had heated words for his peers in the room.

“This has largely been a fact-less discussion,” the Gulf Coast Republican declared midway through the hearing, arguing that lawmakers “have to make decisions based on facts.”

His comments ran counter to much of the testimony offered in the hearing, which came largely from offshore drilling opponents. The three bills being discussed would respectively extend a moratorium on drilling in parts of the Gulf of Mexico, block Atlantic seismic drilling permits, and prohibit offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.....

Georgia passes anti-drilling resolution

By Mary Landers, Posted Apr 2, 2019 at 5:11 PM, Updated Apr 2, 2019 at 5:11 PM

The Georgia House of Representatives passed an anti-offshore drilling resolution Tuesday, the final day of the legislative session.

House Resolution 48, sponsored by a bipartisan group of coastal representatives, recovered from several setbacks to make it to the floor vote, where Savannah Democrat Rep. Carl Gilliard and St. Simons Republican Rep. Don Hogan both urged its passage.

“It’s a resolution that simply states we are against offshore drilling,” said Gilliard, describing the coastal delegation as unanimous and united in its effort.

“More than 200 towns and cities along the Atlantic coast have passed official resolutions against Atlantic offshore drilling and testing, including Savannah, St. Simons, Brunswick, Kingsland, Hinesville, Porterdale, Richmond Hill, Tybee and Midway, as well as the city of Atlanta,” Hogan said.

The resolution rejects both offshore drilling and the seismic airgun testing needed for oil exploration off the Georgia coast. It couches its opposition in terms of the need to protect Georgia’s fishing and coastal tourism industries, extensive salt marsh and marine mammals that would be at risk from seismic testing, oil infrastructure or a spill. The Trump administration announced in early 2018 it was moving forward
with plans to explore for oil and drill off the Atlantic coast. Exploration could begin as early as later this year…..

**Fla. Republican could oppose Bernhardt over offshore drilling**

Kellie Lunney, E&E News reporter, Published: Wednesday, April 3, 2019
https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2019/04/03/stories/1060140995

Florida Republican Sen. Rick Scott will have a "difficult time" voting to confirm David Bernhardt as Interior secretary if the Sunshine State is included in White House plans to open up more than 90% of the outer continental shelf to offshore drilling, he told reporters yesterday.

Scott met with the acting secretary early yesterday afternoon. The former Florida governor said he planned to ask Bernhardt directly about the state's status.

"What's important to me is we continue what [former] Secretary [Ryan] Zinke committed to me, which is Florida is off the table for offshore drilling," he said right before his meeting with Bernhardt.

Whether his message made any headway is unclear.

Reporters caught up with Scott again soon after his chat with Bernhardt. "I'm going to keep working with the White House," Scott said when asked whether Bernhardt gave him a straight answer on whether Florida was in or out of the offshore drilling proposal.

But Scott indicated that since Bernhardt was Zinke's deputy, he would likely share the former secretary's view on the matter.

"I told him the importance of it, and you know I'd already worked with him before when he worked for Secretary Zinke," the Florida Republican said.

An Interior spokeswoman did not directly respond to questions about the meeting with Scott, what was discussed or whether Florida remains under consideration in the administration's five-year offshore drilling plan…..

**Offshore drilling banned in Oregon**

Northeast Coast Citizen.com - April 3, 2019

Democratic Governor Kate Brown recently signed Senate Bill 256, indefinitely extending Oregon’s moratorium on offshore oil drilling in state marine waters (0 to 3 miles from shore) and prohibiting activities or new infrastructure that would support oil drilling in federal waters offshore Oregon (3 to 200 miles from shore).

Introduced by lead authors State Reps. David Gomberg (D-Central Coast) and David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford), and State Senator Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), the bi-partisan legislation was widely supported in the House and Senate.

The new law takes effect Jan. 1, 2020 and puts into action Brown’s Executive Order 18-28 that made it the official policy of the state of Oregon to oppose offshore oil drilling…..
US House bills aim to thwart Trump administration’s offshore agenda

By Nick Snow, 04/03/2019

Preserving coastal US states and communities’ vibrant recreation and commercial fishing economies is more important than increasing US offshore oil and gas exploration and development, sponsors of three bills and witnesses told a House Natural Resources Committee subcommittee on Apr. 2.

“The Trump administration couldn’t care less about coastal communities and has decided to risk the livelihoods of millions to further pad the pockets of a handful of oil and gas industry executives,” Energy and Minerals Subcommittee Chairman Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.) observed in his opening statement.

Noting that the US Department of the Interior is considering opening more than 90% of the US Outer Continental Shelf to oil and gas activity in its next 5-year leasing plan, he said that President Donald Trump “wants to satisfy Big Oil’s insatiable appetite with 1.6 billion acres of America’s oceans, all the while rolling back the safety and environmental protections which were developed in response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster.”

Lowenthal said, “I have news for the president: Americans have zero interest in handing more of our oceans over to oil and gas corporations. The inevitable spills and the variety of onshore and offshore impacts from oil and gas drilling have no place along our East and West coasts, or in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.”

The subcommittee’s ranking minority member, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.), noted in his opening statement that the measures all were intended “to stymie offshore energy production” on the US OCS.

The three bills the subcommittee considered were:

• **H.R. 1941**, introduced by Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC) on Mar. 28, would amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to keep the US Interior secretary from authorizing additional oil and gas activity on the OCS off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.
• **H.R. 1149**, introduced by Rep. Jefferson Van Drew (D-NJ) on Feb. 11, would keep the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management from issuing geological and geophysical permits to five offshore contractors wanting to conduct the first oil and gas seismic surveys off the East Coast since the 1980s.

Cunningham told the subcommittee that his bill has strong bipartisan support. “We often hear from the oil and gas industry that large spills are not common. I’ve said this before and I’ll say it again: There is no such thing as a small oil spill. When you drill, you spill. Nobody can truthfully look this committee in the eye and say that there will be no spills if we drill off our coasts,” he said.

**Military Housing**

Navy conducting survey to address privatized housing issues
By Ashley Harding - Reporter, Crystal Chen - Posted: 6:47 AM, April 02, 2019Updated: 6:47 AM, April 02, 2019

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The Navy has ordered a one-month survey to find out how sailors and their families feel about living in privatized housing.

This comes after a recent national report found more than half of those living in privatized housing were not satisfied.

The report found widespread complaints from all branches of the military. According to the Military Family Advisory Network, many families are living in “dangerous situations”, with reports of black mold, lead paint, faulty wiring and pest problems in their home.

The Navy has promised to fix those problems and it wants to hear from sailors all over - including those in Jacksonville.

At Naval Station Mayport, the military has partnered with a private company to offer homes and amenities. These partnerships will go under the microscope after concerns outlined in the report about privatized housing across the country.

The Military Family Advisory Network surveyed 16,000 service members from all branches and found:

- 55 percent had a negative or very negative opinion of privatized housing.
- Those surveyed described a number of issues, from black mold to termites.
- Some said their requests to fix the issues were denied or ignored.

Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer addressed those frustrations during a Senate hearing in February..

NAS Pensacola

Blue Angels practices, tall ship Elcano tours make for busy week at NAS Pensacola

Melissa Nelson Gabriel, Pensacola News Journal, Published 12:34 p.m. CT April 1, 2019

Naval Air Station Pensacola is ready for an unusually busy week as the Blue Angels start their popular practice demonstrations and the base hosts the Spanish tall ship Juan Sebastian de Elcano.

The Blue Angels are scheduled to fly at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday. The practices should bring thousands of visitors to the flight line viewing area behind the National Naval Aviation Museum.

The elite Navy and Marine aviators on the 2019 Blue Angels team will sign autographs inside the museum after Wednesday's practice.

Also starting Tuesday and continuing Wednesday, the Elcano will be open for public tours from 1 p.m. through 6:30 p.m. The ship, which is a training vessel for the Spanish Royal Navy, is docked at the base's pier. A final day of tours is scheduled from 3 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday…..
Blue Angels announce new commanding officer for 2020 and 2021 seasons

Melissa Nelson Gabriel, Published 6:40 p.m. CT April 2, 2019 | Updated 7:35 p.m. CT April 2, 2019

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels announced Cmdr. Brian Kesselring as the team's flight leader and commanding officer for the 2020 and 2021 show seasons on Tuesday.

Kesselring will replace current Blue Angels commanding officer Capt. Eric Doyle in November when the 2019 show season ends. He will lead the team during its 75th anniversary season in 2021 and will likely oversee the historic transition from flying the F/A-18 Hornet to the Super Hornet.

The Navy expects the change to happen in 2021. It will mark the first time in 35 years the Blue Angels have changed aircraft.

Kesselring, a Fargo, North Dakota native, said he was looking forward to seeing the team through 2021. "This seems surreal," said Kesselring, who recalled being at Naval Air Station Pensacola as a young officer.

Kesselring was selected from a field of four finalists for the Blue Angels' commanding officer post. The candidates interviewed before a panel of nine current and former Navy leaders. The panel included admirals and former Blue Angel commanding officers…..

NAS Whiting Field

Capt. Doug Rosa takes command of Training Air Wing Five at Whiting Field

Julie Ziegenhorn, Public Affairs Officer at Whiting Field, Published 9:00 a.m. CT March 30, 2019

U.S. Navy Capt. Doug Rosa took command of Training Air Wing Five last month in a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

He assumed the title of commodore for the Navy’s largest aviation training wing. U.S. Marine Corps Col. Dave Morris relinquished command at the event after 18 months as commodore. He will move onto another assignment at the Pentagon.

Rear Adm. Gregory Harris, Chief of Naval Air Training in Corpus Christi, Texas, was the guest speaker for the March 14 ceremony and presented Morris with a Legion of Merit medal for his service at Whiting Field.

Morris served four years as an enlisted Marine until December 1989. In December 1992, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant. Designated as a naval aviator in March 1996, he was assigned to fly the KC-130 aircraft.

Throughout his career, Morris has served with multiple squadrons at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, and Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base in Texas. Morris was assigned to the Blue Angels, flying the C-130 known as Fat Albert for the 2001-2003 air show seasons.
He also served with Second Force Reconnaissance Company and the Marine Corps Special Operations Command at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He commanded Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252 and then attended the Marine Corps War College in Quantico, Virginia, for Top Level School.

Subsequently, he received orders to the Pentagon to serve on the Joint Staff and then on the immediate staff of the Secretary of Defense. In March 2016, Morris began serving as the deputy commodore and then became commodore for Training Air Wing Five in September 2017.

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**Escambia County Celebrates NOLF-8 Land Exchange**

Written by William, April 2, 2019


Escambia County marked the land transfer and future of Naval Outlying Landing Field Site 8 with a ceremony on Monday in Beulah.

County residents received approximately 635 acres of prime property to utilize for improvements in the heart of the growing Beulah community while the Navy received a new training field in Santa Rosa County.

The National Defense Authorization Act in 2015 that authorize the land exchange. In 2016, the land exchange agreement was formalized with the intention to transfer the property at NOLF Site 8 to Escambia County, in exchange for a suitable replacement.

Escambia County purchased land in Santa Rosa County and began construction in 2016 on what is now called OLF-X. Naval Facilities Southeast Region in Jacksonville, Navy Installations Command and Whiting Field coordinated with Escambia County to ensure requirements for the training mission at NAS Whiting Field were met for the new outlying field. On January 29, the deeds were exchanged, finalizing the transfer. NAS Whiting Field opened Naval Outlying Landing Field-X for flight training operations on January 30.

NOLF Site 8 was originally constructed in 1940 as an auxiliary airfield for Pensacola NAS. At approximately 635 acres, Site 8, along with NOLFs Spencer and Pace, was one of the oldest NOLFs still in use until the land transfer with Escambia County in 2019.

Site 8 was initially used as a fixed wing training field. The field had undergone several changes and was temporarily closed in the mid to late 1950s. In 1964, the NOLF was brought back into service as an NOLF to support NAS Whiting Field’s rotary-pilot training mission. The NOLF was used as a primary tactical training asset by TRAWING 5. The field provided facilities to support training in rotary tactics, confined area landings, platform landings, external loads missions, hot refueling and was tentatively studied to support night vision training.

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**Hurlburt Field**

**24th SOW airman earns Silver Star and Bronze Star**

By Jim Thompson, Posted Apr 3, 2019 at 2:30 PM, Updated Apr 3, 2019 at 2:30 PM


**HURLBURT FIELD** – A Silver Star Medal will be presented to an Air Force Special Tactics operator from the Hurlburt-based 24th Special Operations Wing during a 10 a.m. ceremony Tuesday at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum in Pooler, Georgia.
According to a news release from the 24th SOW, Tech. Sgt. Cam Kelsch, an ST tactical air control party operator assigned to the Air Force Special Operations Command’s 17th Special Tactics Squadron, will be awarded the nation’s third highest medal for gallantry against an armed enemy.

The 24th SOW, headquartered at Hurlburt Field, is the sole Special Tactics wing in the Air Force. It provides Special Tactics Airmen for rapid global deployment to enable global access, precision strike and personnel recovery operations.

In addition to the Silver Star, Kelsch also will be presented with a Bronze Star Medal with Valor, according to the news release. Air Force Maj. Gen. Vincent Becklund, deputy commander of Air Force Special Operations Command, will also award Kelsch with the medal.

Kelsch will be honored for helping secure the safety of his joint and partner force members during an operation against a high-value target while serving as a joint terminal attack controller deployed with an Army 75th Ranger Regiment battalion during Operation FREEDOM’S SENTINEL in support of the RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission in Afghanistan.

While under fire from the enemy and with no regard for his own personal safety, Kelsch exposed himself to danger to control airstrikes from an AC-130 gunship within 35 meters of his team’s position. He also coordinated an attack with precision-guided 500-pound bombs from two F-16s and 105mm munitions from an AC-130.

Additionally, Kelsch exposed himself to enemy fire while dragging a wounded American teammate to safety. Kelsch was hit by hostile fire but continued to control strikes to neutralize the enemy.

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Eglin AFB

Eglin AFB partnering with FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

By special to Gate, House Florida, Posted Apr 1, 2019 at 11:23 AM, Updated Apr 1, 2019 at 11:23 AM

EGLIN AFB – The FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and researchers and engineers from Eglin Air Force Base recently celebrated the beginning of a new partnership Monday to train undergraduate students in areas critical to the U.S. Air Force, according to a news release from Florida A&M University.

According to the release, the Air Force Research Laboratory at Eglin will fund a $400,000 grant to create the Air Force Research Laboratory Scholars program at the College of Engineering. The program will bring students into the lab environment where they can directly benefit from working with faculty researchers on Air Force-related research.

“This is a great partnership from our standpoint because it provides unique research opportunities for our students and faculty,” Murray Gibson, dean of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, said in the news release. “We are delighted that AFRL recognizes the value of our unique shared college as a source of highly trained and diverse engineers.”

While the AFRL has supported research at the college in the past, it will now expand research and training opportunities for students at two unique FSU centers that house several engineering faculty members.

The Florida Center for Advanced Aero-Propulsion includes polystere wind tunnel facilities that are critical to new research for aircraft technology. The High-Performance Materials Institute allows faculty
to experiment with high-tech, next-generation materials that could be used in a variety of different ways.

**Tyndall AFB**

**Bay County Plans to Send Letters of Support for Tyndall Air Force Base**

By: Kayla Tucker, Posted: Apr 02, 2019 07:38 PM EDT, Updated: Apr 02, 2019 07:39 PM EDT


BAY COUNTY, Fla. – As leaders in Washington continue to debate on disaster funding, Tyndall Air Force Base and its future remain in question.

Government and Air Force funding will be vital for the rebuild of the base and vital for the rebuild of Bay County.

Congressman Neal Dunn continues to fight for the needed money and on Tuesday, local commissioners say, they're going to help Dunn in the battle.

At Tuesday morning's Bay County Commission meeting, the board agreed to write a letter in support of the congressman and the base, hopefully showing those in Washington how important Tyndall is to our community.

Commissioner Robert Carroll said, "we have to have Tyndall. Some how, some way, they're going to have to figure out their budget to find those dollars because we're not talking 10s, thousands, hundreds, millions, we're talking billions. It's critical to have it. We have to have it. They'll figure out a way. I'm positive of that. If we have to all go fly to D.C., we'll do the same as we're doing in Tallahassee right now."

Carroll says they have also asked city officials to write their own letter of support to send to Congressman Dunn.

**Gov. DeSantis: Quit playing politics and pass Hurricane Michael disaster relief**

By Patrick McCreless, Posted Apr 3, 2019 at 5:43 PM, Updated Apr 3, 2019 at 5:43 PM


CALLAWAY – Gov. Ron DeSantis called on federal lawmakers to stop playing politics and pass Hurricane Michael disaster relief during a visit to Bay County on Wednesday.

DeSantis said the legislation would provide fire mitigation money to help prevent more wildfires like the one that has torched 668 acres in the Sandy Creek area since Saturday. DeSantis’ call for relief came a day after Senate Democrats blocked the Republican’s disaster aid bill, saying it needed more money for hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.

“There’s a package that’s been pending in Congress for a long time ... they need to stop playing politics,” DeSantis said.
DeSantis said if the package passed, billions of dollars would be available, including money for fire mitigation resources through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

**FL National Guard / Camp Blanding**

**NEW NATIONAL GUARD LEADER NAMED AMID PROBE**

By Jim Turner, 4-2-2019

https://newserviceflorida.com/trial/index.cfm?CFID=1403022&CFTOKEN=2735b6db41e9314a-DE4C0EB7-E06A-275A-F05FE80092200629

TALLAHASSEE – Maj. Gen. James Eifert was named Tuesday to take command of the Florida National Guard, which is investigating allegations of sexual misconduct within the ranks that go back a decade.

In announcing Eifert as his appointee, Gov. Ron DeSantis said if the allegations reported by the Tampa Bay Times are factual, Eifert is “the guy that’s going to clean it up.”

As part of the federal National Guard Bureau, Eifert is currently the Air National Guard assistant to the commander, Pacific Air Forces, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Before his March 2017 appointment to that post, he spent two decades in Florida, the final four years as an assistant adjutant general in St. Augustine. He also was the commander of the 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville.

**New National Guard leader appointed amid probe**

By News Service Of Florida on April 2, 2019


Maj. Gen. James Eifert was named Tuesday to take command of the Florida National Guard, which is investigating allegations of sexual misconduct within the ranks that go back a decade.

In announcing Eifert as his appointee, Gov. Ron DeSantis said if the allegations reported by the Tampa Bay Times are factual, Eifert is “the guy that’s going to clean it up.”

As part of the federal National Guard Bureau, Eifert is currently the Air National Guard assistant to the commander, Pacific Air Forces, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Before his March 2017 appointment to that post, he spent two decades in Florida, the final four years as an assistant adjutant general in St. Augustine. He also was the commander of the 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville.

As DeSantis’ adjutant general, Eifert will replace Maj. Gen. Michael Calhoun, who is retiring from leading the 12,000 airmen, soldiers and civilians who make up the Florida Guard. The change of command will occur Saturday at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Clay County.

**Maj. Gen. Michael Calhoun retires with more than 36-years of military service**
Historic City News readers are invited to attend Florida National Guard change of command ceremony at Camp Blanding this Saturday morning when Maj. Gen. James Eifert will assume command from Maj. Gen. Michael Calhoun.

The morning events will also include a Formation of the Command, Presentation of Honors, and Inspection of Troops. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is scheduled to officiate the Change of Command ceremony between Calhoun and Eifert.

The colors representing nearly 12,000 Soldiers and Airmen of the Florida National Guard and Department of Military Affairs will be passed from Maj. Gen. Calhoun to Maj. Gen. Eifert as he assumes command.

The event will also serve as a retirement ceremony for Maj. Gen. Calhoun, who will retire after more than 36-years of military service; including four years as the Adjutant General of Florida and Commander of the Florida National Guard. The Commander is based at the State Headquarters in St Augustine.

NS Mayport

$17 million parking garage coming to Mayport Naval Station

By Roxy Tyler - Posted: 10:13 AM, March 29, 2019Updated: 10:13 AM, March 29, 2019

MAYPORT, Fla. - Since Naval Station Mayport is becoming home to several Littoral Combat Ships, it's also being awarded a $17 million parking garage to support the LCS program, which includes an LCS Operational Trainer Facility (LTF).

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast awarded the contract to Archer Western Construction, LLC, in Chicago.

"The LTF provides innovative, immersive, virtual reality training for LCS crews which allow them to be better prepared for the operational scenarios they will encounter at sea," said Commander Littoral Combat Ship Squadron Two Capt. Shawn Johnston. "It is not surprising that many other ship classes will begin to utilize similar high fidelity simulators. This increased LCS training capacity will allow the 14 LCS expected to call Mayport home."

LCS crew training is based on a virtual ship-centric concept, accomplished through a combination of classroom instruction, vendor training, shore-based trainers and sophisticated virtual reality training systems. The LTF will provide LCS crews with the necessary training and certifications they require prior to deployment.

NS Mayport is expected to receive a total of 14 LCS to the base. The parking facility will accommodate the increase in personnel and crew required to support the ships.

The work to be performed provides for the design and construction of a five-story, 1,355-vehicle structured parking facility.....
ANOTHER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT SECURED FOR NAVAL STATION MAYPORT

By: Stephanie Brown @SBrownReports, March 29, 2019 4:50 PM

Jacksonville, FL – One of the Naval Station Mayport projects listed on the Department of Defense’s inventory of military construction projects that could be tapped to fund President Trump’s National Emergency declaration, is now partially secure.

That project overall is $82.3 million for a Littoral Combat Ship Support Facility, which consists of a large administrative building and a parking garage. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southeast now says that $17 million garage is officially under contract. They previously told WOKV they’re hoping to have the rest committed before September.

The garage and future administrative building are intended to support the growing LCS program at Mayport, which serves as a hub for one design of the ship. The Navy says the base is expected to get 14 of these ships overall, although that number was higher in past years. The parking garage will be five stories and will include 1,355 spaces. It’s slated to be complete by April 2021.

There are no details currently available on the timing for the other Mayport project listed by the DOD, which is a $75 million Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, which would modernize and improve the base’s ability to treat wastewater. Solicitation for that contract is ongoing, according to NAVFAC Southeast.

The DOD list is a complete look at every military construction project that could be eliminated, reduced, or otherwise altered in order to find the funding to support the President’s National Emergency declaration for border security. In issuing that list, however, the DOD said it would look at projects that had not already been awarded and are not expected to be awarded this fiscal year. That indicates not only that the parking garage is now safe, but that the administrative building should be as well, as long as the timing for the contract award holds.

NAS Jacksonville

Dozens of families reunite at NAS Jax after 6-month deployment

By Crystal Moyer and Roxy Tyler, Posted: 5:50 PM, April 02, 2019 Updated: 7:06 PM, April 02, 2019

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The planes soared onto the runways at Naval Air Station Jacksonville on Tuesday, bringing 42 military men and women home to the waiting arms of their families and friends after a six-month deployment.

Squadron VP-26 Tridents flew in to see a waiting crowd of loved ones, Some sailors had become fathers while deployed.

Ariella Butts was born while her father was serving his country. Her mother, Mercede, said, was waiting on the tarmac with a "welcome home" sign.
"It was hard at first, but with the support system, it was easy," Mercede Butts said. "It's great. It's unbelievable."

Ariella met her father for the first time on Wednesday.

John Fruge's wife was returning, too.

"The struggle is real. It's been about six months and it's been a learning experience, learning to do hair," Fruge said.

While families struggled at home to get along without their loved ones for half a year, the crew was busy breaking new ground in the air.

Squadron VP-26 performed the first-ever air-to-air refueling in Europe….

**'War Eagles' return to Jacksonville after 6-month deployment**

By Allyson Henning – Reporter, Posted: 6:58 PM, April 04, 2019Updated: 7:02 PM, April 04, 2019

https://www.news4jax.com/positively-jax/war-eagles-return-to-jacksonville-after-6-month-deployment

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** – The “War Eagles” of Patrol Squadron 16 returned home to Jacksonville on Thursday after a highly successful six-month deployment overseas.

VP-16 worked countless missions across more than a dozen countries. There was a large focus on anti-narcotic missions.

"They have made it look great. They’ve made it look easy," said Cmdr. Mike Bukolt, executive officer of VP-16. "For all of these drug busts and 37,000 kilograms of cocaine that are no longer coming to American soil, it’s really outstanding -- $2.5 billion worth."

Families at Naval Air Station Jacksonville waited patiently for their loved ones to land back on United States soil. In that six-month time frame, a lot has changed back home. Shahnta Hoare gave birth to her first son, Jaxon. On Thursday afternoon, the 3-month-old met his father for the very first time.

"It was crazy. I wasn’t expecting it at first. It was weird seeing my wife with a baby. I was like, 'Who is this lady?'" said Tyler Hoare, E4. "But it’s awesome coming home to this. There’s no better feeling in the world."

Nine other sailors came home safe as new fathers…..

**US Special Operations Command**

**Major changes coming to US special operations forces**

by Stavros Atlamazoglou - 4-2-2019

https://thenewsrep.com/115927/major-changes-coming-to-us-special-operations-forces/

The winds of change are blowing through the United States’ Special Operations Forces (SOF) as lawmakers debate significant changes to the mandate of the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

According to a March 2019 report by the Congressional Research Service, USSOCOM is trying to pass an amendment to the Unified Command Plan that would greatly increase its capacity to function as a
combatant command. USSOCOM is responsible for organizing, training, and equipping its Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOCs), allocated by their regions:

- Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR)
- Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA)
- Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT)
- Special Operations Command Korea (SOCKOR)
- Special Operations Command North (SOCNORTH)
- Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC)
- Special Operations Command South (SOCSOUTH)

Currently, the geographic combatant commands maintain operational control over the TSOCs. They regulate all U.S. military operations in specific regions of the world. For instance, Central Command controls operations in the Middle East. So while USSOCOM is responsible for providing equipment and training to a 5th Special Forces Group Operational Detachment Alpha, which is a 12-man team of Green Berets, Central Command has operational control over it once it deploys somewhere in its area of operations.

Now USSOCOM is lobbying for the ability to synchronize, coordinate, deploy and, more importantly, employ SOF units around the world. It would still have to notify the geographic combatant commanders and other U.S. agencies that might be affected, but the change in its mandate would be significant. Essentially, USSOCOM would be able to deploy and direct SOF teams around the world more easily and with less scrutiny from conventional commanders. This might allow for more flexible and effective deployments.

This desire for change emerged from the USSOCOM’s current inability to effectively prevent looming threats, foster relationships with partner nations, and counter threat networks……

**Cape Canaveral AFS**

**Air Force still expecting more than 30 rocket launches this year from Florida**

Antonia Jaramillo, Florida TodayPublished 12:57 p.m. ET March 29, 2019 | Updated 1:19 p.m. ET March 29, 2019

Three rocket launches down for the Space Coast, only 29 more to go. Or at least, that's what the Air Force hopes to achieve before the year is up.

After 24 successful launches in 2018, the 45th Space Wing — which manages the Eastern Range, including Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station — expects to have 32 launches this year, bringing them closer to reaching their goal of 48 launches a year.

"Our drive is to go to 48. That's our ability to launch a rocket every week," 45th Space Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Doug Schiess said for the Air Force's State of the Installation event at the Tides Collocated Club on Friday.

SpaceX, which has already seen three launches this year, including two from Florida, is targeting 18 for 2019 — three less than last year….

**Patrick AFB**
45th SW inaugural State of the Installation
By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Satran, 45th Space Wing Public Affairs / Published March 29, 2019


Schiess hosted approximately 70 community partners and several mission partners including NASA, the 920th Rescue Wing, Naval Ordnance Testing Unit, Air Force Technical Applications Center and the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. He highlighted the 2018 year in review, upcoming launches and missions, economic impact to the community, infrastructure improvements and concluded with a Q & A session.

The event shed light on the working relationships on the installation and building relationships within the community.

“We are committed to 100% mission success making sure that we can launch rockets to provide satellites not only for our warfighters but for our nation,” Schiess said.

Schiess talked about projects on Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station that are being upgraded or built. He mentioned several facility renovations such as the Pharmacy and also new construction happening for Space and mission industry partners.

“We have commercial launch providers to be able to do our mission and all the members who are a part of that mission are a part of the community and maintaining those relationships is one of the most important things to me.” Schiess said.

Schiess closed the event by emphasizing the importance of family and being a part of the community. He expressed his admiration for all the help the community has brought to Airmen and their families and thanked the audience for supporting the installation and its mission.

45th Security Forces Upgrades Training, Resources, Morale During ‘Year of the Defender’
By Tech. Sgt. Andrew Satran, 45th Space Wing Public Affairs office // April 1, 2019

BREVARD COUNTY • PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA – To be a lethal fighting force, a few things must happen. Airmen must be equipped with the proper tools, know how to use them and operate as a team.

This is the initiative and this is the “Year of the Defender.”

Coined by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, the Year of the Defender initiative is to increase Security Forces Defenders readiness and resiliency. This initiative cements base security being a top priority for all installations across the Air Force.

At the 45th Security Forces Squadron, several upgrades with training, resources and infrastructure are happening now and will occur throughout the year to meet requirements to get our Defenders ready for the fight.
Sounds like a lot to tackle, however, Lt. Col. Timothy McCarty, 45th Security Forces Squadron commander, has both a plan to execute and a great team to implement…..

**Education**

**UWF office helps veterans, active-duty troops, dependents navigate college**

By Jim Thompson, Posted Mar 31, 2019 at 2:25 PM, Updated Mar 31, 2019 at 2:25 PM


**FORT WALTON BEACH** – Technically, it’s the Military and Veterans Resource Center. Practically, though, the offices and study spaces on the second floor of Building 4 at the University of West Florida’s Emerald Coast campus are a haven for active-duty military personnel, veterans and dependents navigating the decisions, paperwork and other challenges of beginning, or continuing, a collegiate career.

Even a partial list of the resource center’s services — the cost of which, for participating students, is covered by tuition — is impressive. The office assists with initial inquiries about admission, works with people during the admissions process and registration, helps students navigate tuition assistance programs like the GI Bill, finds tutors and provides a writing lab. Beyond that, the center can reach beyond the campus to find social service and other agencies for students who may need assistance not available on campus.

“We try to get them whatever they need,” said Deborah Cluff, longtime coordinator of the Military and Veterans Resource Center at the Emerald Coast campus. “I may be just one in the office, but there’s a wide array of resources for me to reach out to for my students.”

And for Cluff, who comes from a military family, “whatever they need” means just that. Working with the MVRC at UWF’s main campus in Pensacola, she takes seriously the center’s stated commitment to provide “concierge-level” services to veterans, active-duty personnel and military dependents, to the point that she just naturally calls them “my students.”

As just one example of the level of service Cluff provides to her students, consider the active-duty military student deployed to Afghanistan while at UWF Emerald Coast…..

**Energy**

**North Carolina may ban wind power near coast, military flights**

By: Emery P. Dalesio, The Associated Press, March 29, 2019


**RALEIGH, N.C.** – North Carolina could permanently ban big wind-power projects from the most energy intensive parts of the state’s Atlantic coast, but a state senator said Wednesday the move is necessary to prevent hindering military training flights.
Legislation introduced by Republican Sen. Harry Brown would prohibit building, expanding or operating sky-scraping wind turbines within about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the coast. The bill would apply to the area that stretches from the Virginia border to south of the Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base.

"It would have a major impact to the areas of North Carolina with potential for wind energy development," said Brent Summerville, who teaches about wind energy in Appalachian State University's sustainable technology program.

Brown said he's trying to keep high structures out of current or future flight paths around the state's major military bases, a Coast Guard helicopter installation, and the coastal bombing range where Air Force from a base in Goldsboro and Navy pilots from Virginia Beach, Virginia, practice missions day and night.

If there's a conflict between a nascent wind power industry and the tens of thousands of jobs tied to the military in Eastern North Carolina, "I think you do need to make choices," said Brown, whose district includes Camp Lejeune. . . .

Defense Industry

99 House lawmakers push for more F-35s

By: Joe Gould, 4-1-2019

WASHINGTON – With Lockheed’s fifth-generation F-35 and Boeing’s fourth-generation F-15X in a dogfight for budget dollars, a bipartisan group of 99 House lawmakers has called on colleagues to add 24 F-35s over President Donald Trump’s 2020 budget request, for a total of 102.

The Joint Strike Fighter Caucus, on Monday, sent a letter to lead House authorizers and defense appropriators, following an Air Force budget request that proposed buying F-15s after a 20-year hiatus while holding the F-35A buy-rate flat.

Caucus leaders sent the letter arguing their proposed production hike would reduce overall F-35 costs and ensure air dominance as, “adversaries continue to advance surface-to-air missile systems and develop their own stealth fighters.”

“In fact, as global threats continue to rise, the Department of Defense’s (DoD) Fiscal Year 2020 budget request, which includes funding for 78 F-35s (48 F-35As, 10 F-35Bs and 20 F-35Cs) – 15 less than Congress appropriated in Fiscal Year 2019 – leaves the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps with a capability gap that 4th Generation, or legacy, aircraft cannot fulfill,” the letter argues.

“To reach the minimum 50% ratio of 5th Generation and 4th Generation fighters in the timeframe required to meet the threat, the U.S. must acquire F-35s in much larger quantities,” they wrote, adding later: “F-35 modernization is crucial for 4th generation aircraft systems, which are increasingly vulnerable and reliant on 5th generation production.” . . .
The House Joint Strike Fighter Caucus sent a bipartisan letter Monday signed by 99 members to push for an increase in F-35A purchases, following the Air Force’s recent budget request that proposed keeping them at a flat rate, DefenseNews reported.

The letter to defense authorizers and appropriators argued the caucus’s proposed F-35 production hike would reduce overall unit costs and ensure air dominance as “adversaries continue to advance surface-to-air missile systems and develop their own stealth fighters,” DefenseNews noted.

“As global threats continue to rise, the Department of Defense’s (DoD) Fiscal Year 2020 budget request, which includes funding for 78 F-35 models (48 F-35As, 10 F-35Bs and 20 F-35Cs) – 15 less than Congress appropriated in Fiscal Year 2019 – leaves the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps with a capability gap that 4th Generation, or legacy, aircraft cannot fulfill,” the letter argues.

“To reach the minimum 50 percent ratio of 5th generation and 4th generation fighters in the timeframe required to meet the threat, the U.S. must acquire F-35s in much larger quantities,” the letter says. “F-35 modernization is crucial for 4th generation aircraft systems, which are increasingly vulnerable and reliant on 5th generation production.”

F-35s & missiles: 3 local Lockheed divisions get $182M in defense contracts

By Matthew Richardson – Staff writer, Orlando Business Journal, Apr 3, 2019, 4:15pm EDT
https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2019/04/03/f-35s-missiles-3-local-lockheed-divisions-get-182m.html

The world's No. 1 defense contractor just got a lot more work for its branches in Orlando and on Florida's Space Coast.

Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp.(NYSE: LMT) landed three contracts from the U.S. Navy totaling $182.6 million, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Lockheed Martin getting more work in Central Florida is a big deal because often times it spurs the company to not only create new jobs, but maintain and create new supplier partnerships with smaller firms in the area. And firms that partner with Lockheed Martin may create more jobs, too, to handle the demand of work.…

Shareholders overwhelmingly approve merger of high-tech giants Harris, L3 Technologies

Dave Berman, Florida Today, Published 1:37 p.m. ET April 4, 2019 | Updated 6:11 p.m. ET April 4, 2019

Shareholders of high-tech and defense giants Harris Corp. and L3 Technologies Inc. on Thursday overwhelmingly approved the merger of the two companies at their respective special meetings.

The combined company — to be called L3 Harris Technologies Inc. — will be based in Melbourne.

Harris is among Brevard County's largest employers, with about 6,800 local employees.

L3 has a facility on Woody Burke Drive in Melbourne, just around the corner from Harris' headquarters, where about 100 employees develop modems for military communications networks.
The proposed "merger of equals" of Melbourne-based Harris and New York-based L3 was first announced in October. The merger is expected to close in mid-2019, subject to satisfaction of various closing conditions, including receipt of regulatory approvals.

Harris spokesman Jim Burke said among the entities that must give their approval to the merger are the U.S. Department of Justice and the European Union. The U.S. Department of Defense also will review the deal.

**DoD Budget**

**Marco Rubio Backs Donald Trump’s Proposed Defense Budget**

By FLORIDA DAILY, 04.01.19

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has thrown his support behind President Donald Trump’s proposed defense budget.


**Other Of Interest**

**Wilson, Goldfein outline Air Force progress, need for larger force**

By Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs / Published April 02, 2019

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein told lawmakers on two House committees Tuesday that the Air Force must get bigger and funding must be predictable to meet – and defeat – security threats at home, globally and in space in an era of great power competition.

“In Fiscal Year 2020, we will continue to build a more lethal and ready Air Force, while fielding tomorrow’s Air Force faster and smarter,” Wilson and Goldfein said in a joint statement highlighting the themes presented first to the House Armed Services Committee and later in day to the House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.

In both appearances, they cited findings from the independent and bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission to explain the stakes. “Regardless of where the next conflict occurs or which adversary it features, the Air Force will be at the forefront,” the Commission said.

Increasing the number of operational squadrons to 386 from the current 312 is required, they said, to meet requirements in the National Defense Strategy and to “prevail over our highest priority competitors.” The
analysis from which 386 was derived included thousands of simulations and war games “produced an unmistakable conclusion: the Air Force is too small for what our nation needs.”

“It’s no surprise that the Air Force we have is the smaller than the Air Force we need,” Wilson told the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.

Wilson and Goldfein at both hearings also urged Congress to pass a supplemental spending bill that would include funds to repair Tyndall Air Force Base that was heavily damaged by Hurricane Michael in October and Offutt Air Force Base that was submerged last month by 7 feet of water in some places when the Missouri River flooded….

**Fanto inducted into Keyser High Legion of Honor**

By Liz Beavers, Posted Apr 2, 2019 at 3:19 PM  

KEYSER – A plaque bearing the likeness and biography of Lt. Col. Jeffrey Fanto (USAF-Ret.) will soon be among the almost 80 members of the Legion of Honor who are recognized in the front hall of Keyser High School.

Fanto, of Niceville, Florida, was the 2019 inductee into the Legion of Honor, and was the guest of honor Friday at the banquet hosted by the J. Edward Kelley Society.

The Legion of Honor recognizes graduates of Keyser High School who have gone on to distinguish themselves in their chosen careers.

Fanto, fully qualified in five different Air Force specialties and holder of multiple leadership positions in the Air Force, is now a civilian employee of the USAF as the chief of the Portfolio Optimization Branch, Engineering Division, 96th Civil Engineer Group at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida……
Apr 11

Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #73 will be **NEXT Thursday, 18 April 2019**, via Conference Call / WebEx.

2. **Call In Number** –
   
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979  
   Access Code: 1869945

3. **Maine / South Carolina Join Growing List of Eastern States Opposed to Offshore Drilling** – Several eastern states have begun to pushback on the Department of Interior as it moves ahead to increase offshore drilling leases all over the country. As predicted, no one wants oil wells right off their coast due to marred sightlines as well as potential oil spills that create environmental concerns. However, none of these states also have national security concerns like Florida who has failed to make the case that the Gulf of Mexico is different. Although the environment and tourism are crucial to the state, these same concerns are not unique to Florida. The truth is that only our National security concerns and the unique national asset of the Gulf Range which by its protection also shields the environment and ensures our tourism industry is a worthy and different argument. See multiple articles on drilling below in the CLIPs.

4. **Florida Chamber Leading Visit Tyndall AFB and Impacted Sites in Bay, Calhoun and Jackson Counties** – The Florida Chamber of Commerce has set up a program to show support for areas hit hardest by Hurricane Michael 6-months ago. The two day program is scheduled for April 16-17, 2019, through Gulf Coast State College, Panama City. During the visit, speakers will include Jimmy Patronis, Chief Financial Officer, State of Florida; Gwen Graham, Former U. S. Representative; Allan Bense, President/Partner, GAC Contractors and Former Speaker of Florida House; Will Weatherford, Managing Partner, Weatherford Capital and Former Speaker of Florida House; Clay Ingram, CEO, Volunteer Florida; Michael Myhre, CEO & Network State Director, Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC); Bryan Taylor, President, United Way of Northwest Florida; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Center for Corporate Citizenship; and other businesses, agencies and organizations. For more information or to register, go to [https://www.flchamber.com/florida-chamber-foundations-hurricane-michael-site-visit/](https://www.flchamber.com/florida-chamber-foundations-hurricane-michael-site-visit/)

5. **Governor Signs Extension of Interstate Compact** – This week, the Governor signed SB21 which extends Military Interstate Children’s Compact till 2022. The Compact deals with the challenges of military children and their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment as military children transfer between school districts in member states.

6. **Military Friendly Bill Moves Through Second Senate Committee** – SB 620 by Senator Doug Broxson passed favorably through its second committee stop on Tuesday, April 10th. The bill has one more stop before it goes to conference with HB 891 (Rep Ponder) which is similar but does not include all of the provisions. HB 891 is waiting hearing in the House State Affairs Committee likely next week.

7. **Florida Senate Committee Passes a Resolution to Protect the Gulf Range** – For the second year in a row the Florida Senate is moving on a resolution supporting a permanent extension to the moratorium on Oil and Gas Exploration in the eastern Gulf of Mexico to
8. Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed – 2019 Session is underway. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.florsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status.
- No new bills filed this week
9. Attachments:
- Mil-Vet Friendly Legislation Status

Terry McCaffrey
Executive Director
Florida Defense Support Task Force

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EMAIL tmccaffrey@enterpriseflorida.com

News Clips of Interest:

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

Explore Offshore visits Pensacola to build support for offshore oil industry

Kevin Robinson, Pensacola News Journal, Published 6:00 a.m. CT April 5, 2019

Citing a need for "energy independence," President Donald Trump's administration has released a draft of a five-year plan that is expected to open up new areas of the U.S. coastline to offshore oil exploration and drilling.

It's a notion that has been unpopular in many tourism-dependent coastal states, and is particularly incendiary here in Pensacola, which took the brunt of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Still, representatives of the American Petroleum Institute visited Pensacola on Thursday to start drumming up support for a Florida resurgence of the controversial industry. Representatives of API's "Explore Offshore" coalition — a self-described "bipartisan coalition dedicated to safe and
environmentally responsible access to our offshore energy resources" — held a luncheon in a Pensacola Bay Center conference room attended by about two dozen local business owners, political players and interested citizens.

The featured speaker was Jim Webb, a Marine combat veteran who served as Secretary of the Navy in 1986 and 1987 and was a U.S. senator for Virginia from 2007 to 2013. Webb, now the national co-chair of Explore Offshore, said during his tenure in the Senate, he advocated for offshore exploration and production in Virginia under a revenue-sharing structure that would put a percentage of oil companies' profits toward state infrastructure.

The discussions were sidelined by the April 20, 2010, explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion, which killed 11 workers and dumped more than 4 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over 87 days.

Discussing why he joined Explore Offshore, Webb said, "I still continue to believe with the technology that we have, the improvements that have been made since the BP oil spill, that this is a viable concept. (I got involved) when I heard that API wanted to get a message out that would at least get the facts on the table, so people could have the discussions and the debates that will become necessary."

Locally, one of the key points of contention — aside from the potential environmental impacts — are concerns that exploration and drilling would adversely affect military installations along the Gulf…..

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**Lawmakers endorse ban on oil and gas drilling off Maine’s coast**

BY KEVIN MILLER, STAFF WRITER, 4-5-2019
[https://www.pressherald.com/2019/04/05/proposed-ban-on-offshore-oil-and-gas-drilling-wins-committee-endorsement/](https://www.pressherald.com/2019/04/05/proposed-ban-on-offshore-oil-and-gas-drilling-wins-committee-endorsement/)

AUGUSTA – A legislative committee Friday endorsed a bill that aims to send a message to federal officials by prohibiting exploration or drilling for oil and gas in Maine’s state-owned waters.

Members of the Legislature’s Environment and Natural Resources Committee voted 7-4 to support a ban on “any oil and natural gas exploration, development or production in, on or under the waters of the state.” The state’s jurisdiction extends only three miles from shore, but supporters say the bill, L.D. 955, also would prohibit transportation of oil and gas through state waters to onshore facilities.

Committee members supporting the bill stressed Friday that they do not want that language to interfere with importation of heating oil, natural gas or other petroleum products to existing facilities in Maine, such as the South Portland oil terminal. As a result, they directed the committee’s legislative analyst to draft additional language – subject to final approval – ensuring existing facilities are not affected.

“I think we need to be careful and clarify that that’s not the intent of this bill,” said Sen. Robert Foley, R-Wells. “I’m a co-sponsor of it, and that was not the intent. The intent was simply offshore drilling.”

Several other states in New England and the Mid-Atlantic have adopted or are debating similar prohibitions in response to the Trump administration’s stated intent to dramatically expand offshore oil and gas development.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, which administers oil and gas leases in federal waters, is finalizing a five-year energy plan that, as originally proposed in early 2018, would reopen the North Atlantic and 90 percent of the nation’s Outer Continental Shelf to fossil fuel exploration…..
Opinion: Drilling off our coast is too risky for South Carolina

BY JA MOORE, 4-8-2019
https://www.postandcourier.com/opinion/commentary/opinion-drilling-off-our-coast-is-too-risky-for-south/article_7754ca4c-558c-11e9-a0a6-e32e1e71d3a3.html

The Lowcountry I call home is a place entirely at odds with the dirty and risky development of offshore drilling, yet that’s exactly what the federal government intends to bring to our Atlantic coast.

The expansion of offshore drilling will only expose our communities and environment to harm. The Trump administration needs to take the Atlantic Ocean off the table as an option for drilling altogether and prioritize protecting our existing coastal industries instead.

As the newly elected representative of South Carolina House District 15, I represent a district of citizens who do not want oil and gas activities off their coast — not now or ever. One hundred percent of South Carolina’s coastal communities have passed resolutions opposing such development, contributing to a united front that extends from Florida to Maine.

Any way you look at it, the expansion of offshore drilling is a bad deal for South Carolina. Healthy ocean resources contribute to a way of life here and coastal towns depend on clean shores to prosper. Driving the regional economy, these natural resources generate billions of dollars for the state year after year and provide jobs to tens of thousands of residents. Coastal towns such as Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head draw millions of visitors annually. If Atlantic drilling becomes a reality, however, our tourism industry could rapidly disappear……..

Lawmakers: Oil, gas ban to protect Gulf Test Range

By Jim Thompson, Posted Apr 8, 2019 at 2:17 PM, Updated Apr 8, 2019 at 2:17 PM

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A bipartisan group of Florida congressional representatives is working to permanently extend a ban on oil and gas leasing in parts of the Gulf of Mexico.

The existing ban is scheduled to end June 30, 2022.

Their work is aimed, in part, at protecting the Gulf Test Range — a military test and training area covering 120,000 square miles of the Gulf — from encroachment that could compromise its usefulness.

The range is used by a wide array of military units, including Eglin Air Force Base’s 33rd Fighter Wing and 96th Test Wing, and the Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field. The range accommodates air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing and space launches.

In what may be one of the shortest legislative proposals on record, the seven-line bill, titled the Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act of 2019, would amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, which established the soon-to-expire ban on oil and gas exploration.

Under the legislative proposal, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior would be permanently prohibited from offering wide areas of the Gulf “for leasing, pre-leasing or any related activity …. ” Affected areas would include “any area east of the Military Mission Line,” a line that extends south from near Fort Walton Beach to deep in the Gulf.
The bill is sponsored by Rep. Francis Rooney, a Republican representing a South Florida district on the Gulf. Its co-sponsors include Panhandle congressmen Reps. Matt Gaetz and Neal Dunn, along with seven other Florida lawmakers.

Gaetz said at a defense contracting summit in Miramar Beach in January that protecting the Gulf Test Range is his “top legislative priority.” Gaetz also said that oil and gas interests were “licking their chops” at the prospect of the 2022 expiration of the ban on oil and gas exploration.

The Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act was assigned to the House Committee on Natural Resources in January, and was the subject of a subcommittee hearing Tuesday. The subcommittee accepted written testimony from James R. Heald, a retired Air Force colonel who is now vice president for strategic programs at InDyne, a contractor that operates and maintains Eglin’s test ranges. Prior to joining InDyne, Heald was responsible for all developmental testing and evaluation at Eglin….

The confidential oil plan that could cost Trump reelection

By ZACK COLMAN and BEN LEFEBVRE, 04/10/2019 05:12 AM EDT
https://www.politico.com/story/2019/04/10/trump-florida-2020-oil-drilling-1264194

The Trump administration is considering auctioning off Florida’s coastal waters for oil and gas drilling — and Republicans are warning it could cost the president dearly in Florida in the 2020 election.

An industry lobbying offensive has put it on the cusp of achieving its holy grail: access to the resource-rich eastern Gulf of Mexico. The idea is so politically toxic in Florida that past presidents haven't even entertained it. But behind the scenes, oil and gas interests are appealing to Trump's desire to turbocharge U.S. energy production, including his past openness to drilling off the Florida coast.

The president and his top advisers haven't yet weighed in on the plan taking shape inside his Interior Department. But giving it the green light would be tantamount to a declaration of war on his second home state, given the uniform opposition from Florida Republicans, including prominent allies like Sen. Rick Scott, Gov. Ron DeSantis and others.

Resolution passed for oil drilling to continue to help with military training in the Gulf of Mexico

By News Service of Florida | April 10, 2019 at 3:44 PM EDT - Updated April 10 at 3:44 PM

SARASOTA (WWSB) – A resolution passed by a Florida Senate Committee Wednesday calls for a continued moratorium on oil drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico to help prevent conflicts with military training.

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Committee unanimously approved the non-binding measure filed by State Senator Ed Hooper. He says Florida’s Gulf Coast waters offer the U.S. military a training region unlike anywhere else in the nation.

Even the potential for any oil drilling expansion could jeopardize thousands of military jobs in the state.
“It’s important for our airbases and our naval training centers," Hooper said. "They do use live ammunition and weaponry occasionally. That would not go well with a derrick that is out drilling oil in the gulf.”

However, supporters of offshore oil drilling, including David Mica with the Florida Petroleum Council, say the need for domestic oil production is expanding.

“It is critical that our nation’s national security be protected,” Mica said. "It’s also very important, that as an element of that protection, that we develop our resources associated with oil and gas.”

Hooper’s legislation must pass one more committee in the Senate before being heard by the whole chamber, while a similar bill in the House is ready for floor debate.

Space

Trump’s Space Command to be based in Colorado, Alabama or California

BY CNN WIRE, POSTED 6:09 PM, APRIL 5, 2019
https://wtvr.com/2019/04/05/trumps-space-command-to-be-based-in-colorado-alabama-or-california/

The Air Force has identified the six military bases that could house the military’s newest combatant command, US Space Command, according to an Air Force memorandum obtained by CNN.

Four of the proposed locations are located in Colorado. The other two locations are in Alabama and California.

The absence of any Florida-based installations from the finalist list is bound to disappoint members of Congress who publicly advocated for the command to be housed in the Sunshine State.

In December, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio wrote a letter to then-Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis calling for it to be established in Florida and last month during a hearing of the House Armed Services Committee Republican Rep. Michael Waltz urged acting Secretary of Defense Pat Shanahan to locate it there.

Following Waltz’ comments, Democratic Rep. Jason Crow of Colorado joked: “With all due respect to my colleague from Florida, Colorado is a mile closer to space than Florida is and a great place for space assets.”

The six finalist locations are Buckley Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Peterson Air Force Base, and Schriever Air Force Base — all in Colorado — as well as the Army’s Redstone Arsenal in Alabama and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California…..

Lt. Gov. Nuñez pushes for Florida as headquarters for U.S. Space Force

Steven Lemongello, Contact Reporter, Orlando Sentinel, April 5, 2019

Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nuñez said Florida is “uniquely positioned” to become the headquarters of the proposed U.S. Space Force following a tour of public and private space facilities Friday.
Nuñez, who oversees the state’s Space Florida partnership, said in an interview with the Sentinel on Friday that Florida has both the readiness and the capacity to compete with Colorado, Alabama, and other bidders to become the headquarters of the U.S. Air Force-affiliated military branch.

“Really the onus is on us as a state,” Nuñez said. “The governor is going to make a really hard and strong pitch and has already sent a formal request and continues to talk with everyone in the [Trump] administration.”

The space industry, she said, has a “mutually symbiotic” relationship with Florida that has only increased as private space companies such as SpaceX and Blue Origin have started launching rockets from Kennedy Space Center.

The spillover effect from the industry also helps out much of the rest of the state, she added.

Vice President Mike Pence’s recent announcement that the U.S. plans to return to the moon by 2014, complicated this week by a four-month delay of a test launch for Boeing’s new space capsule, “is an expedited time schedule” from original plans for 2028, Nuñez said.

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**Senate Armed Services to Hold First Space Force Hearing**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Apr 07, 2019 06:21 pm

https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=358b1f646b

The Senate Armed Services Committee will hold its first official hearing on President Trump’s Space Force proposal April 11, the committee announced Thursday.


The panel is expected to face skeptics from both political parties debating whether a new Space Force would improve the Pentagon’s space operations and better compete with Russia and China, The Hill reported.

The Space Force proposal has been raised in several House and Senate Armed Services committees, but this week’s hearing will be the first on the issue.

“A coherent space strategy is an integral part of our National Defense Strategy,” Chairman James Inhofe (R-Okla.) said in a statement. “I look forward to hearing from Pentagon leadership about what they see as the necessary capabilities of a space force, the costs and benefits associated with their solutions, and what our full range of options are.”

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**Six Air Force Bases in Running for Space Command Headquarters: Report**

By Oriana Pawlyk, 8 Apr 2019

The Air Force is narrowing down the best location to house the Defense Department's newest unified combatant command, and many of the bases in top contention are in Colorado, according to a new CNN report.

Air Force officials are still reviewing installations to house U.S. Space Command, which officials have called a stepping stone to creating a U.S. Space Force.

"No candidate basing lists have been sent to the secretary of the Air Force for consideration," service spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said in a statement Monday.

Citing an Air Force Space Command memorandum it obtained, CNN reported last week that the Air Force may choose from four Colorado locations, including Buckley Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Peterson Air Force Base, and Schriever Air Force Base. Other options are the Army's Redstone Arsenal in Alabama and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

Responding to the report, a Defense Department official said some bases have been identified, but no decision has been made…..

DOD Officials Talk Space to Industry, Congress

Dan Cohen, Posted on Apr 09, 2019 06:31 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=357d970b8f

DOD officials have dubbed the next few days “Space Week,” culminating with a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Thursday morning. Developments leading up to this week’s testimony include:

- In Space Symposium remarks Tuesday Shanahan said the U.S. needs to “grow our margin of dominance in space to protect our $19 trillion economy and ensure access for our warfighter.” He said the U.S. is in an era of “great power competition, and the next major conflict may be won or lost in space.”
- Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio), ranking member of the House Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee, has qualified his position on the proposed Space Force. “I’m not opposed to undertaking a separate space function under the Air Force; I just want to make certain we do it right,” he told Defense News. “What we proposed before was haphazard, and what we have an opportunity to do now is very thoughtful undertaking to try to advance our operations and our acquisitions of space assets.”
- Rep. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.), one of the one of the architects of a Space Corps proposal that has become the model for the Space Force, still supports the proposal but wants more congressional involvement. “I had always wanted a space capability within the Air Force,” Cooper told Defense News. We did not want it to be outside the Air Force; we want to play nicely with others, and it’s a graduated process. I think one day it will be an entirely separate department, but not in the short run.”
- Air Force Technology provides an overview of what is known so far about the proposed Space Force.

BRAC

Prioritizing North Carolina’s military bases

By Senator Harry Brown, Posted Apr 5, 2019 at 2:09 PM, Updated Apr 5, 2019 at 2:11 PM
https://www.jdnews.com/opinion/20190405/prioritizing-north-carolinas-military-bases
The wind industry would have all of North Carolina believe that everyone can be a winner if only we would embrace their plans for developing Eastern North Carolina. I’m here to level with you. The only ones who will win are their corporate executives and shareholders, and those few private landowners who stand to benefit from this taxpayer subsidized industry. Who stands to lose, you ask? The entire state, and Eastern North Carolina most acutely.

Advocates for the wind industry don’t like for you to focus on this, but we must discuss the economic impact of the military in North Carolina. Our state, like it or not, depends on Defense spending. According to the North Carolina Military Business Center, the Department of Defense is the second-largest sector of the state’s economy, accounting for 12 percent of Gross Domestic Product. The N.C. Department of Commerce reported in 2015 that the military supported 10 percent of North Carolina’s total employment, amounting to 578,000 jobs and 66 billion in gross state product. Any economic contribution to be made to North Carolina from a wind development pales in comparison to the overall contribution of the military and Defense spending in North Carolina. These are hard, indisputable facts and any attempt to pivot your attention away from these facts should be viewed with suspicion.

Can’t wind energy exist alongside our installations? Yes, but like everything else in life, that comes at a cost. Here in North Carolina, the price to be paid is the highly valuable airspace and training ranges that we have worked so tirelessly over the years to protect. Our installations are only as valuable as their ability to ensure the readiness of our service members, which is premised on their ability to train. When we chip away at that ability to train by encouraging development and incompatible use of the surrounding lands, our bases lose their value to the Services they support.

Why does it matter whether one of our installations loses value to the Army, Navy, Marines or Air Force? That loss in value will be reflected in Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decision-making. All that matters to a BRAC Commission is whether the military can continue to do its job at its current location. If an installation reports that their ability to train has been compromised, a BRAC Commission will find somewhere else in the country for them to train. The loss of any single installation in North Carolina would be devastating for its host community and county, and would reverberate across the state as a whole. There is no wind energy project that could replace that loss, and it would be felt for generations in the future……

**NAS Pensacola**

**Coastguardsman Receives Air Medal for Medical Evacuation**

Story by Gregory Mitchell, Naval Air Station Pensacola, 04.05.2019

https://www.dvidshub.net/news/317277/coastguardsman-receives-air-medal-medical-evacuation

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** – A U.S. Naval School of Aviation Safety (SAS) student was awarded the Coast Guard Air Medal during a ceremony at the SAS headquarters onboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola April 5.

Lt. Tessa Clayton, recognized for her efforts during rescue efforts off the coast of Atlantic City, New Jersey, was presented the award by U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Air Station Atlantic City, N.J., Cmdr. Chuck Webb, Clayton’s executive officer.
“It is an extreme honor for me to receive this award,” Clayton said. “This was a testament to the preparation and training that we do every day in the Coast Guard. I just felt that it was upon me to take action to hopefully save someone’s life.”

Clayton, who was in command of an MH65c Dolphin helicopter in May 2017, received orders to medically evacuate a heart attack victim from the fishing vessel Settler, more than 60 miles offshore of Cape May, N.J. Despite inclement weather and heavy fog, Clayton successfully piloted the helicopter to the Settler, where other crewmembers evacuated the civilian mariner……

**Saufley Field**

**Navy will update Saufley Field-area residents about well water testing at upcoming meeting**

Melissa Nelson Gabriel, Pensacola News Journal, Published 3:32 p.m. CT April 8, 2019

The Navy will host an open house Tuesday to update Saufley Field-area residents about ongoing testing of well water in the region.

Representatives of the Navy and the Florida Department of Health will answer residents' questions during the open house from 4 to 7 p.m. at St. Anne Catholic Church, 5200 Saufley Field Road in Pensacola.

The Navy began distributing bottled drinking water to some residents who live on the west side of Saufley Field in February after initial well water testing exceeded levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Eight of 20 wells tested in the area exceeded the EPA's lifetime health advisory level for perfluorooctane sulfonate and/or perfluorooctanoic acid, according to a news release issued by Naval Air Station Pensacola. Both chemicals, known as PFAS, are part of a fire suppressant foam long used by local military bases.

The Navy said PFAS are classified by the EPA as emerging contaminants and that the agency has no routine water quality or testing requirement for the chemicals.

**Hurlburt Field**

**9th SOS celebrates 75 years of air power**

Story by Senior Airman Lane Plummer, 27th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs, 04.09.2019
https://www.dvidshub.net/news/317417/9th-sos-celebrates-75-years-air-power

To mark the significant milestone, the 9th’s pilots took to familiar skies over New Mexico in a nine-aircraft formation. They also invited former 9th members to share their stories, and formally ended the week with a banquet.

“Heritage provides us with guidelines to tether us to codes and standards,” said (Ret.) Master Sgt. Roy Dowdy, 27th Special Operations Wing historian. “Recognizing those special operators who came before us and valuing their accomplishments should instill a unique sense of pride and perspective that few others in the Air Force can readily identify with.”
The squadron currently operates the MC-130J Commando II at Cannon and has done so since it was stood up here after serving at Hurlburt Field, Fla. However, since it was activated April 1, 1944, the unit has flown several different aircraft, from the B-17 Flying Fortress during its first year of service to the Convair B-36 Peacemaker during the Vietnam War.

They even flew O-2B Skymasters and C-47 Skytrains for a brief period of time, but regardless of what aircraft they’ve put their pilots in, the effort and servitude displayed has never changed…..

**Eglin AFB**

**EOD Memorial Ceremony set for May 4**

By Special to Gate, House Media Florida, Posted Apr 7, 2019 at 10:21 AM, Updated Apr 7, 2019 at 10:21 AM


**EGLIN AFB** – The 50th annual Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Memorial Ceremony has been scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturday, May 4, at the EOD Memorial across from Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal on Range Road.

The wall currently honors 338 fallen EOD warriors from 1942 to the present. Three more EOD technicians will be memorialized this year to honor their ultimate sacrifice: Army Spc. Joseph P. Collette, who was killed in action on March 22, 2019, while serving in Afghanistan; Army Sgt. James Allen Slape, who was killed in action Oct. 4, 2018, while serving in Afghanistan; and Army 1st Lt. William F. “Bill” Alter, who was killed in action on June 11, 1945, while serving in World War II.

The original memorial was dedicated June 12, 1970, in Indian Head, Maryland. It consisted of four white cenotaphs — one for each branch of service — and was faced with bronze tablets containing the names of EOD technicians who died in the line of duty.

After Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal was consolidated at Eglin Air Force Base, the original memorial was disassembled and redesigned. The new structure consists of a single white wall faced with four bronze tablets identifying the names of the fallen.

A brick from one of the original cenotaphs was incorporated into the current memorial by entombing it within the concrete wall.

**NSA Panama City**

**Holocaust survivor visits Naval Support Activity Panama City**

By Olivia Michael | Posted: Fri 6:05 PM, Apr 05, 2019 | Updated: Fri 6:53 PM, Apr 05, 2019

https://www.wjhg.com/content/news/Holocaust-survivor-visits--508181851.html

**PANAMA CITY, Fla. (WJHG/WECP)** – Holocaust survivor Irving Roth continued his speaking tour in our area Friday, this time at Naval Support Activity Panama City.

The 90-year-old was the honored guest for the naval installation's National Holocaust Day of Remembrance.

He shared his remarkable story to a crowd comprised of service members, civilians, and even children.
Roth, who was born in Czechoslovakia, fled to Hungary as a child before eventually being taken to Auschwitz where some of his family were killed.

Lieutenant John Gibson, Chaplain at Naval Support Activity Panama City, said, "People need to hear this story and so I'm very excited about the opportunity to have him tell his story in front of a room this size and so many of our people be able to take those lessons of history and go forward." 

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**U.S. Navy Successfully Completes Developmental Testing of ‘Q-20C Towed Minehunting Sonar**

By Dan Broadstreet | NSWC PCD | April 8, 2019


PANAMA CITY, Florida – After completing Developmental Testing (DT) in February of 2019, the U.S. Navy is another step closer to delivering the AN/AQS-20C (Q-20C) towed minehunting sonar to the Fleet. The Q-20C has advanced acoustic and electro-optic sensing capabilities that will detect, localize and classify bottom, close-tethered, moored, and volume-moored mines.

According to Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division’s (NSWC PCD) Q-20C Lead Project Engineer Joe Thomas, the Q-20 C variant has increased capabilities, particularly with regard to searching in multiple modes in the water column.

“This is a multi-modal search sonar,” said Thomas. “When you put the Q-20C sonar sensor in the water, it looks down, to each side, and is also forward-looking. The C-variant upgraded acoustic array technology as well as an integrated, electro-optic identification sensor. Previous versions of this sensor had to swap the volume-search module for an electro-optic identification module. With the latest improvements, it’s essentially looking everywhere in the surrounding volume of water.”

NSWC PCD is considered the nation’s premier technical center for Mine Warfare and Mine Countermeasures (MCM). NSWC PCD’s subject matter experts partnered with Q-20C post mission analysis (PMA) operators during this phase of DT to evaluate the system performance with these latest improvements…..

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**Tyndall AFB**

**Congress continues to overlook Hurricane Michael disaster relief**

By KATIE LANDECK, Posted Apr 10, 2019 at 10:31 AM, Updated Apr 10, 2019 at 10:32 AM


PANAMA CITY – Take a guess, after six months, how much money has Congress allocated for Hurricane Michael disaster relief?

Keep in mind, it’s the third most powerful storm to ever hit the United States in terms of pressure. It was just 2 mph short of being a Category 5 storm. It killed 49 people. It’s produced more than 15 million cubic yards of debris in just Bay County, compared to the 2.5 million cubic yards of debris Hurricane Irma created across 50 counties. The estimated insured losses are more than $6 billion. And it wiped out a major military installation, Tyndall Air Force Base.
What did you guess?

$0.

That’s how much Congress has allocated.

So far, not one bill introduced to help with Hurricane Michael relief has passed through Congress. Not a tax relief bill to help people claim their losses on their taxes. Not a supplemental disaster funding bill to fund repairs such as rebuilding the base.

Not a one.

It’s not for lack of trying either. Versions of bills to pass both tax relief and supplemental aid have been introduced multiple times, only to die in the partisan gridlock that has consumed Washington.

The latest battle over disaster funding played out last week. Democrats wanted more funding for Puerto Rico in a supplemental bill that would have applied to multiple major disasters. Republicans didn’t agree. In the end, everybody lost…..

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**FL National Guard / Camp Blanding**

**Gov. DeSantis presides over changing of the guard ceremony for Florida National Guard**

By Amy Hollyfield, 4-6-2019


Gov. Ron DeSantis on Saturday presided over a changing of the guard ceremony for the Florida National Guard, installing Air Force Maj. Gen. James Eifert as adjutant general.

Eifert takes over for retiring Major General Michael Calhoun barely a week after the Tampa Bay Times reported on ongoing investigations of Florida National Guard leaders over allegations of sexual misconduct and coverups.

At the ceremony in Starke on Saturday, DeSantis said Eifert "brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that includes multiple staff and command assignments at the state and national levels supporting combat operations over the skies of Iraq and state emergency response operations throughout Florida. His vast experience and aptitude for leadership will be critical to discharge the duties of the Florida National Guard.”

Earlier this week, Eifert, 59, said ongoing investigations will be a “significant priority” once he assumes command. He most recently served as Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander of Pacific Air Force at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

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**Florida National Guard welcomes new adjutant general**

By Master Sgt. William Buchanan, 125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs 04.06.2019


Eifert accepted the position from Maj. Gen. Michael Calhoun, who is retiring after 36 years of dedicated service.

“I would like to thank all of our Soldiers and Airmen in formation today, from the lowest ranking to the highest,” Calhoun said. “I have been in your boots, I know what you are faced with, and I appreciate you.

It has been my distinct honor to serve with you and to work for you.”

During the ceremony, Calhoun surrendered the Florida National Guard flag to Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis as part of the traditional passing of the colors. This symbolized Calhoun's resignation from his position as the adjutant general. DeSantis then passed the colors on to Eifert, signifying his acceptance of the new position and assumption of command.

“I take very seriously the sacred trust of command that you have bestowed upon me, and I commit myself fully to the continued care and readiness of our great Florida Guard Soldiers and Airmen,” Eifert said.

The passing of the colors from Calhoun to Eifert is a visible display of the continuity of command for all members of the unit to see. Historically, the colors of a unit were kept at the commander’s side and carried forward into battle, even if the commander fell in combat.

This change of command ceremony was conducted to render honors to servicemembers, inspire esprit de corps and to preserve the traditions that have been practiced since the founding of this nation. Along with the passing of the colors, these traditions included music played by the 13th Army Band, a 19-gun salute and the inspection of troops.

During his speech, DeSantis lauded Calhoun for his superb leadership during the challenging years under his command.

“During our citizens’ darkest hours of hurricane response and recovery operations, General Calhoun led these great Soldiers and Airmen to protect and safeguard lives and provide much needed security,” DeSantis said. “Under General Calhoun’s leadership, our citizens knew that when the National Guard arrived on scene—whether that was to distribute life-saving water, food, supplies, clearing roads, helping with emergency shelters—that they were going to be taken care of.”

DeSantis also welcomed Eifert in his new role as the adjutant general of Florida……

NAS Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE-BASED CREWS AIDING SEARCH FOR MISSING JAPANESE PILOT

By: Stephanie Brown @SBrownReports, April 10, 2019 11:17 AM

Jacksonville, FL – Patrol Squadron 5 and Patrol Squadron 8 out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville are assisting in the search for the pilot of a Japanese Air Self Defense Force F-35A that went down yesterday in the Pacific Ocean.

The jet was conducting a night training flight, and the cause of its crash is not yet clear. We’re told parts of the jet have been recovered, but the pilot has not been located.
In addition to the P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft assigned to the Jacksonville squadrons, the USS Stethem is also assisting the search efforts, which are being coordinated by Japan.

**Homestead ARB**

**Homestead Air Reserve Base to hold training exercise**

7 News, APRIL 5, 2019

**HOMESTEAD, FLA. (WSVN) –** The Homestead Air Reserve Base is set to have a training exercise this weekend.

The exercise has been scheduled to start at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday and continue into the late night.

Officials said fighter jets will be flying throughout the day. There will be some bomb detonations and public broadcasts as well.

 Officials cautioned area residents should not be alarmed by the loud noises, saying it’s all part of the exercise.

**Education**

**Bay District Recognizes Military Children During Month of the Military Child**

By: Kirsten Mitchell, Posted: Apr 09, 2019 11:39 PM EDT, Updated: Apr 09, 2019 11:39 PM EDT

**BAY COUNTY, Fla. –** The month of April is Month of the Military Child, a month to bring awareness to the challenges military children face as well as to show support.

On Tuesday, Bay District Officials, alongside Tyndall Air Force Base leaders and the Navy base joined together to read a proclamation making April the Month of the Military Child. The yearly tradition highlights the thousands of active and retired military families in our area. It brings attention to the unique challenges military children face as many move around often. Military students from all Bay County schools were at the school board meeting to be recognized for their sacrifices that sometimes go unnoticed.

"The children are the ones that really hurt the most. Mom and Dad miss being with the kids but the kids I bet miss them more, so this is a way to say thank you," said superintendent Bill Husfelt.

This Friday, April 12, is Purple Up Day. The district encourages people to wear purple to show your support for military children.

**Defense Industry**
Sarasota defense contractor acquires weapons systems company

By Crystal Owens – Reporter, Tampa Bay Business Journal, 4-8-2019

One of the largest Tampa Bay area defense contractors has completed the acquisition of Chemring Military Products, a Perry company that supplies U.S. and allied forces with ammunition and weapons systems.

Terms of the transaction between Global Ordnance LLC of Sarasota and Chemring Military Products, a subsidiary of Chemring Group PLC, were not disclosed. In fiscal 2018, the company generated revenues exceeding $111 million with an operating profit of $10.5 million, according to a release.

Global Ordnance is a veteran-owned small business that responds to the needs arising from critical missions of the U.S. government and its allies. Since its inception in 2013, Global Ordnance has worked with various customers, including the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base and the U.S. Army.

Global Ordnance will absorb the staff and contracts of Chemring Military Products as part of the acquisition.

The acquisition, according to Global Ordnance, will allow it to broaden the extent of its activities in the commercial sector. The company began working with the commercial sector in earnest about two years ago.

DoD Budget

House Democrats Cancel Vote on 2020 Spending Levels

Dan Cohen, Posted on Apr 09, 2019 06:32 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5e0e2d33ce307ef7&id=357d970b8f

House Democrats scrapped plans Tuesday for an expected vote to set this year’s spending after caucus progressives objected to top-line numbers and made demands for more non-defense spending, The Hill reported.

The bill would have increased 2020 defense spending by $17 billion and non-defense spending by $34 billion, bringing the totals to $664 billion for defense and $631 billion for non-defense spending.

“I don’t think we’d have the votes if we went to the floor right now,” Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth (D-Ky.) said. “It’s not going to happen.”

House progressives were pushing an amendment to raise non-defense spending by an additional $33 billion, intending to keep pace with defense spending levels.

However, the plan to vote on spending levels was cancelled after it became clear progressives would not support the bill without the non-defense spending amendment.

“If we can’t get full parity then we don’t need a budget cap vote,” said Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), co-chairman of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.
The more moderate Blue Dog Democrats also applied pressure, raising alarms about increased overall spending.

“Blue Dogs have long been committed to fiscal responsibility at a time when we are $22 trillion in debt, in large part [because] of the profligacy of the Republicans and their irresponsible tax bill,” Blue Dog Co-Chair Stephanie Murphy (D-Fla.) said. “Somebody needs to be the adult in the room.”

Other Of Interest

Air Force Defends Purchase Request for More F-15 Aircraft

Dan Cohen, Posted on Apr 07, 2019 06:23 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=358b1f646b

Air Force officials told the Senate Armed Services Committee late last week that their request for Boeing’s F-15X fourth-generation fighter jet won’t upend plans to buy Lockheed Martin’s fifth-generation F-35 fighter, Defense News reported.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein said it is a short-term and cost-effective fix for retiring the F-15C Eagle.

“We absolutely [are] adamant that the F-35 program, the program of record, absolutely stays on track and we don’t take a dime out of the F-35,” Goldfein said.

Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Ranking Member Sen. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) both expressed doubts about the Air Force’s $7.9 billion F-15 request after years of declining F-15 or F-16 funding.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), a decorated Army helicopter pilot, also questioned the service life of the F-15X compared to the F-35.

“Ma’am, if we ever get to a point where we are trading F-15s for F-35s, that is a bad choice,” Goldfein said. “The F-15 is not an F-35, it will never be an F-35.”

Last week 99 House members sent a bipartisan letter to the Air Force pushing for more F-35s.
Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #74 will be Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 9:00a.m. (Eastern Time) at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL, 32301. Main business for this meeting will be grant applicants presenting their proposals for possible funding.

2. **Call In Number** –
   - **Call-In Number:** 800-501-8979
   - **Access Code:** 1869945

3. **Military Mission Line (MML) Moratorium on Oil Exploration and Drilling in Jeopardy**
   – Although oil drilling in the Gulf is opposed by the Governor, the Florida Legislature, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the Department of Defense and most Floridians, an Apr 17th *Florida Watchdog* article noted that new Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt told Senator Rubio last week that “the plan won’t expand energy exploration off Florida’s coast, but that the EGOM drilling ban would be lifted.” This seems to be a mixed message that should spark concern that military testing capability in the Gulf of Mexico could be negatively affected by upcoming lease sales that will be east of the Military Mission Line and will encroach on the Gulf Range Complex. The often used line by the Oil Lobby that “Energy Security is National Security” may be true, but inability to test and develop long-range hypersonic and other modern weapons systems in the Gulf of Mexico could impact national survival. Although many of the articles note Florida’s overall opposition to drilling for environmental and tourism reasons, most of them do not discuss the negative effect to military test and training operations in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. See several articles below in the *CLIPs*.

4. **Florida Chamber Hosts Tour of Northwest Florida / Tyndall AFB Recovery** – On Apr 16-17 the Florida Chamber of Commerce hosted a business development mission to raise awareness of the continued slow recovery of area affected by Hurricane Michael and lack of funding coming in from federal or state sources. Locations visited on the 16th included Mexico Beach, Tyndall AFB, and selected small businesses in Panama City. The theme was the tremendous resilience of the people, but that continued and vast needs remain for relief funding and support. As part of the Tyndall visit, members were briefed on the importance of missions at Tyndall due to its location and proximity to the Gulf Range. Day two focused on recovery of more rural areas north of Panama City in the path of Hurricane Michael. See attached agenda that includes locations, topics and speakers as well as articles below in the *CLIPs*.

5. **Lawyers Assisting Warriors Initiative** – A new Governor initiated program will launch soon that provides contact information for pro-bono legal services for servicemembers. According to the concept, “Governor DeSantis is committed to ensuring our service-members have the support of the state’s legal community and its best legal minds. To achieve this goal, the Governor’s Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW) will draw from the talent of Florida’s leading law firms to provide pro bono services for military members. Through this initiative, our state’s men and women in uniform will receive local counsel in a variety of civil matters, including actions in local courts. Participating attorneys will dedicate time and expertise to ensure prompt and fair resolution
of legal matters.” Once approved, information will be available at this link: https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/floridadefense/lawyers-assisting-warriors/

6. **Governor Signs Extension of Interstate Compact** – Last week, the Governor signed SB21 which extends Military Interstate Children’s Compact till 2022. The Compact deals with the challenges of military children and their frequent relocations. It allows for uniform treatment as military children transfer between school districts in member states.

7. **2019 Defense Communities National Summit** – The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit in Washington DC is coming soon, June 10-12, 2019. The summit focuses on strengthening the foundation of partnership that bring together the military, defense communities, states and the private sector. This year the summit will be at a different location, the Hyatt Regency Washington, on Capital Hill. For more information or to register, go to https://www.adcsummit.org/

8. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session is underway. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status.
   - No new bills filed this week

9. **Attachments:**
   Hurricane Michael Recovery Mission

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**Terry**

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**FDSTF**

Allan Bense, Will Weatherford, Gwen Graham and Ron Sachs: Hurricane Michael victims need ongoing priority attention from state, federal governments — and all of us
“The crisis continues today. This recovery will take decades.”

With those nine words, Sen. Bill Montford summed up where things stand for Florida’s Panhandle communities devastated by Hurricane Michael. Six months later, the crisis after the crisis is the extent of damage and its lingering, profound impact.

Much has been done to start helping those communities recover — with debris removal and efforts to restore infrastructure as the most significant accomplishments — and still it staggers anyone about how much remains to be done. The work will go on, potentially for generations.

We all want the region to rise to its feet again, but it will never be the same. The lives of its residents and its communities have been altered forever. The future is shaky. What we all do now will directly impact the future for the Michael region, for better or worse.

Hurricane Michael was the worst storm ever to strike Florida’s Panhandle, and the damage and fallout is historic. Property values were among the lowest in the state, but insurance claims have already surpassed $6 billion. Estimates suggest the final cost could be double.

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**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Administration Lists Gulf of Mexico Whale as Endangered After Lawsuit**

NRDC Press Release, 4-12-2019

https://www.nrdc.org/media/2019/190412-0

WASHINGTON DC – A federal agency listed the Gulf of Mexico Bryde’s whale as endangered today, after years of ignoring legal requests to protect the whale.

With its listing, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conveyed to the whale, one of the most endangered great whale populations in the world, the legal protections it deserves under the Endangered Species Act (ESA.) With an estimated population of only 33 individuals, the outlook for these unique whales is dire but improved with this announcement.

“Even with this administration’s record on endangered species, the need to list the Gulf of Mexico whale was undeniable,” said Zak Smith, senior attorney with the Marine Mammal Protection Project at NRDC. “This species now has a fighting chance for survival and to rebound from the brink of extinction.”

In February, Natural Resources Defense Council, (NRDC), along with Healthy Gulf, formerly Gulf Restoration Network, filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, against NMFS, the Secretary of Commerce, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Under the Endangered Species Act, NMFS—the agency charged with protecting whales and other marine mammals—was required to take action within a year of publication of its proposed listing decision, which was December 8, 2016.

“As we saw the BP drilling disaster decimate an estimated 22% of this species population, we knew these whales would need to be better protected if they were to survive,” said Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of Healthy Gulf. “It is so encouraging to see the Gulf of Mexico whale being granted the protections it needs under the Endangered Species Act.”
Today’s announcement fulfills a promise made by the Obama Administration, which concluded that the species is in danger of extinction throughout all of its range and issued a proposal to list the Gulf of Mexico whale. The Trump Administration delayed the final step in listing the species as endangered.

The Gulf of Mexico whale was determined by NMFS scientists to be a unique subspecies of Bryde’s whale occurring only in the Gulf. Its habitat is now reduced to the upper waters of a single submarine canyon, lying largely off the Florida panhandle. NMFS had identified 29 threats to the whales, including 8 that the government believes pose a “high” risk to their continued survival. In particular, the government recognized the threats posed by oil and gas exploration and development: oil spills, oil spill response, and the intense anthropogenic noise associated with seismic blasting.

Last month, a bipartisan group of Congressional representatives from Florida, led by Rep. Kathy Castor (D) and Rep. Vern Buchanan (R), sent the administration a letter urging it to list the species….

DeSantis downplays chances of offshore drilling

Fox 35, Posted Apr 15, 2019 06:20PM EDT

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (NSF) - Gov. Ron DeSantis on Monday downplayed growing concerns that President Donald Trump is putting Florida’s coastal waters back in play for oil exploration.

A political ally of the president, DeSantis said he will “be raising Cain” if drilling plans advance that include Florida waters, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex, a military testing range that stretches from the Florida Panhandle to Key West.

DeSantis said he anticipates “accommodations” will be made to shield Florida from drilling, as was first announced early last year by then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Whatever jobs would be created (by drilling) could be undercut by chilling tourism.”

DeSantis added he wasn’t worried, noting Trump “understands where Floridians are on this” because he is “an oceanfront homeowner in Florida,” alluding to property the president owns in Palm Beach County.

DeSantis also agreed with U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio’s assertion that recently confirmed Interior Secretary David Bernhardt won’t expand energy exploration off the Florida coast. Prior to Bernhardt’s confirmation vote last Wednesday, Rubio, a Miami-Dade County Republican, said the White House must follow legal requirements before finalizing a five-year oil and gas drilling plan.

“He is well aware of Florida’s unique and vulnerable coastal character and that most Floridians are opposed to allowing offshore drilling off of the state’s coasts,” Rubio said of Bernhardt in a prepared statement. “He confirmed that input from state delegations and governors is one of the most important factors, and our state’s congressional delegation and Gov. DeSantis stand united in opposition to Florida’s inclusion.”

Rubio added that he doesn’t anticipate Bernhardt or the White House would work against his effort to extend the offshore drilling moratorium in the eastern Gulf of Mexico beyond its current expiration in 2022.

Despite Zinke’s assurance to then-Gov. Rick Scott that Florida would not be included in the White House drilling plans, the removal was never made official.

And last week, as Bernhardt moved closer to confirmation, word grew of oil-industry lobbying efforts to access the eastern Gulf of Mexico waters to boost U.S. energy production.
David Mica, executive director of the Florida Petroleum Council, told the Florida Senate Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Committee last week drilling wouldn’t change any of the risks of military-base realignment that installations in Florida already face……

**Ron DeSantis to “raise Cain” if Trump advances drilling off Florida**

By News Service of Florida, 4-16-2019

Gov. Ron DeSantis downplayed growing concerns that President Donald Trump is putting Florida’s coastal waters back in play for oil exploration.

A political ally of the president, DeSantis said he will “be raising Cain” if drilling plans advance that include Florida waters, particularly in the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex, a military testing range that stretches from the Florida Panhandle to Key West.

DeSantis said he anticipates “accommodations” will be made to shield Florida from drilling, as was first announced early last year by then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

“We’re just not a state for that,” DeSantis told reporters after an appearance Monday at the Tampa Bay Christian Academy in Tampa. “I think for other states there may be a different calculation. But for us, you know our entire state is coastline. You have a mishap; it has a cascading effect. Whatever jobs would be created (by drilling) could be undercut by chilling tourism.”

DeSantis added he wasn’t worried, noting Trump “understands where Floridians are on this” because he is “an oceanfront homeowner in Florida,” alluding to property the president owns in Palm Beach County.

DeSantis also agreed with U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio’s assertion that recently confirmed Interior Secretary David Bernhardt won’t expand energy exploration off the Florida coast. Prior to Bernhardt’s confirmation vote last Wednesday, Rubio, a Miami-Dade County Republican, said the White House must follow legal requirements before finalizing a five-year oil and gas drilling plan….

**Officials brace for release of federal off-shore drill plan that may include waters off Florida**

By John Haughey | Watchdog.org, 4-17-2019

The U.S. Senate last week confirmed that David Bernhardt would be Ryan Zinke’s successor as Interior Secretary, clearing a procedural hurdle in releasing the department’s proposed five-year off-shore oil and gas development plan.

Since the Trump Administration announced in 2018 that it would allow the federal off-shore drilling ban to expire and open almost all U.S. Outer Continental Shelf waters to offshore drilling, Florida’s elected leaders have been bracing to oppose any sale of oil and gas leases in federal waters off the state.
Despite assurances early last year from Zinke to then-Gov. Rick Scott that Florida would not be included in the expanded drilling plan, the Sunshine State’s exclusion was never made “official” and many fear that guarantee left with Zinke.

Interior’s new five-year plan, which will chart policy through 2022-27, reportedly lifts the 1988 Eastern Gulf of Mexico [EGOM] drilling ban, in addition to the general off-shore ban adopted in the wake of the 2010 Gulf Horizon disaster.

It will offer the most off-shore oil leases ever auctioned by the federal government for oil and gas exploration, including a proposed 1.5 million-acre lease in the EGOM. While the lease is more than 100 miles from Florida’s coast, it would be the first offered for sale in the EGOM in more than 30 years.

The oil industry has long lobbied to open the waters off the Panhandle – near existing operations off Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi – to exploratory drilling.

Of particular interest is the 50-mile long, 20-mile wide Destin Dome, 25 miles off Pensacola, which Chevron USA maintains could be the northern Gulf’s largest “untapped” gas field.

Many fear the Trump Administration will open up this area as well as others off Florida to drilling. Florida’s two U.S. Senators, Marco Rubio and former Gov. Scott, have both issued statements opposing such an expansion with Rubio submitting a bill to extend the EGOM drilling moratorium to 2027.

Rubio last week said Bernhardt assured him the plan won’t expand energy exploration off Florida’s coast, but that the EGOM drilling ban would be lifted – a step many see as an incremental concession to eventual expansion…..

Space
Ron DeSantis still high on Trump’s Space Force

By News Service of Florida, Apr. 12

Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials aren’t aborting pursuit of the operational command of President Donald Trump’s Space Force, despite a report Florida isn’t on the U.S. Air Force’s short list of potential bases.

DeSantis wrote on Twitter he’s certain the window remains open for Florida, while linking to a report by CNN that an Air Force memorandum identified six military bases for the new command and that none are in Florida.

“USSPACECOM belongs in Florida,” DeSantis tweeted Thursday. He also wrote that Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez “and I remain confident of Florida’s unique qualifications. Our commercial space industry is flourishing and no other state hosts more Combatant Commands.”

Nunez’s duties include chairing the agency Space Florida.

The bases reported by CNN as under consideration were Buckley Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Peterson Air Force Base, and Schriever Air Force Base -- all in Colorado -- Redstone Arsenal in Alabama and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The list isn’t considered final….

Gov. Ron DeSantis isn't giving up pitch to bring Trump's Space Force HQ to Cape Canaveral
TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials aren’t aborting pursuit of the operational command of President Donald Trump’s Space Force, despite a report Florida isn’t on the U.S. Air Force’s short list of potential bases.

DeSantis wrote on Twitter he’s certain the window remains open for Florida, even as he linked to a report by CNN that an Air Force memorandum identified six military bases for the new command and that none are in Florida.

“USSPACECOM belongs in Florida,” DeSantis tweeted Thursday. He also wrote that Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez “and I remain confident of Florida's unique qualifications. Our commercial space industry is flourishing and no other state hosts more Combatant Commands.”

DeSantis, who has compared the space combatant command to the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa and the U.S. Southern Command in Doral, has been promoting facilities at Cape Canaveral, home to Patrick Air Force Base and the Kennedy Space Center.

The bases reported by CNN as under consideration were Buckley Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Peterson Air Force Base, and Schriever Air Force Base — all in Colorado — Redstone Arsenal in Alabama and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The list isn’t considered final.

Trump this year signed a directive ordering the Pentagon to draft legislation for Congress that would create the Space Force as a part of the U.S. Air Force, which currently manages the space domain through the U.S. Space Command.

The Department of Defense has submitted a proposal to Congress to establish the Space Force as the sixth armed services branch in a five-year phased-in plan starting Oct. 1, 2020.

Space Force in Florida? Gov. DeSantis pushes to have Trump's Space Command based here

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Ron DeSantis and other state officials aren’t aborting pursuit of the operational command of President Donald Trump’s Space Force, despite a report Florida isn’t on the U.S. Air Force’s short list of potential bases.

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Nunez’s duties include chairing the agency Space Florida.

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House wants Space Force to lift off in Florida

By Ryan Nicol, on April 17, 2019

The House approved a memorial on Wednesday asking Congress to establish the headquarters of the proposed Space Force inside the Sunshine State.

The measure (HM 1281) was filed by state Rep. Tyler Sirois, a Cocoa Republican. The U.S. Department of Defense is currently studying possible locations for the Space Force headquarters.

President Donald Trump proposed the creation of the Space Force as a new branch of the military. However, Congress still has to sign off on its creation.

Should the non-binding measure be approved by the Senate, it will be sent to Congress and President Trump. Sirois authored a letter to Trump detailing Florida’s strengths as a potential home for the Space Force.

“Within Brevard County, on Florida’s Space Coast, we have the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the Naval Ordnance Testing Unit at Port Canaveral, and Patrick Air Force Base — home of the 45th Space Wing,” Sirois said….

NAS Pensacola

Naval Air Station Pensacola NEX, MWR and DeCA to Host ‘Welcome Aboard Weekend’

Courtesy Story, Naval Air Station Pensacola, 04.18.2019

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola Navy Exchange (NEX), Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) department and the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) are scheduled to host a ‘Welcome Aboard Weekend’ celebration April 26 and 27 onboard NAS Pensacola.

The ‘Welcome Aboard Weekend,’ designed to provide an opportunity for newly reported service members and family members an entertaining arrival to the ‘Cradle of Naval Aviation,’ is hosted by NEX Pensacola, MWR and DeCA, and is scheduled to include a variety of activities and events including a 5K run, a series of musical performances, stuntman demonstrations, gaming contests and a magician.

Additionally, throughout the weekend, service members and their families will have the opportunity to sign-up for NEX mobile contests and coupons.

“Taking care of our military families is what the NEX is all about,” said Steve Foster, General Manager, NEX Pensacola. “We’re the first installation to host a ‘Welcome Aboard’ event so our NEX team is excited to participate, shake hands and welcome so many new faces to our community. Providing a key quality of life benefit to our nation’s most deserving will always be our top priority here at the NEX!”

The ‘Welcome Aboard Weekend’ is scheduled to begin on Friday, April 26 at 8 a.m. with a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) 5K Run. Later that evening, on the NAS Pensacola Portside lawn, gates open at 5:30 p.m. for a free concert with performances by country rock singer Jared Ashley,
American Idol Season 16 finalist Gabby Barrett and country music duo Thompson Square. Friday evening concert is open to all Department of Defense (DoD) identification cardholders.

**NSA Panama City**

**A Better Bay forums to tackle post-Michael military, housing, mental health questions**

By NEWS HERALD STAFF REPORT, Posted Apr 17, 2019 at 4:16 PM, Updated Apr 17, 2019 at 4:16 PM


**PANAMA CITY** – Six months after Hurricane Michael, Bay County is still facing serious issues and the future of the community is still in flux.

Many residents, and even officials, still have questions about what lies ahead, particularly as we head into the next hurricane season. And as the local newspaper, we believe it’s our job to get you answers.

Next week — April 22, 23 and 25 — The News Herald will be hosting a series of forums on major issues in our community. Similar to our A Better Bay forum held last December, all questions will be submitted in advance through our Bay Asked, We Answered series.

All events will start at 6 p.m. and will end at 7:30 p.m. They will be held at the Bay County Government Center, and streamed live on The News Herald’s Facebook page. The event is free, but we ask those who wish to attend to obtain a ticket in advance.

On April 22, we’ll hold an event focused on the future of the military in Bay County. We’ll have Col. Brian Laidlaw of Tyndall Air Force Base, Cmdr. Kevin Christenson of the Naval Support Activity Panama City, members of the Bay Defense Alliance and others to talk about the challenges Michael created and the rebuilding plan.

**Tyndall AFB**

**Tyndall Air Force Base still rebuilding 6 months after Hurricane Michael**

By Jennifer Ready and Roxy Tyler, Posted: 3:45 PM, April 12, 2019 Updated: 3:45 PM, April 12, 2019


**PANAMA CITY, Fla.** – Six months after Hurricane Michael ravished Tyndall Air Force Base, workers are still rebuilding and trying to recover from the powerful storm.

The airmen there say they live and work by one motto.

“Our mission and story here is that the mission must go on,” said the command chief, Master Sgt. Craig Williams. “I must say, as of last month, we are flying more sorties we did before the storm.”

Hurricane Michael's 130 mph winds damaged nearly every building on base and a half-year later several of the dorms are still unlivable. Airmen are staying temporarily in tents.
The post office is missing part of its roof and is filled with debris, and many buildings are still covered with tarps.

Mountains of debris from the extensive damage have been collected after the storm…..

Air Force Expects $3.3 Billion Disaster-Relief Funding Hole

RACHEL S. COHEN, 4/16/2019

The Air Force expects it will fall $900 million short on disaster-relief funding in fiscal 2019 and still needs to find ways to fill a $3.3 billion gap in recovery spending, according to a Defense Department comptroller document obtained by Air Force Magazine.

The document paints a broader picture of the $5 billion the service says it needs to recover from last year’s hurricanes Florence and Michael, as well as recent storms that flooded Nebraska and Iowa.

Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson has previously said reviving Tyndall AFB, Fla., and Offutt AFB, Neb., will require $1.2 billion in fiscal 2019 and $3.7 billion across 2020 and 2021. The DOD document breaks down the funding needs differently, saying the service needs $1.4 billion to fix facilities at six bases: Tyndall and Eglin AFB, Fla., Robins AFB, Ga., Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., Shaw AFB, S.C., and JB Langley-Eustis, Va. About $550 million of that is expected to be addressed in 2019.

The document doesn’t break out how much money would go to the five bases other than Tyndall and Offutt, instead appearing to lump them in with Tyndall.

Service spokeswoman Ann Stefanek declined to comment on what the money would pay for at those five installations, which have flown under the radar as most disaster-relief conversations focus on Tyndall and Offutt…..

NAS Jacksonville

Naval Air Station Jacksonville preparing for hurricane season

By Roxy Tyler - Web producer, Posted: 4:25 PM, April 12, 2019Updated: 4:25 PM, April 12, 2019

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Navy Installations Command are conducting a natural disaster preparedness exercise from April 15 through April 26.

The annual exercise prepares Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville and all Navy commands to respond to adverse weather threats in U.S. coastal regions and to maintain the ability to deploy forces even under the most severe weather conditions.

The exercise will involve a simulated storm system developing and intensifying to hurricane strength, threatening the East Coast regions.
NAS Jacksonville will participate by reviewing and exercising heavy weather instructions and procedures and accounting for sailors, Navy civilians and their families in the affected regions through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System.

There will be no U.S. Navy aircraft or ship movements associated with the hurricane exercise.

**RAF Aircrew Begin Flying Training For P-8A Poseidon**

Forces Network, 17th April 2019 at 8:26am
https://www.forces.net/news/raf/raf-aircrew-begin-flying-training-p-8a-poseidon

RAF aircrew have entered the simulator and flying phase of their six-month course ahead of the P-8A Poseidon's arrival in late 2020.

The Boeing P-8A Poseidon will become the RAF's new maritime patrol aircraft, which will carry missiles able to destroy submarines.

Nine P-8A Poseidons will eventually operate from RAF Lossiemouth, which is undergoing a £132 million makeover ahead of the arrival of the aircraft.

Personnel from 120 Squadron at RAF Lossiemouth are being trained by a mix of US Navy and RAF P-8A 'seedcorn' one-way exchange instructors.

The course includes being trained to fly at medium and low level over the sea, so mission crew can train in Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare.

Meanwhile, engineering personnel are also progressing through their course at Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida.

The RAF says the production of the aircraft continues with the assembly of the aircraft beginning in February.

The aircraft's first flight is expected to happen this summer.

**MacDill AFB**

New cross-bay ferry plan would include tram service for MacDill employees

By: Avery Cotton, Posted: Apr 16, 2019 05:57 PM EDT, Updated: Apr 16, 2019 06:47 PM EDT

HMS Ferries Inc. and South Swell Development Corp. presented plans to Hillsborough County of a new ferry service they want to launch. The service would begin in 2022. It would include four ferries that can each hold 149 passengers.

The service would include routes that would incorporate St. Petersburg, Tampa, South Hillsborough County, and MacDill Air Force Base.
One of the routes would transport Air Force base employees from South Hillsborough County to the base. The site location that officials recommended to Hillsborough County is at Williams Park in southern Hillsborough.

The route would run between Williams Parks and MacDill. Trams would take employees where they need to go. The service would cut down on commute time significantly, according to officials.

"There is no transit service on the west coast of Florida that has frequency of service of 10 or 15 minutes. This is simply the very best service that exists on the west coast of Florida," says Ed Turanchik who is affiliated with Akerman LLP.

Routes to St. Pete's waterfront and downtown Tampa are also part of this plan to connect the south part of Hillsborough to both Tampa and St. Pete.

Officials today also talked about using more boats during high-traffic times like Rays or Lightning games.

**Patrick AFB**

**Secret lab at Patrick Air Force Base watches for nuclear explosions worldwide, protecting United States**


Inside a secretive Patrick Air Force Base laboratory, Airman 1st Class Cynthia A. Schroll prepares batches of complex chemicals alongside futuristic-looking fume hoods and a white cabinet labeled "Acid" in large red letters.

Wearing blue rubber gloves and a white lab coat, Schroll is a rare breed in the U.S. military: She earned a doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of Cincinnati. She has written two books. She has a patent in her name.

And Schroll conducts classified lab work at the Air Force Technical Applications Center. The organization detects and analyzes nuclear explosions detonated by foreign countries, utilizing a sprawling network of more than 3,600 sensors deployed around the globe.

"We've got them in space. We've got them at sea. We've got them in the air. We've got them on land on all seven continents, to include Antarctica. And we even work in the cyber domain," said Col. Chad Hartman, who commands AFTAC.

AFTAC is tasked with monitoring nuclear treaty compliance and any "nuclear surprises" from rogue nations or terrorists. Its scientists assessed Iran’s nuclear program in 2015 and identified both of North Korea's underground nuclear tests in 2016 — producing reports that made their way to the Oval Office.

The agency also monitored the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident in the former Soviet Union; verified North Korea’s first nuclear test in 2006; and scrutinized Japan's 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster.....

**DoD Budget**
Air Force Document Details $900 Million Disaster-Relief Shortfall; Still Seeks $3.3 Billion for Recovery

A new DOD comptroller document details that the Air Force has tallied a $900 million disaster-relief shortfall in fiscal 2019, while it still seeks to fill a $3.3 billion recovery spending gap, Air Force Magazine reported Wednesday.

The document provides more detail on the $5 billion in funding Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson has said is needed for base repairs, including 2018 hurricane damage to Tyndall and Eglin Air Force bases in Florida, as well as March storms that flooded Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Wilson has said the Air Force will need $1.2 billion in fiscal 2019, and $3.7 billion across 2020-2021. Six bases need $1.4 billion for repairs including Tyndall, Eglin, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., according to the document.

Only $500 million is expected to be addressed in fiscal 2019.

In early April Congress moved $200 million for Air Force operations and maintenance, leaving a $349 million shortfall. The remainder is in a 2019 supplemental spending bill that has stalled over budget disputes.

Spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said the Air Force will continue seeking funds for base repairs.

“We will put together a plan for the reprogramming,” she said. “We still need supplemental funding for the rest of the shortfall.”

Other of Interest
Adm. Bill Moran Nominated for CNO, Vice Adm. Burke Nominated to VCNO

Navy Adm. Bill Moran was nominated by President Trump to become the next Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and newly promoted Vice Adm. Robert Burke was nominated to become Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO), Military.com reported.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan made the announcements late last week.

If confirmed by the Senate, Moran, a Navy aviator and Naval Academy graduate, would become the service’s 32nd top commander. Moran has been serving as the Navy’s second-in-command VCNO post since 2016, where he has pushed to improve readiness as the Navy grows and faces a more complex maritime environment.

“I am honored and deeply humbled by the nomination and look forward to working with Congress during the confirmation process,” Moran said in a statement.
Shanahan also announced Burke’s promotion to admiral. Burke, a submariner, has recently served as the Navy’s chief personnel officer.

Top lawmaker proposes taking activities away from climate vulnerable bases like Camp Lejeune

By Scott Maucione @smaucioneWFED, April 17, 2019 6:18 pm

Camp Lejeune, Ft. Hood, San Diego Naval Base and other climate vulnerable bases may not hold the same responsibilities as they have in the past, as lawmakers are rethinking their roles after a year of extreme weather and damage.

With Democrats in charge of the House and weather events continuing to cost the military billions of dollars to reconstruct bases, it’s possible some of the most recognizable bases will need to change their look and roles.

“We need to take into consideration whether every action needs to take place at that base,’’ House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee Chairman John Garamendi (D-Calif.) told Federal News Network. “These are bases that will continue to be at risk in the future. Is there a better place for those activities to take place? That analysis is being done.”

A congressional staffer told Federal News Network that the Defense Department shouldn’t be spending money to build installations that are knowingly in harm’s way.

There is no lack of bases in harm’s way from climate change either.

DoD sent a report on climate change to Congress in January. That report states 53 of 79 mission-critical bases are vulnerable to recurrent flooding and 60 of those installations will face that threat in the next 20 years. Additionally, 43 of the 79 bases are currently susceptible to drought and 48 will be in the next 20 years. Wildfires also pose a threat; 36 bases on the list are currently at risk, while 43 will be over the next two decades.

DoD delivered a second report in March outlining the top 10 most vulnerable bases to climate change. Some of the most iconic and heavily populated bases were on the list. They include the Washington Navy Yard; Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; Beale Air Force Base, California; and Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Others include Ft. Meade, Ft. Detrick — both in Maryland — and Ft. Bragg in North Carolina.

Building in resiliency

Garamendi isn’t only thinking about what to do about climate change affecting operations now; he’s also looking at the future.

Garamendi said as bases hit by extreme weather rebuild, they need to keep resiliency in mind.

“Can the buildings and structures be designed to be resilient in the face of the threats that we know have occurred and will continue to occur probably with even greater force?” Garamendi said. “Can the bases be built resilient to the threat? It’s going to be extremely expensive.”

The Air Force is asking for nearly $5 billion to fix up Air Force Base Tyndall, which was ravaged by Hurricane Michael last year, and Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, which was damaged by flooding last month.
The Marine Corps recently announced Congress approved the movement of $400 million from other accounts to repair Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. More than 100 buildings on the base were damaged by Hurricane Florence and the Marines estimate it will cost about $3.6 billion to repair the base.

A new standard

Garamendi said he will be the vanguard against new military construction being built without climate change considerations too.

“I will not allow any military construction project to go forward that is not prepared for climate change,” Garamendi said. “I don’t have total power here, there are others who will chime in on this, but I think my committee is very set on the course that all military construction projects going forward will be designed and built for climate change.”

He added that the Readiness Subcommittee will do everything in its power to make sure every military construction project’s location is evaluated to climate change.

“If it must be built at that location then it must be built resilient to the maximum threat that we can imagine,” Garamendi said. “That’s sea levels rising a meter, hurricanes force five, tornadoes, flooding and so forth.”

Garamendi said he wanted new buildings on bases to have maximum energy conservation, which will cut costs in the long run and help with the extra costs of building in resiliency.
Task Force members,

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #74 will be Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 9:00a.m. (Eastern Time) at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL, 32301. Main business for this meeting will be grant applicants presenting their proposals for possible funding.

2. **Call In Number** –
   - Call-In Number: 800-501-8979
   - Access Code: 1869945

3. **Space Florida Hosts U.S. Space Force Strategy Session** – On Tuesday, April 23rd, Space Florida led a session of defense and space experts to work on strategy to highlight Florida as the best location for the new U.S. Space Force. Attendees at the Orlando session included Space Florida, EFI, the Principi Group, and other space experts to develop a white paper and other strategic level documents for state leaders that support why Florida is the best location for the new command. Bruce Grant attended.

4. **CA, NY, GA, NC and SC Fighting to Stop Off Shore Drilling** – Many states are fighting new oil exploration and drilling off their coasts even though drilling off their coast does not have national security implications like Florida’s Gulf Coast. Each share a common argument that drilling threatens the environmental and tourism industry in their state. Some states are coming up with novel approaches to block drilling including moves contemplated by South Carolina who may “block the petroleum industry from establishing refineries, pipes and other infrastructure needed to support drilling” according to reports. No other state has a legitimate national defense issue like Florida does and Florida should be highlighting why are protests are different. Due to the proximity of a military test range like the Gulf Range Complex, the eastern Gulf of Mexico is currently protected by Federal Law due to incompatibility with military activity. The eastern Gulf is not protected due to environmental or tourism concerns so often used as rationale to stop new exploration. In Florida, according to Florida Daily, Congressmen Matt Gaetz and Francis Rooney “are calling on President Donald Trump to back a “permanent moratorium on oil and gas drilling and pre-leasing activity East of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico” and want to meet with him on it.” According to the article their primary argument for Florida remains tourism, however, they are also bringing up the Gulf Range and economic impact to Florida if the range is degraded due to drilling. According to a different article in The Hill, on Apr 22nd Congresswomen Debbie Wassermann-Shultz has filed a bipartisan bill to ban oil drilling off Florida’s coast that will be co-sponsored by Representatives Matt Gaetz, Vern Buchanan, and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell. The article focuses on environmental and tourism issues and does not mention the Gulf Range, military encroachment or extension of the current limits contained in the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act (GOMESA) east of the Military Mission Line. See multiple articles below in the CLIPs.

5. **Military Friendly Bill moves Through Senate** – Senator Broxson’s military friendly bill (SB620) cleared its final committee stop on Tuesday and may now go into conference with Rep Ponder’s bill (HB891) from the house. The bills are not identical but contain several identical provisions including amending s. 163.3175, F.S.; specifying additional military installations that may exchange certain information with local governments regarding
compatibility of land development; amending s. 197.572, F.S.; providing that an easement for certain military lands continues after a tax sale or deed execution; amending s. 1003.05, F.S.; requiring a student whose parent is transferred or pending transfer to a military installation within a school district to be considered a resident of the district and provided preferential treatment in the controlled open enrollment process under certain circumstances; amending s. 1009.21, F.S.; revising requirements for active duty servicemembers and their families to be classified as residents for tuition purposes. SB620 was amended in committee to include a provision for a license plate commemorating the Blue Angles naval air demonstration team.

6. Tyndall Repairs to End on May 1 Without Supplemental – The US Air Force has run out of money to continue cleanup and recovery operations at Tyndall AFB. The service has been asking for a supplemental for over six-months and congress has yet to provide funding; a first for major hurricane disaster area relief. According to an article in the WHNT News, “Several attempts to pass a disaster funding bill have died in Congress. The stalemate in Congress has stopped billions of dollars in disaster aid meant for victims of hurricanes, floods, and wildfires across the country.” In addition, yesterday “Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez met first with Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford. They took an aerial tour of the area. When she was back on the ground the Lt. Governor met with leaders from the health department and then Bay Medical Center. She wrapped up things at Tyndall Air Force Base.” While in Bay County, Bay Defense Alliance members including Tom Neubauer had an opportunity to discuss issues with the Lt. Gov who promised to continue to support rebuilding the base. See articles below in the CLIPs.

7. 2019 Defense Communities National Summit – The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) National Summit in Washington DC is coming soon, June 10-12, 2019. The summit focuses on strengthening the foundation of partnership that bring together the military, defense communities, states and the private sector. This year the summit will be at a different location, the Hyatt Regency Washington, on Capital Hill. For more information or to register, go to https://www.adcsummit.org/

8. Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed – 2019 Session is underway. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached file shows current status.
   - No new bills filed this week

9. Attachments:
   - Mil / Vet Friendly Bill Status

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News Clips of Interest:

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

SC Senate votes against oil drilling as fight against Trump plan heats up

BY SAMMY FRETWELL, APRIL 17, 2019 08:41 PM, UPDATED APRIL 18, 2019 06:02 PM

The S.C. Senate has taken a major step in the fight against oil drilling along the S.C. coast, agreeing overwhelmingly this week to block the petroleum industry from establishing refineries, pipes and other infrastructure needed to support drilling.

Wednesday night’s 40-4 vote ends months of inaction in the Legislature over the increasingly unpopular plan by President Donald Trump to allow seismic testing and drilling along the South Atlantic coast.

The Senate’s approval of a budget proviso, which supporters hope would eventually prevent drilling, will move to the S.C. House as part of the state budget. The Senate’s anti-drilling proviso likely would be decided by a budget conference committee composed of both Senators and House members.

Drilling opponents in the Senate said the proviso, offered by Sen. Chip Campsen, R-Charleston, only makes sense in a state where tourism is king. The state’s more than $20 billion tourism economy could be threatened by oil spills and the industrial complex needed to support drilling, they said.

“Once we open this door, we could all be impacted with significant economic damages to our coast,’” Sen. Marlon Kimpson, D-Charleston said, noting how the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spillhurt the Gulf coast economy.

The vote followed a news conference Wednesday morning in which Campsen, Republican Gov. Henry McMaster, Republican Attorney General Alan Wilson, Democratic Sen. Nikki Setzler of Lexington County, and others spoke against drilling. Campsen said during the news conference that he would offer the budget proviso.

Campsen’s proviso is a temporary measure, but is seen as an important start to eventually keeping oil rigs from being established off South Carolina’s beaches. The budget legislation would be good for one year. It could be extended next year if bills to halt drilling do not pass the Legislature in 2020…..

Oceana opposes Trump administration’s offshore drilling proposals

By MELISSA MURPHY | mmurphy@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel, April 18, 2019 at 6:00 am
Oceana, the largest international advocacy organization dedicated to ocean conservation, accuses President Trump of working to weaken key safety and environmental protections currently in place, while also proposing to “radically expand” offshore drilling activities.

A report from Oceana, which has an office in Monterey County, released to the public Thursday comes just two days before the ninth anniversary of the explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon, which killed 11 people and caused the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

More than 200 million gallons of oil spilled over the 87 days it took to cap the well. The disaster wreaked havoc on the Gulf of Mexico coast.

Since then, the Trump Administration proposes expanding drilling.

In January 2018, then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced plans to offer new leases offshore of the West Coast, the Atlantic Coast, the Gulf coast and Alaska, saying the move would create jobs and was part of “a new path for energy dominance in America.”

The Department of the Interior is in the process of completing a new draft of a proposed lease plan, which is expected to respond to public comments submitted last year.

The federal government shutdown temporarily suspended most work on the document, but once released it will prompt another 90-day comment period before further review……

North Carolina coastal panel opposes offshore drilling

Posted 7:53 a.m. April 19, 2019

MANTEO, N.C. – North Carolina's coastal regulatory board says risks associated with offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling off the Atlantic coast aren't worth threats to the tourism and fishing economies and the environment.

The state Coastal Resources Commission approved a resolution this week opposing the idea.

President Donald Trump's administration is preparing permits to allow testing for possible drilling sites off the Atlantic coast. Some East Coast states and many coastal North Carolina communities already are against the plan.

Thursday's resolution approved unanimously cited the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon oil spills and studies showing adverse effects from seismic testing on marine life.

The commission is appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein have already have spoken out against offshore exploration.

Matt Gaetz, Francis Rooney Want to Meet With President Trump on Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico

By KEVIN DERBY, 04.18.19
Two Florida congressmen are calling on President Donald Trump to back a “permanent moratorium on oil and gas drilling and pre-leasing activity East of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico” and want to meet with him on it.


Gaetz and Rooney wrote Trump on why they supported the moratorium on offshore drilling. “Florida’s economy depends on tourism, which requires clean beaches and healthy ecosystems. Our state is known for its pristine beaches and a welcoming, non-industrial environment. Not extending the moratorium on offshore drilling will place Florida at risk as a premier tourist destination. A fact which voters are keenly aware of,” they wrote.

“Further, offshore drilling in this area is incompatible with current and future military operations,” Gaetz and Rooney added. “The Eastern Gulf is home to the Gulf Test Range, a 120,000 square mile range that stretches from the Florida panhandle to the Keys. This unimpeded training and testing area is a crucial national security asset for military exercises that cannot be carried out anywhere else in the United States…..

Florida lawmakers offer bill to ban drilling off state's coast

BY REBECCA BEITSCH - 04/22/19 01:59 PM EDT 70

A bipartisan group of Florida legislators introduced a bill Monday that would ban offshore drilling along Florida’s coast.

Spearheaded by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.), the legislation comes ahead of a new five-year plan from the Trump administration that is expected to expand offshore drilling along the Atlantic Coast.

Oil and gas industry sources have said those plans include Florida, despite a much publicized exception for the Sunshine State from former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

“The Sunshine State’s coasts provide abundant marine life habitat and a destination for beach-lovers worldwide. They are an irreplaceable treasure and ecological necessity – risking our coasts for dangerous oil and gas drilling is unacceptable,” Wasserman Schultz said in a release.

Offshore drilling is deeply unpopular among Florida politicians of both parties, and Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.), who often aligns himself with President Trump, and Reps. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.) and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-Fla.) have agreed to co-sponsor the bill.

Newly confirmed Interior Secretary David Bernhardt was asked about his position on offshore drilling by a number of senators from coastal states, though unlike his predecessor, he offered no exemptions from offshore drilling.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) said Bernhardt made it clear his and other senators’ opposition to offshore drilling would be a consideration going forward.
“They’re not guarantees, but he gave me some assurances,” King said shortly after Bernhardt’s confirmation vote.

Environmental groups have long argued that offshore drilling poses a major risk to coastal ecosystems and that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the agency responsible for overseeing offshore drilling, is ill-equipped to monitor and regulate the practice.

Wasserman Shultz's bill would require a review of NOAA’s capacity to respond to oil spills while expanding oil companies’ responsibility for cleanup in the event of a spill.

Diane Hoskins, a campaign director at Oceana, an ocean conservation group that has lobbied against offshore drilling, said NOAA had 120 inspectors to conduct more than 20,000 annual inspections of offshore drilling infrastructure.

The agency has also proposed rollbacks to a number of safety protections put in place after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill that released about 210 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

That includes testing of blowout preventers, a valve designed to avoid the uncontrolled release of oil seen in Deepwater.

“The argument that less testing would result in more safety is completely backwards,” Hoskins said.

Will governor end oil drilling in California?

By Phil Willon / Los Angeles Times, Posted Apr 23, 2019 at 1:40 PM, Updated Apr 23, 2019 at 1:40 PM


SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California’s legacy of oil drilling should be just that, many environmentalists argue -- relegated to the history books.

They are urging Gov. Gavin Newsom to ban new oil and gas drilling in California and completely phase out fossil fuel extraction in one of the nation’s top petroleum-producing -- and gasoline-consuming -- states.

At the least, they want the state to impose buffer zones prohibiting new oil and gas wells near schools, hospitals and residential neighborhoods and also require monitoring for potentially hazardous emissions from abandoned or plugged wells, proposals already being considered by state lawmakers.

“It sure would make us happy if he made a big splash about this. It’s month four. People are being very patient. By month six, patience may wear thin,” said Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips.

Phillips said her organization and other groups that support curtailing oil production in California have met informally with Newsom administration officials. While Newsom has not made any promises, expectations remain high, she said.

Newsom, who served on the State Lands Commission for eight years, says he’s well versed in the issues surrounding on-shore and off-shore oil drilling in California and said he would announce his administration’s detailed strategy on energy policy in the next few weeks.

The governor was coy about core aspects of that policy, and declined to say if it would ban the controversial practice of hydraulic fracturing, a process that uses drilling and large volumes of high-pressure water to extract gas and oil deposits.....
LI Environmental Groups Continue Fight For Offshore Drilling Ban

By JAY SHAH, 4-23-2019
https://www.wshu.org/post/li-environmental-groups-continue-fight-offshore-drilling-ban#stream/0

Long Island environmental groups and politicians want the federal government to halt its efforts to drill for oil and gas in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Trump administration wants to lift the ban on oil drilling in federal waters off Long Island’s South Shore. The courts stopped those efforts, but the administration is expected to appeal the decision.

Joseph Saladino, Oyster Bay town supervisor, says the oil drilling could damage Long Island’s fishing and tourism industry.

“Protecting our environment is not something that is political. We all have to breathe the air, we all have to drink the water, we all want to utilize the resources of our marine environment.”

New York lawmakers banned drilling within state waters this year, but that doesn’t apply to federal waters – three miles away from the coastline.

The remarkable bipartisan consensus against offshore drilling

By Paulita Bennett-Martin, 4-24-2019

EVER SINCE the Trump administration announced irrational plans to bring offshore drilling and oil exploration to Georgia’s coast, intense opposition has been growing and getting louder.

Opposition reached fever pitch earlier this month when the Georgia House of Representatives passed Resolution 48 – which opposes drilling and searching for oil off Georgia’s coast – by an overwhelming margin, 125 to 36.

The passage of Resolution 48 builds on the already impressive opposition to drilling from communities along the East Coast. In fact, more than 250 municipalities from Maine to Florida formally oppose oil and gas activities, including 16 in Georgia.

From the booming inland metropolis of Atlanta to picturesque islands like Tybee, tiny towns like Riceboro, and the port city of Savannah, Georgians are united in the fight to stop drilling. The Port Wentworth Business Chamber of Commerce also stepped up last year to protect Georgia’s coast when it joined an alliance representing tens of thousands of businesses that are saying, “no, thank you” to Atlantic offshore drilling.

Our governor, along with the governors from every other East Coast state, sees the importance of maintaining healthy oceans and a clean shoreline. Governor Kemp has led Georgia’s bipartisan effort to keep drilling away from our coast….
The U.S. Air Force delivered to U.S. Cyber Command the first iteration of a critical new cyber platform that will give teams important tools and help with coordination, Department of Defense officials said.

The Air Force is developing the Unified Platform, a system that will allow cyber forces to share information, conduct mission planning and provide the command and control tools they need to conduct cyber missions, on behalf of the joint force. An Air Force spokesman confirmed to Fifth Domain that increment 1, formerly known as the minimum viable product, was delivered and operationally accepted by Cyber Command April 9.

The military’s cyber teams can now use that increment, which includes capabilities supporting defensive cyber operations and interoperability.

Air Force budget documents released in March 2019 said the service plans to spend about $100 million on the program in fiscal year 2020, including money for research and development funds.

The first delivery is significant because Cyber Command has been working to develop its own cyber operations infrastructure separate from that of the National Security Agency. Cyber Command has been co-located with NSA since its founding as a means of sharing personnel and infrastructure to get it started.

University of Central Florida's cyber defense team competing in national competition

ORLANDO, Fla. (FOX 35 ORLANDO) – The University of Central Florida’s Cyber Defense Competition Team is competing against 10 universities across the country in the 2019 National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

The competition is being held in Orlando at The Rosen Centre. More than 80 college students will work as teams to operate and manage a fictional company’s computer network and protect it against hackers.

“The teams are really challenged with two things; providing the services to their corporation while they’re defending the network against cyber threats and attacks,” said Don Bray, Raytheon’s director of cyber training in Orlando.

Raytheon is a sponsor of the competition…..

NAS Whiting Field
Whiting Field participates in Navy-wide hurricane exercise

By Special to Gatehouse Media Florida, Posted Apr 22, 2019 at 12:16 PM, Updated Apr 22, 2019 at 12:16 PM


This annual exercise prepares the U.S. Navy to respond to adverse weather conditions in U.S. coastal regions and maintain the ability to deploy forces under the most severe weather conditions. It also tests the response times for accounting for Sailors, Department of the Navy civilians and families in the affected regions through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System.

HURREX/CG 19 will involve a simulated storm system developing and intensifying to hurricane strength, threatening the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico. All Navy commands at Naval District Washington, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic and Navy Region Southeast will participate by reviewing and exercising heavy weather instructions procedures.

There will be no Navy ship movements associated with HURREX/CG 19.

Eglin AFB

Eglin AFB named Air Force 2019 SECDEF Environmental Award recipient

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs / Published April 22, 2019

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) – The Air Force’s largest installation was named a recipient in the 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards.

Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, received the 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Awards Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation Award. Eglin AFB spans more than 460,000 acres of land and 120,000 square miles of water test ranges and contains 34 distinct ecosystems that are home to more than 100 rare or endangered plants and animals. Effective management of natural resources directly supports the Eglin AFB mission by alleviating or eliminating regulatory restrictions that would otherwise impede the current military training mission or hinder our flexibility to meet future mission changes.

During the achievement period, the installation conducted 160 prescribed burns across more than 145,000 acres on base, removing 290,000 tons of hazardous fuel biomass in fiscal 2017 and 2018, reducing wildfires caused by mission activities on test areas by 20 percent and decreasing wildfire suppression time by over 300 man-hours. Prescribed burns also contributed to population expansion of the fire-dependent and endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, and supported habitat restoration for the endangered reticulated flatwoods salamander and the rare Florida bog frog. With more than 250,000 acres of conditionally opened land, the installation supported an overabundance of recreational opportunities which promoted greater public awareness and appreciation of the efforts to preserve Eglin AFB’s natural environment.
Noise map to show more homes affected by F-35s

By Aidan Quigley, Apr 24 2019


The first noise map for the Burlington International Airport that includes the F-35s coming this fall is “substantially complete” and won’t include any surprises, airport officials say.

The map is consistent with findings in the Air Force’s Environmental Impact Statement and will be published May 28, according to Nick Longo, the airport’s deputy director of aviation.

The areas where residents will be exposed to average noise levels of more than 65 decibels will expand to the north and south, into Winooski and Williston, and tighten in the east and west, in South Burlington.

The federal government considers areas with an average of more than 65 decibels “unsuitable for residential use.”

The total number of households affected is still being calculated but will likely be close to the initial estimate of 1,000, Longo said.

“There’s no big surprises, it’s very consistent with what we’ve all seen in the Environmental Impact Statement, and this is the opportunity now for the FAA and the airport to move forward,” Longo said.

While the map factors in all aircraft at the airport, the changes are due to the arrival of the F-35s.

The F-35s will be four times as loud as the F-16s, which recently wrapped up their tenure in the state.

The use of afterburners by the F-16s prompted a 2015 noise map and led to the purchase of about 200 homes through a federal program….

NSA Panama City

Forum tonight discussing Tyndall, NSA PC recovery plans

By NEWS HERALD STAFF REPORT, Posted Apr 22, 2019 at 8:32 AM, Updated Apr 22, 2019 at 8:32 AM


PANAMA CITY – Let’s talk about the recovery of the area’s military installations after Hurricane Michael.

The sting of the lack of the supplemental disaster aid from Congress has been felt throughout the region following the Category 5 storm, but arguably, the area’s two military installations, Tyndall Air Force Base and Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA PC) have the most to gain or lose, as they appear the most dependent on the funding.

Repair work at Tyndall, for instance, is slated to stop as soon as May 1 if a supplemental disaster aid bill isn’t passed. On the other hand, the base also has the potential — and key promises — to be rebuilt as the “base of the future.”
None of this happens in a vacuum. Both NSA PC and Tyndall have $600 million impact, each, on the local economy, according to reports, meaning their future is closely linked to the rest of the community’s.

To get a handle on how that future is developing, the News Herald is hosting a forum at 6 p.m. tonight at the Bay County Government Center to talk to leadership about how recovery efforts are going. The forum is one of three free events the News Herald is hosting this week, discussing different facets of recovery.

**Tyndall AFB**

*Balfour Beatty looks for local contractors to help rebuild housing at Tyndall AFB*

By: Kayla Tucker

BAY COUNTY, Fla. – Housing on Tyndall Air Force Base is continuing to move forward and companies to do the work will soon be hired.

Balfour Beatty Communities will be hosting local contractors next week on Tuesday, April 23, and Wednesday, April 24, at the base.

The businesses will learn more about the project and what the next phase of recovery will be.

Representatives of Balfour Beatty say they already have extensive roofing work happening right now and the next phase will be interiors.

The deadline for bids is May 10th with work expected to start shortly after.

Balfour Beatty Communities is looking for a wide variety of professional contractors, with services including:

- Drywall
- Insulation
- Flooring
- Siding
- Finish carpentry
- Finish electrical
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Countertops
- Cabinets

Contractors interested in pursuing opportunities at Tyndall AFB Homes should contact Balfour Beatty Communities Procurement Project Manager Geoff Hutcherson at TyndallRFP@bbcgrp.com to obtain the Request for Proposal package and indicate their desire to attend a site visit.

Pre-registration is required and in keeping with security procedures, contractors who show up without registering will not be allowed on the base for the visits.
NOAA now says Hurricane Michael was a Category 5 when it made landfall in Panhandle

By FOX 13 News staff, Posted Apr 19 2019 10:24AM EDT, Updated Apr 19 2019 10:57AM EDT

TAMPA, Fla. (FOX 13) – Scientists at the National Hurricane Center now say Hurricane Michael was a Category 5 storm when it made landfall in Florida's Panhandle last October.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made the announcement Friday after conducting a "detailed post-storm analysis" of all of the data available from the storm, which came ashore near Mexico Beach and Tyndall Air Force Base on October 10, 2018.

That research determined the storm made landfall at 160 miles per hour, making it a Category 5 instead of the original Category 4 determination.

The change makes Michael the first Category 5 hurricane to hit the United States since Hurricane Andrew in 1992, and only the fourth landfalling Category 5 on record.

The storm was directly responsible for 16 deaths and approximately $25 billion in damage in the U.S., NOAA said…..

Contractors submit bids to rebuild Tyndall's residential communities,

By Olivia Michael, Posted: Tue 6:24 PM, Apr 23, 2019

BAY COUNTY, Fla. (WJHG/WECP) – Hundreds of Tyndall Air Force Base service members were displaced after Hurricane Michael. Now, efforts are being made to bring them back, one house at a time.

Balfour Beatty Communities has invited local contractors to submit bids as they prepare to enter the restoration process of Tyndall's residential communities.

Tuesday morning Balfour Beatty held one of four meetings in which contractors toured destroyed homes.

Fifty contractors RSVP'd to the tours.

Leading up to Tuesday, workers cut utilities, cleaned debris, and began interior demolition of homes.

Dick Cole, Project Director of Balfour Beatty Communities, said, "What we are now doing is moving into the restoration phase of the family housing here at Tyndall Air Force [Base]. And what we're looking for is a total right now of about 587 homes with a decision still to be made on some of the homes that are over in the Beacon Beach Cove."

The area had 867 homes prior to the hurricane so this will be the first of several communities to undergo reconstruction…..
Repairs at Tyndall Air Force Base will stop May 1 without disaster aid funds

BY KELLY VAUGHEN, POSTED 3:43 PM, APRIL 24, 2019, UPDATED AT 07:51PM, APRIL 24, 2019

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Tyndall Air Force base was badly damaged in Hurricane Michael. The Air Force says the base will be rebuilt as the "installation of the future," but that takes money.

The base is currently using funds from the Air Force to rebuild, but that is scheduled to run out this week. If that happens, rebuilding will stop without additional disaster aid from Congress.

"It's different looking around, and there's no trees on this base. There's no shade," said Colonel Brent Hyden, director of the Tyndall project management for reconstruction. "There's a lot of buildings frankly that are down on the ground."

The base was slammed by Hurricane Michael more than six months ago. Almost every single building on the base sustained damage, about half of the facilities were damaged beyond repair.

The Air Force is looking at the destruction as a unique opportunity to rebuild what they call the installation of the future.

"This is the first time in my lifetime, in my career in the Air Force that we have this opportunity to put in this level of infrastructure of new infrastructure, and do it right," said Hyden.

The new design will have an open campus for the airmen and feature cutting edge technologies and a digitally integrated airbase. Hyden said that will take five to seven years to rebuild and a lot of money

"So the truth here is that the Air Force has, the airforce does not have any supplemental money for Tyndall. The Air Force has been taking money from other construction requirements around the world to feed into Tyndall. That's painful for the Air Force and there's a lot of mission impacts everywhere else," he said.

Hyden said at some point the Air Force can't give anymore from other missions, and the money from the airforce will run out.

"The date that the airforce leadership has identified is the first of May."

On that day, rebuilding efforts there will stop unless Congress passes a supplemental disaster aid bill, and that doesn't just impact the base….

Lt. Governor visits Panhandle to check on progress following Michael

By: Amy Hoyt, Posted: Apr 24, 2019 06:45 PM EDT, Updated: Apr 24, 2019 09:53 PM EDT
HTTPS://WWW.MYPANHANDLE.COM/NEWS/LT-GOVERNOR-VISITS-PANHANDLE-TO-CHECK-ON-PROGRESS-FOLLOWING-MICHAEL/1951156866

BAY COUNTY, Fla. (WMBB) – Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez met first with Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford. They took an aerial tour of the area. When she was back on the ground the Lt. Governor
met with leaders from the health department and then Bay Medical Center. She wrapped up things at Tyndall Air Force Base.

Her visit comes just days after Governor Ron DeSantis wrote a letter to President Trump asking the federal government to pick up a greater share of recovery costs. He wants them to pay for 9%- of the debris removal and emergency protective measures instead of the 75% they're currently set to pay.

"It's going to be a tremendous financial opportunity for communities that have been affected and counties that have been affected," said Lt. Gov. Nunez. "By increasing the amount that the federal government will bear and leaving the state with that 10% which they'll share with the locals, I think that's going to be hundreds of millions of dollars for the communities that have been devastated and affected by Hurricane Michael."

No word yet from the President on if that will happen, but the Lieutenant Governor says she and Governor DeSantis are committed to rebuilding the Panhandle.

**NAS Jacksonville**

**The Navy's Last Active Duty P-3C Orion Squadron Is On Its Final Deployment**

BY JOSEPH TREVITHICK, APRIL 19, 2019


The last of the U.S. Navy’s active duty P-3C Orion patrol planes are on their final overseas deployments, split between bases in Bahrain and Japan. The six-month rotations in the Middle East and Pacific regions come as the service prepares to retire all of its Orions in active duty units and replace them completely with the new P-8A Poseidon.

The Whidbey News-Times was the first to report that P-3Cs from Patrol Squadron Four Zero (VP-40), the “Fighting Marlins,” left their main base at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island in Washington state at the end of March 2019 for their sundown deployments to Sheik Isa Air Base in Bahrain and Kadena Air Base in Japan. These Orions replaced their counterparts from Patrol Squadron Four Six (VP-46), the “Grey Knights,” at those locations. VP-46’s planes returned to Whidbey Island earlier in April 2019.

VP-46 had also deployed P-3Cs to Europe, but VP-40 did not send any of its aircraft to that region, according to reports. VP-46 is now set to enter a six-month transition period to switch over to the new P-8A. VP-40 will do the same after it returns to Whidbey Island…..

**Cape Canaveral AFS**

**Smoke seen for miles as SpaceX Crew Dragon suffers anomaly at Cape Canaveral**

Emre Kelly, Florida Today, Published 8:22 a.m. ET April 21, 2019

A SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule suffered an anomaly during an engine test firing at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Saturday afternoon, company and 45th Space Wing officials confirmed.

"On April 20, 2019, an anomaly occurred at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station during the Dragon 2 static test fire," Wing Spokesman Jim Williams told FLORIDA TODAY. "The anomaly was contained and there were no injuries."

FLORIDA TODAY photographer Craig Bailey, covering a surf fest in Cocoa Beach, captured an image of orange plumes rising from SpaceX facilities at the Cape around 3:30 p.m. Unconfirmed reports indicated the capsule was destroyed.

“Earlier today, SpaceX conducted a series of engine tests on a Crew Dragon test vehicle on our test stand at Landing Zone 1 in Cape Canaveral, Florida," SpaceX said in a statement. "The initial tests completed successfully but the final test resulted in an anomaly on the test stand." ....

**AEHF-5 Satellite Arrives at Cape Canaveral, Prepares for Launch Atop an Atlas V in June**

By Space Coast Daily // April 23, 2019

**BREVARD COUNTY • CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, FLORIDA** – The U.S. Air Force’s Advanced Extremely High-Frequency program completed a major program milestone successfully delivering the AEHF-5 satellite to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

Prior to transport to CCAFS, AEHF-5 completed testing to include Baseline Integrated Systems Test, Acoustic/Post-Acoustic Deployment tests, Thermal Vacuum, Final Integrated Systems Test, and Factory Confidence Test.

“The AEHF constellation allows the National Security Council and Unified Combatant Commanders to control their tactical and strategic forces at all levels of conflict and supports the attainment of information superiority,” said Brig. Gen. Steve Whitney, Program Executive Officer for Space Production Corps.

“The payload supports communication missions with increased coverage, capacity, and protections against electronic jamming which gives our warfighters the best advantage against our adversaries.”

The delivery of AEHF-5 to Florida sets the path for final checkout of the space vehicle before launch. The satellite will be processed in the Astrotech Space Operations processing facility....

**DoD practices Starliner at sea recovery for first time**

written by Chris Gebhardt, April 23, 2019

In a critical first for Boeing’s CST-100 Starliner capsule, the crew transportation vehicle is putting DoD and Air Force rescue teams through their paces as they seek to understand and refine what will be needed to rescue a Starliner crew from the capsule should an off-nominal landing in the water occur.

**Starliner at sea rescue practice/process:**
The test is a critical part of Starliner’s certification to carry astronauts to and from the International Space Station.

SpaceX’s Dragon capsule went through similar tests last year, and NASA has conducted similar exercises with its Orion spacecraft.

Starliner itself will nominally land on land in the American southwest, but in-flight aborts/off-nominal emergency returns from orbit will/could result in Starliner splashing down in the ocean.

Despite the planned difference in an off-nominal vs. nominal landing of Starliner, the equipment sea rescue personnel would use for Starliner is the same as it is for Dragon and Orion.

**Patrick AFB**

Secretive Patrick Air Force Base Lab Watches for Nuclear Explosions Worldwide

By Rick Neale, 20 Apr 2019


**MELBOURNE, Fla.** – Inside a secretive Patrick Air Force Base laboratory, Airman 1st Class Cynthia A. Schroll prepares batches of complex chemicals alongside futuristic-looking fume hoods and a white cabinet labeled "Acid" in large red letters.

Wearing blue rubber gloves and a white lab coat, Schroll is a rare breed in the U.S. military: She earned a doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of Cincinnati. She has written two books. She has a patent in her name.

And Schroll conducts classified lab work at the Air Force Technical Applications Center. The organization detects and analyzes nuclear explosions detonated by foreign countries, utilizing a sprawling network of more than 3,600 sensors deployed around the globe.

"We've got them in space. We've got them at sea. We've got them in the air. We've got them on land on all seven continents, to include Antarctica. And we even work in the cyber domain," said Col. Chad Hartman, who commands AFTAC.

AFTAC is tasked with monitoring nuclear treaty compliance and any "nuclear surprises" from rogue nations or terrorists. Its scientists assessed Iran's nuclear program in 2015 and identified both of North Korea's underground nuclear tests in 2016 — producing reports that made their way to the Oval Office.

**Avon Park**

Florida Forever Acquisition to Preserve Important Habitat in Central Florida

DEP Press Office, 850.245.2112, DEPNews@dep.state.fl.us, April 19, 2019

https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/FLDEP/bulletins/23ee0ac

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has officially acquired 1,992 acres in Okeechobee County located within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife
Refuge. This acquisition is part of the Triple Diamond Florida Forever Project and conserves significant dry prairie habitat, as well as other high-quality habitats in an area of Florida known for its rare vertebrate wildlife, globally imperiled natural communities and significant hydrological initiatives.

The permanent protection of the property was made possible through the acquisition work of the Open Space Institute (OSI) with the support of the Wyss Foundation. OSI purchased the land from the Wold Family, who has actively managed the tract as a native range since 1976. OSI conveyed the property to DEP's Division of State Lands on Wednesday.

"This acquisition represents a successful multi-agency public and nonprofit partnership to protect property within the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge," said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. "By working together, we are now permanently protecting nearly 2,000 more acres of high-quality, critical natural lands, which brings us to more than half of the area identified within the Triple Diamond Project."

"By permanently protecting these biologically rich grasslands in the heart of the Everglades Headwater National Wildlife Refuge, the Open Space Institute is thrilled to convey this property to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection," said Open Space Institute President and CEO Kim Elliman. "Thanks to all the partners who made this large-scale conservation project a reality, in particular the Wyss Foundation. Through their commitment and dedication, this nationally significant and unique landscape will continue to protect wildlife habitat and water quality forever, both in the immediate area and downstream into the Everglades."

"The Everglades headwaters are renowned for their incredible array of wildlife and raw beauty. Today is an exciting day for Floridians and all Americans who have secured this important piece of one of our nation’s crown jewels," said The Wyss Foundation President Molly McUsic. "Permanently protecting Triple Diamond Ranch will safeguard this unique natural area for future generations, conserving one of the most biologically diverse places in the United States, and securing a critical source of freshwater for downstream communities."

With the acquisition, more than half of this project has been acquired. The parcel is bordered by Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park. Other public lands in the near vicinity include Avon Park Air Force Range, Bombing Range Ridge, Fort Drum Marsh Conservation Area and Blue Cypress Conservation Area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is purchasing the adjacent tract…..

**Defense Industry**

**Lockheed's Costly F-35 to Be Billions Costlier, Pentagon Finds**

By Anthony Capaccio, April 22, 2019, 12:28 PM EDT, Updated on April 22, 2019, 2:43 PM EDT

Lockheed Martin Corp.’s F-35 jet, the world’s costliest weapons program, just got even costlier.

The estimated total price for research and procurement has increased by $22 billion in current dollars adjusted for inflation, according to the Pentagon’s latest annual cost assessment of major projects. The estimate for operating and supporting the fleet of fighters over more than six decades grew by almost $73 billion to $1.196 trillion.
The increase to $428.4 billion from $406.2 billion in acquisition costs, about a 5.5 percent increase, isn’t due to poor performance, delays or excessive costs for labor or materials, according to the Defense Department’s latest Selected Acquisition Report sent to Congress last week and obtained by Bloomberg News.

Instead, the increase reflects for the first time the current cost estimates for a major set of upgrades planned in coming “Block 4” modifications, according to the report…..

**Lockheed, Harris Corp. grab $144.6M worth of defense work for F-35, simulator**

By Matthew Richardson – Staff writer, Orlando Business Journal, Apr 24, 2019, 2:14pm EDT

Lockheed Martin Corp. continues its contract spree for its F-35, but this deal isn't to deliver more of the stealth fighter jets. Instead, it's to support the ones it already has built.

The U.S. Navy granted the Bethesda, Maryland-based defense giant a $117 million, four-year contract to provide air vehicle initial spares to include a deployment spares package, afloat spares package and associated consumables to support air vehicle delivery schedules for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter aircraft.

Work for the contract will take place in Orlando; Melbourne; Fort Worth, Texas; El Segundo, California; and more than a dozen other locations in the U.S. and overseas.

Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) has more than 12,000 workers in Central Florida, with its Missiles & Fire Control facility in southeast Orlando, its largest division companywide.

The firm delivered 91 F-35 jets to the military last year and plans to provide more than 130 this year. The program, while expensive with each F-35 variant costing nearly $100 million, brings big economic impact to Central Florida as it pumps $1.7 billion in the region and supports thousands of jobs…..

**DoD Budget**

**Defense Spending to Increase for Fifth Consecutive Year**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Apr 22, 2019 07:15 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5e0e2d33ce307ef7&id=e69e472282

The Pentagon’s budget is expected to grow in 2020 for the fifth consecutive year as lawmakers push for increases despite recent pushback by congressional liberals and deficit hawks, according to a Washington Post report.

The White House’s 2020 budget request includes $750 billion for defense, with deep domestic spending cuts to health care and education programs.

House Democrats have proposed $733 billion in yearly defense increases in exchange for Republican support for nondefense spending that would be doubled.
The dueling defense figures would increase DOD spending to the highest level since the Iraq war, according to Todd Harrison, an expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Harrison’s defense spending conclusion is supported by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and the Center for International Policy, a left-leaning think tank.

The defense increases also suggest the Pentagon will expand despite President Donald Trump’s call to limit overseas involvement.

Other Of Interest

Florida's top law firms offer legal aid to military members

by Randy Wood, Thursday, April 18th, 2019

ESCAMBIA COUNTY, Fla. (WEAR-TV) – Florida military members are getting a helping hand from the legal community.

Governor Ron DeSantis announced a new initiative on Thursday at the Air Armament Museum at Eglin Air Force Base.

"Lawyers Assisting Warriors" is a service that links some of the state's top law firms to those who serve.

The governor says the partnership will be a big help for those facing off base legal issues in their lives.

"I think it speaks a lot that they want to serve our military in a pro bono fashion. so not only are you going to get assistance, but your getting assistance from people who know what they are doing," said DeSantis.

Active duty military will soon be able to apply for legal assistance on the enterprise Florida website.

In the future, the governor hopes the see the program expanded to serve veterans as well.

Governor Ron DeSantis and FDEM Announce $18.5 Million for Bay County Hurricane Recovery

Press Release, Governor's Press Office, April 19, 2019

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that following President Donald Trump’s commitment to federally fund 100 percent of the first 45 days of Hurricane Michael recovery, Bay County is receiving $18.5 million in recovery funding. These funds will be used to reimburse Bay County for removing 2.3 million cubic yards of debris in the 45 days following Hurricane Michael’s landfall.

This is also the first Bay County project reimbursed under the Florida Division of Emergency Management’s (FDEM) expedited reimbursement process, which FDEM Director Jared Moskowitz put in place at the direction of Governor DeSantis. Due to Governor DeSantis securing 45 days of 100 percent federal reimbursement, the state of Florida and Bay County are saving $4.6 million in taxpayer dollars. This funding is flowing as fast as possible to help Northwest Florida recover from Hurricane Michael.
“When I took office, I made a commitment to the people of Bay County that we would make sure they rebuild stronger than before,” said Governor DeSantis. “Today, we are continuing to deliver on that commitment. I’m going to keep looking at every option available and every program at my disposal to make sure the state is doing everything possible for the people of Northwest Florida.”

In January, FDEM announced that, under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, the division was putting in place an expedited process to accelerate funding for Northwest Florida communities impacted by Hurricane Michael. Activating this process will get funds to affected communities more quickly by providing 50 percent of estimated project costs up front and requiring less initial review…..

Like a third world country': Business leaders get firsthand look at slow Michael recovery

Alicia Devine, Tallahassee Democrat, Published 12:34 p.m. April 21, 2019 | Updated 6:23 p.m. April 21, 2019

Resilient.

The word echoed during last week’s Hurricane Michael Recovery Mission, which brought together members of the Florida Chamber Foundation, statewide business leaders and Rebuild 850 representatives to see for themselves the devastation wrought in the Panhandle by the Category 5 hurricane.

“To be fair, no other community is as resilient as this one,” the Chamber Foundation’s Executive Vice President Tony Carvajal said.

The two-day tour included briefings from local leaders, such as Gulf Coast State College President Dr. John Holdnak, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Bay County Lance Rettig, and President of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce Carol Roberts. Attendees also met with small local business owners to hear their needs and perspectives on the progress of recovery.

On the first day, 27 participants loaded on a bus in Panama City and headed to Mexico Beach where they saw homes in shambles, blue tarps on roof after roof, and empty lots where homes once stood.

For several of them, it was their first time seeing the magnitude of the damage where Hurricane Michael stormed onto land. Driving along the shoreline, people snapped photos through the bus windows and shook their heads at the sights of destruction.

Cissy Proctor, managing partner at the Tallahassee office of LSN Partners, teared up as she took in the reality of what people in the Mexico Beach community are still dealing with every day. The executive director of the state Department of Economic Opportunity under former Gov. Rick Scott visited the area a week after the hurricane and hadn’t been back since.

“There has been some clean up but there’s still so much more to do,” she said. “It’s just hard to see.”

The next stop for the group was Caribbean Coffee on U.S. 98. Michael Myhre, CEO of the Florida Small Business Development Center Network Headquarters, introduced the owner of the local coffee shop, David Kiser.

Just days after Michael struck, Myhre went to Kiser’s shop to see how we was doing. Although there was no power or running water, he offered to make Myhre a cup of coffee. Kiser’s hospitality showed the character of the people in the community, Myhre said - resilient.....
U.S. Air Force T-38 Talon celebrate 60 years after maiden flight

in Aviation, News, Video, Apr 19, 2019

The T-38 Talon prototype embarked on its maiden flight as the U.S. Air Force’s first supersonic trainer on April 10, 1959.

Serving critical missions for six decades, the venerable T-38 has consistently performed and has assisted in flight training exercises for 80,000 pilots. And, with various modernizations, the aircraft has maintained low operating costs, is maintenance-friendly and has a great safety record.

One of the safest supersonic airplanes ever built, the twin-engine, high-altitude, jet trainer can fly at a maximum speed of 858 mph and can climb from sea-level to 33,600 feet in 60 seconds. Out of the 1187 aircraft produced between 1959 and 1972, half are still in use today.

The T38 have been used for over half a century, mainly by the U.S. Air Force, for specialized undergraduate pilot training. In addition, Air Combat Command uses the jet as companion training for their B-2, TR-1 and F-22 pilots. The U.S. Navy and NASA also use the T-38 for flight test and research missions.

Earlier this month, Northrop Grumman celebrated the 60th anniversary of the T-38 Talon’s first flight with the U.S. Air Force at an event hosted by Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas…..

Governor Ron DeSantis Requests Increased Federal Cost Share for Hurricane Michael Recovery

by Staff On April 22, 2019

Tallahassee, Fla. – On Friday, April 19th, Governor Ron DeSantis sent a letter to President Donald Trump requesting an increase in the federal cost share from 75 percent to 90 percent for the remainder of Hurricane Michael recovery. This request follows the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s announcement that Hurricane Michael has been upgraded to a Category 5 hurricane – only the fourth Category 5 storm to ever impact the United States and the first to impact Florida as a Category 5 since Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

“I am officially requesting an increase in federal funding for Hurricane Michael recovery from 75 to 90 percent,” said Governor DeSantis. “Since my first full day in office when I visited Northwest Florida, it was clear that the efforts to rebuild and recover were far from over. An increase in the federal share will help Northwest Florida tremendously and I thank President Trump for his previous commitment to fully fund the first 45 days of recovery from this storm. I look forward to continuing to work with the President to ensure Northwest Florida completely recovers.”

“At the Division of Emergency Management, we recognized the devastation this storm caused and took action in January by putting in place new processes and procedures to get funding out as quickly as possible,” said FDEM Director Jared Moskowitz. “I applaud Governor DeSantis for providing leadership and requesting 90 percent federal funding on the same day that Hurricane Michael was
upgraded to a Category 5. This increase in federal funding will provide critical savings to Panhandle communities during their recovery.”

The President has the authority to issue a waiver and increase the federal cost share for hurricane recovery from the standard 75 percent to 90 percent prior to costs reaching the 90 percent threshold. With the recent upgrade of Hurricane Michael to a Category 5, as well as the tremendous amount of debris removal performed since the storm’s impact, the state estimates that this threshold will be met in the future. This change in the federal cost share would save the state and Northwest Florida communities hundreds of millions of dollars….

Rep. Gaetz hosts Military Academy Night in Navarre

By: Cody Long, Posted: Apr 23, 2019 09:24 PM CDT, Updated: Apr 23, 2019 09:50 PM CDT

NAVARRE, Fla. (WKRG) – Dozens of young men and women from across northwest Florida gathered Tuesday night to learn more about the military academies across the nation.

Congressman Matt Gaetz hosted the event from 6 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Navarre High School. They heard from Gaetz and someone from each branch of the U.S. military. They answered questions about the military academy application and nomination process.

"They're learning about the grades and character and leadership skills they have to demonstrate because one of the greatest opportunities I have as a member of Congress is to nominate people for our service academies who will one day potentially lead troops into battle," Rep. Gaetz said. "It's something our community takes great pride in and something I'm honored to do tonight."

Congressman Gaetz will be at Pensacola Christian College Wednesday night to speak to political science students.
May 3

Task Force members,

1. **Terry’s Last Update** – It has been an awesome pleasure to work with all of you for nearly three years! Thanks for all the support and well wishes you have passed since I made the decision to move to Volunteer Florida. Please keep in touch; my new email address is terry@volunteerflorida.org.

2. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #74 will be Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 9:00a.m. (Eastern Time) at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL, 32301. Main business for this meeting will be grant applicants presenting their proposals for possible funding. If you have not let Michelle know that you will be attending, please contract her ASAP.

3. **Call In Number** –
   - Call-In Number: 800-501-8979
   - Access Code: 1869945

4. **Oil Drilling Plan on Hold** – According to reports, the Trump Administration plans to hold off on its off-shore drilling expansion plan. Although many are happy about the change, we should not celebrate or get overconfident that this will protect the Gulf Range. According to NPR, “While the Trump administration is expected to appeal the decision, a resolution could be a long ways off. That makes it uncertain where new oil leases may eventually be allowed. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, published Thursday, newly confirmed Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said that his agency may wait for the court process to play out before moving forward with plans to open up more than 90 percent of all federal waters to offshore oil and gas leasing.” According to The Hill, “The Interior Department is reviewing permits from companies interested in exploring the coast for potential sources of oil, despite the agency announcing a pause in its offshore drilling plans, Reuters reported Monday.” The Gulf range will not be safe until we can get the moratorium extended which has protected test and training operations since 2006. See multiple articles below in the CLIPs.

5. **Tyndall Recovery on Hold** – Congress has failed to pass disaster funding supplemental the Air Force needs to continue recovery efforts at Tyndall AFB causing a new work stop. Existing contracts may continue, but no new work will be authorized until funding is provided. According to WJHG/WECP, “At this time, contracts already signed using funding already in place will continue, such as clean-up and repair efforts. No new projects, including new rebuilding efforts, will start at Tyndall Air Force Base.” See multiple articles in the CLIPs.

6. **Okaloosa County to Receive Funding for Crestview ByPass** – After hearing from U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz and other advocates, the Triumph Gulf Coast board gave conceptual approval Monday to Okaloosa County’s request for $64.1 million in Triumph money for the southwest Crestview bypass. The bypass would include a wider PJ Adams Parkway, a new Interstate 10 interchange, a new road from I-10 north to U.S. Highway 90 and a new road between Antioch Road and SR 85 north of the interstate. Besides reducing traffic congestion and supporting Eglin’s mission, the bypass would lead to increased economic development.

7. **Space Command Summit** – Governor DeSantis has directed Space Florida to capture the newly re-established US Space Command for Florida. To assure we incorporate all of Florida’s extensive capabilities in the offering to DOD and the White House we are hosting a
state-wide Summit on May 9, 2019 at the Orlando International Airport – Terminal C from 12:30 -5:30. Please register at the link below: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-space-command-summit-tickets-60886847199 Password: WHYFLORIDA Please direct any questions to Dale Ketcham at dketcham@spaceflorida.gov.

8. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – 2019 Session is underway. To review or track House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov; for Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached file shows current status.
   - No new bills filed this week

9. **Attachments:**
   - None

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**Terry**

Terry McCaffrey  
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Florida Defense Support Task Force

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Trump Administration Puts Offshore Drilling Plan On Hold After Setback In Court**

NATHAN ROTT, April 25, 20195:16 PM ET  

The Trump administration is postponing controversial plans to greatly expand oil and gas drilling off of the nation's coasts, following a recent setback in court and months of pushback from coastal communities. Last month, a federal judge in Alaska ruled that President Trump exceeded his authority when he signed an executive order to lift an Obama-era ban on oil and gas drilling in parts of the Arctic and Atlantic oceans.
The decision immediately reinstated those protections, and was a major blow to the administration's
efforts to boost oil and gas development across the country.

While the Trump administration is expected to appeal the decision, a resolution could be a long way off.
That makes it uncertain where new oil leases may eventually be allowed.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, published Thursday, newly confirmed Interior Secretary
David Bernhardt said that his agency may wait for the court process to play out before moving forward
with plans to open up more than 90 percent of all federal waters to offshore oil and gas leasing.....

Offshore drilling ban proposed by bipartisan group of Florida lawmakers

Jacob Holzman, Posted Apr 24, 2019 11:02 AM

A bipartisan group of Florida lawmakers introduced a measure to permanently ban drilling off their coast,
the latest sign resistance may be swift among coastal Republicans if the administration tries to open their
states’ waters to oil and gas exploration.

The legislation introduced Monday by Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., would bar oil and gas
drilling off Florida’s coasts and call on the Coast Guard to determine what areas face heightened risk
from oil spills. It was introduced with support from Republican Reps. Vern Buchanan and Matt Gaetz, a
close ally of President Donald Trump.

The Interior Department last year proposed opening almost all Atlantic coastal waters to potential oil and
gas drilling, including the entirety of Florida’s coastline. It was the first of three iterations required by
federal law for the department to finalize a new five-year offshore leasing plan.

The idea was met with swift opposition. Republican Sen. Rick Scott, then the state’s governor, pressured
the department to exempt Florida from drilling and then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke promised he
would do so.

Following Zinke’s resignation in December, Florida’s congressional delegation showed signs it believed
offshore drilling in Florida may be back on the table. The entire delegation wrote to Interior Secretary
David Bernhardt asking for a verbal commitment he would follow through with what Zinke promised.....

Guest Column: Drilling off the coast is not worth the risk


Last November, a state constitutional amendment to ban offshore drilling in state waters earned nearly 70
percent support, sending a strong message from Florida voters that they oppose opening Florida’s coasts
to drilling.

But the federal waters off our coasts remain in jeopardy.

Recent actions by the federal government indicate a desire to open up Florida’s Gulf Coast and South
Atlantic to exploration and drilling. Currently, the administration has under consideration a new five-year
drilling plan with no guarantees that Florida would be exempt. And five seismic testing permits pending final approval would allow oil and gas exploration only miles off our Northeast Florida coast.

So now is the time to double down on our efforts to keep Florida off limits.

Florida continues to top the list of international travel destinations; our beautiful beaches, white sand and world-class fishing drive more than $100 billion in tourism revenue. Coastal communities and businesses all depend on a healthy marine environment.

While drilling may occur miles offshore, unseemly infrastructure and storage facilities would be required onshore, destroying Florida’s natural oceanfront.

Additionally, offshore drilling and exploration could severely impact military readiness and training — ranges in the Gulf and Atlantic allow the military to test cutting-edge munitions and technologies, and drilling and exploration within these training areas would interfere with vital military activities.

Some argue that drilling for oil may create jobs. But at what cost?

**Interior is processing offshore oil permits despite drilling pause**

BY REBECCA BEITSCH - 04/29/19 07:09 PM EDT


The Interior Department is reviewing permits from companies interested in exploring the coast for potential sources of oil, despite the agency announcing a pause in its offshore drilling plans, Reuters reported Monday.

Interior is reportedly in the process of reviewing permits for seismic testing, a process that blasts air below the water to create sound waves that can be used to map out natural resources. The method is strongly opposed by environmental groups as it serves as a precursor to drilling and also alarms marine life, particularly the endangered North Atlantic right whale.

Interior did not immediately respond to request for comment.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt last week said pending lawsuits challenging the administration's ability to drill off the Atlantic Coast and near Alaska pushed the agency to back away from the rollout of plans that were expected shortly…..

**Space**

**House Appropriators Seek Space Force Cost Details**

Dan Cohen, Posted on May 02, 2019 07:06 pm

[https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156e255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=220e1661b5](https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156e255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=220e1661b5)

House Appropriations Defense Subcommittee lawmakers told Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan Wednesday they want more information on the long-term costs of the Pentagon’s new space organizations, Space News reported.

The lawmakers warned during a DOD budget hearing that without more detailed cost information, it could delay the defense appropriations bill.
The panel plans to begin marking up the spending bill May 15. Subcommittee Chairman Pete Visclosky (D-Ind.) said appropriators want to ensure the funding is passed before the current fiscal year ends Sept. 30.

Shanahan wrote a Wall Street Journal op-ed this week titled “It’s Time to Create an American Space Force.”

**Housing**

**Warren Unveils Plan to Address Substandard Privatized Military Housing**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Apr 28, 2019 06:34 pm
https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=6cec003d3b

Sen Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and other Democratic lawmakers proposed legislation Friday to protect military families in living in unsafe privatized housing, Reuters reported.

The proposal is aimed at dealing with ongoing military privatized housing problems and would mandate regular and announced spot inspections of base homes by certified and independent inspectors. Recent reports by Reuters and Congressional hearings detailed issues ranging from lead exposure, infestations, and mold and maintenance issues in privatized housing that serves hundreds of thousands of military families.

The bill would also require landlords to quickly repair problems, and require DOD and private housing operators to publish annual reports covering housing conditions, tenant complaints, maintenance response times and the financial incentives housing firms receive at each base.

Military privatized housing has been largely confidential since the late 1990s and the new protections are intended to provide more transparency to the program.

Warren is running for the Democratic nomination for the 2020 presidential election.

**NAS Pensacola**

**National Flight Academy invites families to explore USS AMBITION**

By Special to Gate House Media Florida, Posted Apr 29, 2019 at 4:40 PM

**Pensacola** – The National Flight Academy (NFA) will host an open house at 1 p.m. May 1. Families are invited to explore AMBITION and learn about America’s premier Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educational facility.

The open house is free to the public and tours begin on the hour starting at 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. The NFA offers one of the most exciting and immersive learning experiences in the world, inspiring students in an aviation-themed adventure aboard a simulated land-locked aircraft carrier.

Guests will experience a glimpse of what is to be expected as an Ambition eXperimental Pilot (AXP) during a week aboard the carrier. The open house will provide families the chance to tour mess deck,
berthing spaces, learning hubs and Hangar Bay equipped with the X-12B Triad simulators. NFA staff and Chiefs will be on hand to talk about the programs and answer questions. Please call 850-453-2389 or email info@nationalflightacademy.com to reserve a spot.

The National Flight Academy is located at 1 Fetterman Way, adjacent to the National Naval Aviation Museum on Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Florida. Please be advised that all guests coming aboard NAS Pensacola must present valid identification for entry to the Air Station. All unescorted visitors to the National Flight Academy who do not possess valid DoD identification will be required to enter NAS Pensacola via the West gate, located at 1878 South Blue Angel Parkway.

**Eglin AFB**

**Eglin Air Force Base Building New Brain Treatment Facility**

By Associated Press, Wire Service Content  April 28, 2019, at 3:10 a.m.


**PENSACOLA, FLA. (AP) –** A non-profit is building a multi-million dollar center to treat Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress for active duty service members at a Florida military base.

Eglin Air Force Base's 96th Medical Group Hospital will break ground on the new $11 million Intrepid Spirit Center this week. The facility will be the eighth in a series of ten centers at military bases around the country including Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Camp Pendleton, California.

The project is being privately funded by the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, which serves United States military personnel experiencing the invisible wounds of war.

**Triumph board gives initial nod to Crestview bypass funds**

By TONY JUDNICH, Posted Apr 29, 2019 at 3:50 PM, Updated Apr 29, 2019 at 3:51 PM


**SHALIMAR –** After hearing from U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz and other advocates, the Triumph Gulf Coast board gave conceptual approval Monday to Okaloosa County’s request for $64.1 million in Triumph money for the southwest Crestview bypass.

“Other than offshore oil drilling, traffic congestion on State Road 85 poses the greatest threat to our military mission,” Gaetz said in reference to Eglin Air Force Base.

For example, almost 14,000 drivers, many of them from Crestview, drive to Hurlburt Field each day, Gaetz told the seven-member board that’s chaired by his father, Don Gaetz.

“Hurlburt is full and Hurlburt is growing,” the congressman said.

Eglin’s mission “is dependent on the state transportation system,” Eglin 96th Test Wing commander Brig. Gen. Evan Dertien told the board. “Our community and the support it provides are critical to our success.”…..
**Tyndall AFB**

Tyndall Air Force Base in need of funding, could affect local businesses

By Gail Levy | Posted: Fri 6:27 PM, Apr 26, 2019 | Updated: Sun 2:32 PM, Apr 28, 2019


PARKER, Fla. (WJHG/WECP) – Since the 1940s, Tyndall Air Force Base has been serving our country and our local community.

Business owners near the base say a lot of their revenue comes from those who staff the base. Without them, their businesses may suffer in the long run.

“I would be very concerned, lack of revenue, lack of people,” said Pizzeria Napoli Owner, Julia Ahamed.

Ahamed moved her restaurant from Springfield to her current location off Tyndall Parkway after Hurricane Michael.

“It took us six months to get back and now we are and we're doing a lot of Tyndall business, or all the Tyndall that is there,” said Ahamed.

Ahamed says before the storm, “I could have days where my whole restaurant was in uniform.”

Some other businesses nearby say they see a lot of airmen and women as well…. 

**Dunn talks about recovery funds and Tyndall AFB**

By: Jerry Brown, Posted: Apr 26, 2019 09:10 PM EDT, Updated: Apr 26, 2019 09:26 PM EDT


BAY COUNTY, Fla. (WMBB) – As we told you Thursday night on News 13, more than six months after Hurricane Michael hit the Panhandle, the region's leaders and residents continue to be frustrated about the lack of disaster relief from Washington. State leaders Thursday spoke at a news conference in Tallahassee.

Michael created 72 million tons of debris across the Panhandle, about 10 times more than was left by Hurricane Irma in 2017, and most of the debris remains on the ground, raising the threat of wildfires. Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis said it feels like the Florida Panhandle has been forgotten.

Friday, Congressman Neal Dunn acknowledged those state efforts, but says it is not known when relief will come. Dunn says, "so, the governor has been great, cabinet has been great, the legislature in Tallahassee has been outstanding. I wish we could get Washington to behave as well. I think the appeals will help...the fact that the governor is banging on the door there really does make a difference. I am grateful for those funds they have appropriated, some of which should have been federal funds. I think we will get something through, but I can't tell when because nobody has ever seen it take this long before."

Dunn says the hold up is with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Until she thinks the relief package is ready to bring to the house floor a vote can't be taken. But, the congressman says he feels the votes to pass the bill will be there when it hits the house floor.
As for the future of Tyndall Air Force Base, Congressman Dunn says the rebuild will happen due to a presidential order. But, it will take longer than anticipated because funding is tied to the end of the fiscal year, which will delay the funds for another calendar year. That means 2024.

200 days after Hurricane Michael, Florida Panhandle still waiting on Congressional action

By KATIE LANDECK, Posted Apr 27, 2019 at 6:05 PM, Updated Apr 28, 2019 at 12:06 PM

PANAMA CITY – Within 10 days of Hurricane Katrina, Congress has passed supplemental disaster relief funding.

For Hurricane Ike and Hurricane Gustav, it took 17 days. For Hurricane Andrew, the last Category 5 storm to strike the United States, it took 34 days. For Hurricane Sandy, which sparked bitter debate in Congress, it took 74 days.

Today marks the 200th day since Hurricane Michael decimated the Florida Panhandle and still no supplemental disaster funding has been passed.

“The fact that Congress is playing politics with the Panhandle is absolutely out of control, insane, a travesty, there are probably not enough adjectives used to describe the incompetence of what that place is doing,” said Rep. Jay Trumbull, R-Panama City, said at a recent press conference in Tallahassee.

Congress left for the Easter break after failing four times to pass a supplemental disaster relief bill for the 2018 disasters, including Hurricane Michael, Hurricane Florence and the California Wildfires. The most recent attempt fell apart over negotiations about how much aid to give to Puerto Rico, still struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria in 2017…..

Senator Rick Scott: 'I will never stop fighting for Tyndall'

by Ly’Nita Carter, Monday, April 29th 2019

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (WEAR-TV) – Senator Scott met with military leaders on Monday to discuss the rebuilding process and hurricane relief funding for the Tyndall Air Force Base after Hurricane Michael ravaged through the Florida Panhandle.

During the meeting, Senator Scott expressed on how Congress is holding up the disaster relief funding for the Tyndall Air Force Base and how it is unacceptable for the military families.

Scott stated US Senator Chuck Schumer and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi should visit the Northwest Florida community and see for themselves the how the hurricane devastation has impacted the area and funding is needed now.

The Air Force is spinning toward a $4 billion financial disaster

By: Valerie Insinna and Joe Gould, 1 May 2019
WASHINGTON – Hurricane relief efforts at Tyndall Air Force Base will begin lapsing Wednesday due to a lack of funds, preventing the start of all new work and deferring more than 120 projects planned to begin after May 1.

But that’s just the start of the Air Force’s money problems, which have resulted in a shortfall of more than $4 billion in fiscal 2019.

If the Air Force doesn’t get that funding, it will be forced to ground combat aircraft, defer at least 61 facility repair projects at various bases and halt certain aircraft maintenance actions. Key weapons programs — like hypersonic weapons development — would be slowed down and become more costly, and non-deploying squadrons may have their flying hours stripped away, warned Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson in a March 6 memo obtained by Defense News.

“We need sufficient reprogramming for the Air Force to avoid significant negative impacts on the readiness of the force to fight,” Wilson wrote. “These FY 2019 budget impacts, left unmitigated, will drive negative impacts to the Air Force readiness and lethality.”

The money the service needs in FY19 falls into three categories:

- It needs $1.2 billion in additional funding for hurricane and flood recovery at Tyndall AFB, Fla., and Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., according to service.
- It needs to transfer $366 million from other accounts so that it can achieve the 80 percent mission capable mandate for the F-35, F-22 and F-16, the memo states.
- It needs permission to shift more than $3 billion in its existing budget so that it can continue funding the development of tech priorities like hypersonics and new missile warning satellites, according to the memo.

Lack of funding forces USAF to stop Tyndall rebuilding efforts

Air Force Technology, 2 May 2019
HTTPS://WWW.AIRFORCE-TECHNOLOGY.COM/NEWS/LACK-FUNDING-USAF-TYNDALL-REBUILD/

The US Air Force (USAF) has halted all rebuilding efforts at Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) in Florida, US, due to lack of funding.

The service announced that work would be suspended because of the absence of Congressional funding.

In October, the Tyndall AFB suffered $4.7bn of damage when category five hurricane Michael made landfall in Florida.

At a public event on 27 March, USAF Secretary Heather Wilson underscored a critical need for supplemental funding to undertake repair works at Tyndall and Offutt AFBs, which were damaged by natural disasters.

Hurricane Michael was the first category five hurricane to strike the contiguous US since hurricane Andrew in 1992 and one of only four of this category to make recorded landfall in the continental US.

The hurricane damaged nearly 700 buildings and forced the service to evacuate 11,000 personnel and 46 aircraft.
Offutt AFB in Nebraska, headquarters of US Strategic Command, was crippled by a massive flood in March this year. The flooding event inundated the base, with dozens of buildings and much of the flight line becoming submerged in water

Tyndall Air Force Base funding falls through

WJHG, Posted: Wed 2:06 PM, May 01, 2019 | Updated: Wed 4:38 PM, May 01, 2019
https://www.wctv.tv/content/news/Tyndall-Air-Force-Base-funding-falls-through-509326271.html

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (WJHG/WECP) - According to the Air Force representatives, Tyndall Air Force Base did not receive money to start new projects on base.

Tuesday, May 1st, was the deadline for more funding.

At this time, contracts already signed using funding already in place will continue, such as clean-up and repair efforts. No new projects, including new rebuilding efforts, will start at Tyndall Air Force Base.

According to the Air Force, the damage from Hurricane Michael on the base will cost $4.7 billion to repair. They say the storm damaged nearly 700 buildings and forced the Air Force to relocate 11,000 personnel and 46 aircraft.

"Homeowners and businesses purchase insurance to protect themselves from these kinds of disasters, but that's not an option for the military," Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson said. "When unavoidable catastrophes strike our facilities, supplemental funding from Congress is our only recourse. If they don't step in, our communities, our readiness and our security all pay the price."

Tyndall isn't the only base facing issues do to a recent disaster. The Air Force says the March 2019 flooding in Nebraska damaged Offutt Air Force Base. They say flood waters submerged dozens of buildings and much of the flightline under eight feet of water

Trump Won’t Rebuild Military Bases if He Has to Rebuild Puerto Rico, Too

JAMES JOYNER · THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

The Defense News headline “The Air Force is spinning toward a $4 billion financial disaster” correctly highlights a problem of concern for its readership. But buried in the report is an even bigger story.

The setup matches the headline:

Hurricane relief efforts at Tyndall Air Force Base will begin lapsing Wednesday due to a lack of funds, preventing the start of all new work and deferring more than 120 projects planned to begin after May 1.

But that’s just the start of the Air Force’s money problems, which have resulted in a shortfall of more than $4 billion in fiscal 2019.

If the Air Force doesn’t get that funding, it will be forced to ground combat aircraft, defer at least 61 facility repair projects at various bases and halt certain aircraft maintenance actions. Key weapons programs — like hypersonic weapons development — would be slowed down and become more costly,
and non-deploying squadrons may have their flying hours stripped away, warned Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson in a March 6 memo obtained by Defense News.

That’s a big story that should concern all Americans. Further, there’s a similar issue for the Marine Corps. But the Why is even more interesting than the What.

Lawmakers in both the House and Senate have proposed legislation that would boost funding for hurricane and flood recovery efforts, but those bills have stagnated over how much disaster aid to provide Puerto Rico…..

FL National Guard / Camp Blanding

Florida Air Defenders Adopt New Training to Counter Ballistic Missiles

Story by 2nd Lt. James Lanza, 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, 05.02.2019

STARKE, Fla. – Today, the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade recognized the accomplishments of 12 Soldiers graduating from the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command’s Patriot Training Program during a ceremony at the Florida Army National Guard’s Regional Training Institute at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

The program, designed to teach Army National Guard air defenders how to properly integrate systems such as Patriot Surface-to-Air Missiles and THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) within their existing command, is the product of a growing challenge air defense units have faced in past years.

Due to a major increase in threats, the air defense artillery community has faced an uptick in mobilizations and missions. International crises have demanded the expedited and unplanned mobilizations of assets such as THAAD and Patriot weapon platforms, designed to intercept and destroy enemy ballistic missiles. The need to quickly integrate these systems into existing commands have proven to be one of the major challenges to Army National Guard air defense artillery brigades, spurring the creation of the Patriot Training Program.

“This program is designed to fill a capability void for National Guard air defense brigades, giving them Patriot and THAAD experience, which we had previously lacked,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy Sheriff, Commander of the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command. “Air Defense is one of the top modernization priorities of the Army. As we move toward multi-domain operations, we’re required to enhance our capabilities and look at new ways to defend the force.”

In the past, weapon platforms such as the Avenger Air Defense System, were unable to integrate other platforms such as Patriot or THAAD into their command, with each system needing its own separate command and control elements. The Patriot Training Program ensures each system can be quickly streamlined under a single command….

Cape Canaveral AFS

NASA Awards $608M Base Operations and Spaceport Services Contract to PAE-KBR
NASA has awarded a two-year, Base Operations and Spaceport Services contract to the joint venture PAE-SGT Partners LLC, known as PSP, with a potential value of $608.7 million to provide support services at the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, KBR announced on Monday. The contact has three two-year options after the initial two years.

"Our continued exemplary performance at the Johnson Space Center as well as our recent performance at Mississippi's Stennis Space Center and the New Orleans's Michoud Assembly facility provided us with unique, proven capabilities to position us to win this contract," said John Heller, chief executive officer of PAE. "The synergy we have with our high-caliber JV partner and our collective proven past performance and relevant experience ensured PSP as the best overall value."

PSP will provide mission-focused institutional support including: operations, maintenance and engineering of assigned facilities, systems, equipment and utilities; work management and spaceport integration functions, mission support and launch readiness management as well as other services.

### Defense Industry

**Government watchdog finds more problems with F-35’s spare parts pipeline**

By: Valerie Insinna, 4-26-19

Only about half of the F-35 fighter jets worldwide were ready to fly during an eight-month period in 2018, with the wait for spare parts keeping jets on the ground nearly 30 percent of the time, according to a new report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Over the past several years, the Defense Department sought to improve mission-capable rates by making improvements to the way it and F-35 manufacturer Lockheed Martin order, stockpile and repair spare parts. However, GAO’s findings imply the situation may have gotten worse.

The GAO’s report, released April 25, investigated how spare parts shortages impacted F-35 availability and mission-capable rates in 2018, with most data gathered between a May and November sustainment contract period.

### DoD Budget

**Arms Procurement Bumps Defense Spending to New Highs**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Apr 29, 2019 08:08 pm

DoD spends more on arms procurement than on any other category of defense spending, and the budget proposal for 2020 is no exception.
The U.S. increased military spending last year for the first time since 2010, joining a worldwide boost in defense outlays to a 31-year high, *Stars and Stripes* reported Monday.

U.S. defense spending in 2018 rose 4.6% to reach $649 billion, adding to $1.8 trillion in worldwide military spending, according to a new Stockholm International Peace Research Institute report.

The U.S. was the biggest in defense funding, spending an amount nearly equal to the next eight largest defense budgets combined, the SIPRI report detailed.

“The increase in U.S. spending was driven by the implementation from 2017 of new arms procurement programs under the Trump administration,” said Aude Fleurant, SIPRI’s military expenditure program director.

The worldwide increase in military spending is the highest since 1988 when the Cold War began drawing down.

President Donald Trump has committed to strong national defense spending despite reducing U.S. troops numbers in overseas conflict zones. His defense spending request to Congress this year is the largest ever in dollar terms before adjustment for inflation.

**Other Of Interest**

**Nodjomian Named Matrix Design Group CEO**

Dan Cohen, Posted on Apr 30, 2019 06:20 pm

https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?e=28cebe069c&u=8156c255f5c0e2d33ce307ef7&id=7d8f5a6dfe

Sal Nodjomian is now the CEO of Matrix Design Group, Inc., the company announced last week.

Nodjomian previously served as the executive vice president and director of Matrix’s government consulting services. He replaces Dan Schnepf, Matrix’s founder, who will continue as chairman of the board of directors and chief financial officer.

Matrix Design Group has been a lead sponsor of the Association of Defense Communities for more than 10 years. Nodjomian has performed many roles supporting ADC, including serving as program committee chair of several ADC events.
May 10

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – Task Force meeting #74 will be Thursday, 16 May 2019 at 9:00a.m. (Eastern Time) at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL, 32301. Main business for this meeting will be grant applicants presenting their proposals for possible funding. If you have not let Michelle know that you will be attending, please contract her ASAP. Meeting books have been mailed out and electronic version of the meeting book can be found on the Task Force web site.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   - Call-In Number: 800-501-8979
   - Access Code: 1869945

3. **Space Summit May 9th** – Governor DeSantis has directed Space Florida to capture the newly re-established US Space Command for Florida. To assure we incorporate all of Florida’s extensive capabilities, Space Florida held a Space Summit yesterday in Orlando to solicit community and stakeholder input. This half-day event was extremely informative. General Haddad, General Diehl and Rep. Altman attended along with Tim Jones from the FDA. General Diehl and I participated in a panel on why Florida was the best place to establish Space Command. There will be a Short White Paper developed by The Principi Group to be published shortly. Both General Spears and Greg Kiley participated on panels at this event.

4. **Military / Veteran Legislative and Budget Summary** – Attached documents reflect the final military and veterans legislative summary.

5. **Attachments:**
   - Military friendly legislative summary
   - Veterans bill summary

Regards, BG.

**Bruce Grant**

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[Enterprise Florida](http://www.enterprise-florida.com)
News Clips of Interest:

**Tyndall AFB**

**Trump Visits Tyndall Air Force Base, Surveys Florida Hurricane Damage**


Military.com© May 9, 2019

President Donald Trump promised a swift infusion of federal aid to the Florida Panhandle seven months after devastating Hurricane Michael as he rallied supporters Wednesday for his re-election.

Trump addressed a crowd of thousands at an outdoor amphitheater, looking to rally loyalists in the reliably Republican corner of the swing state as he kicks his 2020 efforts into high gear. Federal emergency funds to the area hit by the Category 5 hurricane and elsewhere have been caught up in a Washington standoff over Trump's opposition to more hurricane aid for Puerto Rico……..

**Tyndall Air Force Base holds second Industry Day**


WJHG © May 2, 2019

By Olivia Michael

Tyndall Air Force Base held an industry day at FSU's Panama City campus Thursday.

This comes on the heels of Wednesday's announcement the base will not receive the requested federal supplemental money to continue new construction on the base. Tyndall estimates recovery costs will total $3 billion.

Ret. Air Force Colonel John Henderson said now projects will have to begin tapering off. He added Tyndall had to use funds from other parts of the Air Force and even take some risks with the expectation Congress would help financially.

"Congress has always stepped up and done this in the past so there was an expectation this would eventually happen and so we took some risk in order to recover the base and to take care of our people, take care of the mission. They're just budget risk but now we have to mitigate some of that risk for the rest of FY-19 at least," said Henderson.

Current repairs that have already been allocated money will continue through July………..
National Guard

Florida Air Defenders Train for Multiple Deployments Ahead

DVIDS © May 6, 2019
Story by Sgt. Kenny Naidoo
164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment spent this month participating in Exercise American Shield while at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in preparation for upcoming mobilizations safeguarding the airspaces around both Washington D.C. and Europe.

For most units, training for two different mobilizations concurrently is an unheard-of feat, but as the demand for air-defense units around the world skyrockets, units have adapted to the rising operation tempo.

“We’ve been postured to perform missions within the continental United States to the National Capitol Region as either a firing unit or mission command task force, now we’ve taken on an additional mission in Europe as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve,” said U.S. Army Col. Sean Boyette, commander of the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. ……..

Public meetings set for possible F-22 ‘bed-down’ at Eglin

Northwest Florida Daily News © May 5, 2019
By Jim Thompson

A series of public meetings on the “bed-down” of maintenance and pilot training for the F-22 Raptor fighter jet at either Eglin Air Force Base or Virginia’s Langley Air Force Base are scheduled for this area in the coming days.

The sessions, part of preparation of required Environmental Impact Statements at both Eglin and Langley for the F-22 operations, are scheduled for 5-8 p.m. May 14-16, according to an Air Force announcement. The May 14 meeting is at Cornerstone Worship Center, 444 Valparaiso Parkway in Valparaiso; the May 15 session will be in rooms 132/133 of Building 400 at Northwest Florida State College, 100 E. College Blvd. in Niceville, and the May 16 meeting will be held in the Student Union East Conference Room of Gulf Coast State College, 5230 U.S. Highway 98 in Panama City………..
**Space Command**

**Space Florida mounting an aggressive campaign to get Space Command headquarters**


Orlando Sentinel © May 4, 2019

By Chabeli Herrera

Space Florida is mounting a full-court press campaign to bring the headquarters of the United States’ 11th combatant command, Space Command, to Florida.

At a recent board meeting in Tallahassee, the state’s spaceport authority discussed the communications and tactical campaigns it has organized to try to get Space Command, a unified branch that would help provide more effective command on space operations across military branches.

The board’s new chair, Lt. Gov. Jeanette Nunez, stressed that the effort is “front and center” for the state, as Florida competes with Colorado, California, Alabama, New Mexico, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and Virginia for the headquarters……..

**How the Space Force might impact Navy and Marine Corps personnel**


Defense News © May 6, 2019

By: Valerie Insinna

As the Pentagon considers which military personnel could become part of the new U.S. Space Force, leaders with the Navy and Marine Corps have expressed confidence troops will continue to execute the space mission no matter the service to which they’re assigned.

“With regard to where our personnel are at, I can’t speak to what’s on their mind except that I know that interacting with our space operators, they’re dedicated to the mission,” Rear Adm. Christian Becker, head of Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, said during a May 6 panel at the Navy League’s Sea-Air-Space conference……………………
MacDill AFB

Retired CENTCOM commander’s lawsuit against privatized housing owners ‘gives validation’ to issue, advocate says


Military Times © May 2, 2019
By: Karen Jowers

A lawsuit filed by the recently retired commander of U.S. Central Command and his wife against privatized housing companies and their contractors shows the problems “are pervasive among all levels, from generals and admirals all the way down to E1,” said Crystal Cornwall, executive director of the Safe Military Housing Initiative.

“It gives validation to all of our young enlisted and young officers who have complained about these housing issues for a long time, and have suffered from some these severe repercussions,” said Cornwall, a Marine Corps wife.

Retired Army Gen. Joseph Votel and his wife Michele are suing five companies, including the owner of privatized housing at MacDill Air Force Base, accusing them of negligence in a fire that destroyed virtually all of their belongings. The lawsuit was first reported by the Tampa Bay Times.....

Eglin AFB

Eglin to get new medical center


The Destin Log © May 2, 2019
By Jim Thompson

Ground was broken Thursday for an Intrepid Spirit Center, a 25,000-square-foot, $11 million medical facility dedicated to diagnosing and treating post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury among active-duty military personnel at installations across the region.

The center, expected to be completed sometime next year, is the eighth of 10 centers built and planned by the nonprofit Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, and is the first to be located on an Air Force base. Like all of the other Intrepid Spirit Centers, the Eglin AFB-located center, built with private donations, will be open to members of all branches of the military services.....
Eglin AFB gets new fighter squadron, Matt Gaetz and Marco Rubio applaud

Florida Politics © May 10, 2019
By Scott Powers

The Air Force announced Thursday it is sending its next F-35A training squadron to be based at Eglin Air Force Base outside of Fort Walton Beach, leading Republican U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz and Republican U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio to declare victory. The decision will bring 500 additional military personnel to the area, including pilots, flight instructors, and military contractors, Gaetz and Rubio said in a joint news release issued Thursday. It’s a bit of a trade, however. The Air Force announced that Eglin will only receive the new unit if the F-22 Raptor formal training unit that was temporarily operating at Eglin is permanently moved to Joint Base Langly-Eustis in Virginia........

SOUTHCOM

Shanahan, Pompeo and Bolton meet with Southern Command chief on Venezuela crisis

Stars and Stripes © May 3, 2019
By ROBERT BURNS

The commander of U.S. forces in South America briefed top Trump administration officials Friday on the crisis in Venezuela and options for potential military action.

The session highlighted the administration's effort to suggest the possibility of military action, perhaps as a way of increasing public pressure on President Nicolas Maduro, although there appears to be little likelihood of direct U.S. military intervention........

Defense Business

Lockheed, Northrop snare $1.2B of defense work for F-35s, Hellfire missiles, Advanced Hawkeye

Orlando Business Journal © May 2, 2019
By Matthew Richardson
As Lockheed Martin Corp. continues its effort to deliver more than 100 of its F-35 stealth fighter jets to the military, more work for aircraft it already has delivered continues to fly in.

More F-35 work was one of three contracts announced April 29 with services that will happen in Central Florida. The total value of all three contracts snared by Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman Corp. is $1.2 billion.

Here is a breakdown of each contract:

The U.S. Navy awarded Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) a $1.1 billion, three-year contract to support the F-35 Lightning II aircraft. The contract covers a variety of services for the F-35, from ground maintenance activities to supply chain management and pilot and maintainer initial training. Most of the work will happen in Orlando and Fort Worth, Texas, as well as four other locations……….

**Other Items of Interest**

**As Venezuela Tensions Mount, U.S. to Deploy Hospital Ship to Region**


US News © May 7, 2019

BY PHIL STEWART

As tensions with Venezuela mount, the United States is planning to announce on Tuesday the deployment of a military hospital ship to the region, U.S. officials say, in the latest sign of the Pentagon's limited, and targeted, involvement in the crisis.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not specify where in the region the ship would travel to. Last year, a hospital ship -- the USNS Comfort -- cared for Venezuelan refugees and others as it stopped in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Honduras.

The U.S. military's Southern Command, which oversees U.S. forces in Latin America, did not immediately respond to a request for comment…………

**Here's the Air Force's plan to revolutionize the way it trains pilots**


Business Insider © May 6, 2019

By Oriana Pawlyk
When Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson visited AFWERX’s Pilot Training Next program in Austin, Texas, last year, she watched as trainees took flight from the seats in front of her — through the use of virtual reality.

It piqued her interest enough to ask service officials to explore ways that similar flight simulator programs could be introduced to high schools to get young students involved in the nation’s endeavors to create more pilots………

Don’t Expect the US Military’s Next Fighter to Be Joint

After two decades of working side-by-side on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the U.S. Navy and Air Force won’t be teaming to build a successor jet, a top Navy official said.

“I don’t necessarily foresee an exact sort of repeat of F-35 in a single solution set,” Angie Knappenberger, deputy director of air warfare for the deputy chief of naval operations for warfare systems, said Monday at the Navy League’s Sea Air Space conference in National Harbor, Maryland. “I do see an awful lot of capabilities and systems that we can take, share one service to another.”……
May 16

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – There is no Task Force meeting in June. The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL adjacent to NAS Whiting Field.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979  Access Code: 1869945

3. **Governor’s Base Commander Meeting** – Attached documents reflect the final military legislative summary.

4. **Acting SECDEF Patrick Shanahan Nominated** – President Trump has officially nominated Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan to be the next Secretary of Defense.

5. **Attachments:**
   - Military Legislative Summary

Regards, BG.

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News Clips of Interest:

**Tyndall AFB**

Storm-ravaged bases wait on Washington for repair money


Defense News © May 10, 2019
By: Joe Gould
When President Donald Trump toured the storm-ravaged Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida on Wednesday, he vowed it would be rebuilt.

"We'll have many more people working at Tyndall than you had before the hurricane, so get ready for that," Trump later said at a rally a few miles from the military base.

But months after natural disasters wrought havoc on the site and several other military posts, the White House has yet to formally ask Congress for the funding, and talks have stalled between the two branches of government on a disaster aid package to address the problem ….

**Space Command**

**Space Florida continuing U.S. Space Command pitch**

Florida Politics © May 16, 2019

On Tuesday the Air Force announced that Florida was out of the running for the new headquarters for the pan-military U.S. Space Command, but on Wednesday Space Florida essentially said: That’s just the Air Force’s opinion.

Florida’s space promotion agency is continuing to put together a proposal to attract the new headquarters, which could house up to 1,200 military and civilian personnel, to Cape Canaveral, even though on Tuesday the Air Force released a list of selected finalist sites and none was in Florida ….

**NS Mayport**

**Naval Station Mayport: Home to Sioux City's namesake ship**

SiouxLandProud © May 10, 2019
By: TIM SEAMAN

"Thank you, thank you very much," said U.S.N. Capt. Randy Malone. With those words and some United States Navy pomp and circumstance, the USS Sioux City recently exchanged command.

One crew leaving the ship another taking control of the $362 million vessel. "Couldn't ask for a better ship and better process. Everything I expected and more," added former USS Sioux City Commander Randy Malone.

"On a minimally manned ship, it's really one team one fight. We refer to the blue and gold crew but we say team Sioux City," says USS Sioux City Commander Kevin O'Brien ….
More than $40 million in improvement projects to make local roads safer

Action News Jax © May 13, 2019

More than $40 million in road and safety improvements are planned for the beaches communities over the next several years.

During the Atlantic Beach City Commission meeting Monday night, the North Florida TPO updated the projects planned for the area for fiscal years 2019-2020 through 2023-2024.

Improvements include intersection modifications, traffic signals and bridge repairs, among other things ….

Eglin AFB

Air Force to shift Florida weapons squadron to Hill AFB in Utah

Air Force Times © May 11, 2019
By: The Associated Press

The Air Force plans to transfer a unit that evaluates bombs and other weapons to Hill Air Force Base in Utah from Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

The Standard-Examiner reports that the service concluded that the 86th Fighter Weapons Squadron should be relocated because most of the Air Force’s evaluations of air-to-ground weapons are conducted at Hill at the Utah Test and Training Range, but most of the personnel are assigned to Eglin ….

Next F-35 Training Squadron Likely to Be Located at Eglin

Aviationpros.com ©
BY JIM THOMPSON, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS, FORT WALTON BEACH

Eglin Air Force Base is the Air Force's preferred alternative for an additional F-35A training squadron, a move that could bring as many as 500 new airmen to the installation.
There is, however, a possible catch, however slight it may be, in the plan.

According to the Air Force's Thursday announcement of its preferred site for a new F-35A training squadron, Eglin "will only receive the additional F-35 training unit if the F-22 Raptor formal training unit temporarily operating at Eglin AFB is permanently moved to Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia."

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**Gaetz: New F-35 squadron will more than offset loss of 86th**


By Jim Thompson

The 86th Fighter Weapons Squadron, a unit of the 53rd Fighter Wing that evaluates air-to-ground weapons systems, is moving from Eglin Air Force Base to Utah’s Hill Air Force Base.

Personnel lost to that move will, however, be more than offset by the likely establishment of a new F-35A stealth fighter jet pilot and maintenance training squadron at Eglin, noted U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., whose district includes Eglin.

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**SOUTHCOM**

**Venezuela's Guaido seeks U.S. Pentagon cooperation to solve political crisis**


Reuters © May 11, 2019

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido said on Saturday he has asked his envoy to the United States to meet with Pentagon officials to “cooperate” on a solution to the South American country’s political crisis.

Guaido, the leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, added he had received word from China that the country would join a diplomatic effort between European and Latin American countries, known as the International Contact Group on Venezuela, to negotiate an end to the crisis.
May 25

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – There is no Task Force meeting in June. The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL adjacent to NAS Whiting Field.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   Call-In Number: 800-501-8979  
   Access Code: 1869945

3. **New Staff Member** – Staff is pleased to welcome our newest staff member to the EFI Military and Defense Team – New Deputy Executive Task Force Director, Ray Collins Lt. Col, USAF (ret). You will get to meet him at the Task Force meeting in July.

4. **GI LAW (Lawyers Assisting Warriors)** – The Governor’s pro bono legal assistance program for military service members in Florida is being phased in over the next 3 weeks. The program’s web site will be live for all US Navy personnel beginning today and will be expanded to all other military services and installations by June 12, 2019. The web site is: [https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/florid国防ense/lawyers-assisting-warriors/](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/florid国防ense/lawyers-assisting-warriors/)

5. **Senate Approves Disaster Relief Bill** -- The measure provides $19.1 billion in relief for states and territories recently ravaged by tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, volcanoes, typhoons, and other such events. The disaster relief bill provides critical aid for states affected by disasters in 2018 and 2019 (including Hurricane Michael), as well as ongoing relief for disasters that occurred in 2017, including: agriculture disaster relief for farmers; development grants for small, rural communities; assistance for veterans’ health facilities and military construction projects; emergency funds for critical timber, watershed, and wastewater infrastructure needs; and resources to restore highways, aviation facilities, and other transit projects.

Regards, BG.

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[Website] [Email]
News Clips of Interest:

Tyndall AFB

Senate Passes Long-Deferred Disaster Relief Package

New York Times © May 23, 2019
By Emily Cochrane

The Senate on Thursday passed a long-delayed disaster relief package, a step toward ending a month’s long impasse that had prevented the release of billions of dollars in aid for farmers and communities struggling to recover from an onslaught of natural disasters over the last two years.

Minutes after a tornado warning blared through the Capitol chambers, the Senate voted 85 to 8 to allocate $19.1 billion for recovery efforts across the country. While the package included $900 million for Puerto Rico that President Trump had objected to, it did not include funds for the southwestern border that the White House had pressed for……..

Combat Archer combines with Checkered Flag

http://www.aerotechnews.com/blog/2019/05/22/combat-archer-combines-with-checkered-flag/
Aerotech News © May 22, 2019

An F-22 Raptor taxis on the flightline during the Combat Archer 19-8 exercise at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., May 14, 2019. Combat Archer 19-8 allowed leaders to monitor the lifespan of a missile to assess execution performance by maintenance crew members, aircraft armament systems members and aircrew members. (Air Force photograph by Airman 1st Class Monica Roybal)

The 325th Fighter Wing concluded Combat Archer 19-8 that was conducted in conjunction with the ongoing Checkered Flag 19-1 exercise at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., May 6-17.

The Combat Archer exercise, also known as the Weapons Systems Evaluation Program, is the Department of Defense’s largest air-to-air live-fire evaluation exercise. Squadron leaders monitor the lifespan of a missile to assess execution performance by maintenance crew members, aircraft armament systems members and aircrew members……..

Space Command

Space Force Clears Senate Committee After House Attempt to Stall

One week after a House subcommittee rejected new funding for President Trump’s new Space Force, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted in favor of the new service branch for the U.S. military, but scaled back some of the administration’s proposal.

Senior committee aides speaking to reporters on Thursday were short on details, but the move marks the first time a Senate panel has voted to support a separate service for space. In the same measure, senators also called for an overhaul of how the military buys satellites and launch services.

**Space Force gets cautious OK in House defense spending bill**


Roll Call © May 20, 2019
By Patrick Kelley

The House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee has signaled that it will entertain, but constrain, President Donald Trump’s plans to create a new military service that focuses exclusively on space.

The House’s version of the fiscal 2020 defense spending bill would provide $15 million for Space Force operations and maintenance, almost $57.5 million lower than the administration’s $72.5 million request, according to the committee report released Monday.

**You’ve heard of space force, but what about Space National Guard?**


Federal News Network © May 21, 2019
By Scott Maucione

The debate over a space force has been in the public eye for quite some time now, but not much mention has been made of how the Defense Department wants to handle reserve and guard components.

That changed today, as Air National Guard Director Lt. Gen. L. Scott Rice said his preference, and the preference of the DoD task force in charge of building the space force, would prefer a National Guard component to the new military service if Congress decides to establish a space force.
Vice President Pence Thanks First Responders, Rallies Troops at NAS Jacksonville

Vice President Mike Pence praised first responders and service members during a visit to Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax), May 20.

During the visit, the vice president toured Unmanned Aerial Patrol Squadron 19’s Mission Control Center, where he flew the “Triton” MQ-4C simulator, and a Patrol Squadron 45 P-8A “Poseidon” aircraft.

Pence also personally thanked first responders who assisted when the Miami Air charter Boeing 737 skidded off the NAS Jax runway into the St. Johns River May 3. The aircraft was on a routine flight late that evening from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet Welcomes New Commander

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet held a change of command onboard Naval Station Mayport at the Ocean Breeze conference center, May 21.

Rear Adm. Donald Gabrielson relieved Rear Adm. Sean Buck, who will be continuing his career as the 63rd superintendent of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis.

As commander, Buck served as the joint maritime component commander during operation Blue Torch, managed disaster relief operations in the Caribbean and search and rescue efforts to for the Argentine submarine ARA San Juan (S 42).

MacDill AFB

New report highlights more mold and maintenance problems for MacDill housing

As commander, Buck served as the joint maritime component commander during operation Blue Torch, managed disaster relief operations in the Caribbean and search and rescue efforts to for the Argentine submarine ARA San Juan (S 42).
MacDill Air Force Base is no stranger to problems with its housing.

In a new report from the Military Family Advisory Network, 105 families who spent time living in on-base housing at MacDill responded to a survey in which they spoke out about issues such as mold, maintenance and other concerns.

In the survey, 60 percent of families that responded to the survey cited concerns with maintenance, repairs or remediation, while 54 percent of those families shared concerns with mold.

Other Items of Interest

Air Force Wants Both F-35 and F-15EX. But if Forced to Choose, It's No Contest: SecAF


Military.com © May 20, 2019
By Oriana Pawlyk

As Congress reviews the Defense Department's budget request for the upcoming fiscal year, the prospect of adding a new, fourth-generation fighter should be weighed against the necessity of growing the Air Force's inventory with more capable aircraft to replace the aging current fleet, according to the service's top civilian.

The only factor that would stifle the new F-15EX fleet would be another bad budget situation, said outgoing Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson.

Trump taps Barbara Barrett, former Aerospace Corporation chairwoman, as next Air Force secretary


Air Force Times © May 21, 2019
By: Stephen Losey and Aaron Mehta
President Trump on Tuesday announced that he plans to nominate Barbara Barrett, a former chairwoman of the nonprofit Aerospace Corporation, to be the next secretary of the Air Force.

Trump revealed that he has settled on Barrett as the service’s 25th secretary in a tweet Tuesday afternoon, shortly after the conclusion of a farewell ceremony for departing Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson. Wilson will leave the Air Force at the end of the month to be the next president of the University of Texas at El Paso.

These two services are now helping military spouses with professional licensing costs after PCS moves

https://www.militarytimes.com/pay-benefits/2019/05/20/these-two-services-are-now-helping-military-spouses-with-professional-licensing-costs-after-pcs-moves/

By: Karen Jowers

Army and Air Force spouses can now apply for reimbursement of up to $500 for professional relicensing costs when they relocate with their service member – and the new policies are retroactive to Dec. 12, 2017.

Their new policies, issued last week, are designed to ease the financial burden of spouses having to renew these licenses each time they move to a new duty station. In many cases, spouses in certain fields can’t get a job in their field until they meet the requirements of that new state for a license to practice in their profession. The policies apply to active duty Army and Air Force, and Guard and Reserve on Title 10 orders.
May 31

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – There is no Task Force meeting in June. The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL adjacent to NAS Whiting Field.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

   *(Note: we've changed to a new teleconferencing system with a new call-in number and format.)*

   Call-In Number: 888-585-9008  Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **New Staff Member** – Good afternoon Task Force members. I’m the New Deputy Executive Task Force Director, Ray Collins, and am looking forward to meeting all of you at our July Task Force meeting and to years of productive work together. (bio attached)

4. **Space Command** – The Florida Congressional delegation sent a letter (attached) to the Secretary of Defense questioning the announced down-select of 6 bases for Space Command.

5. **Attachments:**
   - Florida CODEL Letter to SECDEF on Space Command

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Tyndall AFB**
Texas Representative puts disaster bill vote on hold

My Panhandle.com © May 24, 2019 By Kayla Tucker
Disaster funding is on the way to the panhandle but not until the House of Representatives votes to approve the bill. On Thursday, the Senate passed a $19 billion-dollar disaster bill. The house was set to approve the bill Friday morning, but Texas Representative Charles Roy wanted otherwise.

"If I do not object, the Congress will have passed into law a bill that spends 19 billion dollars of taxpayers money without members of Congress being present here in our nation's capital to vote on it," said Roy during a hearing in Washington.

Four hundred and thirty-four representatives agreed to approve the bill by what is called unanimous consent, but Roy requested a recorded vote.

For Second Time, One Republican’s Objection Delays Disaster Aid

New York Times © May 28, 2019 By Emily Cochrane

A single House Republican again blocked final passage of a long-delayed emergency aid package, the second Republican in a week to use the power of an individual lawmaker to ensure the delay of relief for communities and farmers still recovering from natural disasters.

House Democrats tried for a second time on Tuesday to use a procedural vote to pass a Senate-approved $19.1 billion package while most lawmakers are spending a weeklong recess outside of Washington. But Representative Thomas Massie, Republican of Kentucky, used the power of a single lawmaker to object to the vote, pushing for the full chamber to be present to vote on legislation.

Wright-Patterson Assesses Damage After Monday Storm; Other Bases Await Repair Funding

Association of Defense Communities May 29, 2019

Officials at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, were assessing damage from a major Memorial Day storm that included at least one tornado hitting the area Monday night.

The Marine Corps’ Camp Lejeune, N.C., suffered $3.6 billion in damage from Hurricane Florence in September, and in October Hurricane Michael caused an estimated $3 billion in damage to Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Those bases and others await funding to rebuild as the House has been unable to pass the disaster aid bill this week. The bill includes $1.67 billion for the Air Force and $981 million for the Navy and Marine Corps.
The next opportunity for passage of the disaster aid bill comes Thursday when the House will attempt a third unanimous consent vote. If blocked again, it will be on the chamber’s agenda next week when lawmakers return from recess.

**House Blocked From Approving Disaster Aid Bill for Third Time**

Association of Defense Communities May 30, 2019


The bipartisan $19.1 billion disaster aid bill stalled again Thursday when for the third time a GOP lawmaker objected to a request to approve the package by unanimous consent, CQ reported. Rep. John Rose (R-Tenn.) blocked the latest request, following previous procedural objections by Reps. Chip Roy (R-Texas) and Thomas Massie (R-Ky.).

The package, which gained approval from both the Senate and President Donald Trump late last week, is now expected to pass the House when lawmakers return Monday.

The long-delayed disaster relief package includes $3.2 billion to rebuild military bases and Coast Guard facilities that have sustained extensive damage from natural disasters in the past year.

**Tyndall AFB discusses rebuilding plans with local contractors**

mypanhandle.com Updated May 31, 2019


One of the groups that need disaster funding the most is Tyndall Air Force Base, but even with the disaster bill stuck in Congress plans are still moving forward to rebuild.

On Thursday, local business contractors gathered to learn about the proposed construction contract strategy and what they need to do to maximize their competitiveness during the rebuild. Tyndall is currently at 85 percent of the manpower it had before Hurricane Michael and $400 million has been spent on renovations so far, with $2.7 billion planned for fiscal year 2020.

Having Tyndall manned and operational is good for the base, but it also provides unique construction challenges. Since the base is currently in use, most of the construction must be done near simultaneously. The work will be divided into 12 work zones, with smaller zones costing less than $50 million to repair and the largest costing as much as $500 million.
Senate authorizers approve Space Force but switch up its organizational structure

Defense News © May 23, 2019 By: Valerie Insinna

The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved the establishment of a Space Force in its defense authorization bill, potentially setting up a clash with House lawmakers who have questioned the need for a sixth military branch for space.

“We know space is a warfighting domain, so we are setting up the U.S. Space Force with the Air Force. Our strategy will set the Space Force up for success now and in the future by minimizing bureaucracy,” Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe, R-Okl., said in a statement.

Marco Rubio, Rick Scott question Defense Secretary over Space Command

Florida Politics © May 27, 2019

Just a mere couple of weeks ago Florida, received official confirmation that the state is no longer in the running for U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM).

Now, Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott are formally responding to Acting Secretary of Defense, Patrick Shanahan, regarding the disappointing announcement that left local officials stunned.

On Thursday, Rubio issued a letter to the acting Secretary with the support of the state’s entire congressional delegation. Scott was among the signers.

The letter is the latest in a series of efforts by Florida politicians to elicit consideration and to better understand the selection process for the headquarters, which would bring up to 1,200 military and civilian personnel to the area.

At the beginning of the year, Gov. Ron DeSantis joined calls to make Florida the home of USSPACECOM when he sent a letter to President Donald Trump recommending Florida for the headquarters.

MacDill AFB
Tampa’s special ops conference sets record levels for attendance, vendors
This year’s Special Operations Forces Industry Conference in Tampa set some new records.

Nearly 13,000 people from 39 countries registered for the event during a non-demonstration year and 440 exhibitors — the most ever — turned out at the Tampa Convention Center for the four-day event.

U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base and the National Defense Industrial Association of Arlington, Virginia, cohosted the event.

Attendance is typically higher during demonstration years, when special forces display their power through use of helicopters and faux rescue operations in downtown Tampa. Last year, a demonstration year, nearly 13,000 attended the conference....

**Eglin AFB**
The last F-35C Lightning II belonging to “Grim Reapers” squadron left its home base

The U.S. Navy’s Commander Joint Strike Fighter Wing has announced that the last F-35C Lightning II fighter jet belonging to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101 “Grim Reapers” left its home base at Eglin, AFB in Fla. for Naval Air Station Lemoore (NASL) as the squadron deactivated after more than seven years of training F-35C pilots and Sailors and Marines....

**USSOUTHCOM**
SOUTHCOM Chief Outlines Keys for Success in South America

Despite terrorist groups, narcoterrorism and the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, South America remains "the largest, free and peaceful ... most prosperous democracy region in the world," the commander of U.S. Southern Command said.

Navy Adm. Craig S. Faller said he has plans to help allies and partner nations in the region not only maintain that prosperity, but also improve upon it.
During a May 22 presentation before the 4th Annual Hemispheric Security Conference at Florida International University in Miami, Faller said key to SOUTHCOM's strategy is recognition of the commonalities the United States already shares with South American nations….

**Other Items of Interest**

**Military families say this is their top concern**

CNBC © MAY 25 2019 10:00 AM EDT BY Sharon Epperson, Katie Young, Jessica Dickler  

Members of the military face hurdles every day — and financial challenges are among some of the biggest. In fact, service members and their spouses ranked financial stress as their greatest concern, even over deployment, according to Blue Star Families’ annual military family lifestyle survey.

Nearly 9 in 10 active service members and 84% of spouses or partners have worries about personal finances, according to a separate report by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, which also did the same survey of military personnel five years ago. Rather than have some of those challenges subside as the economy improved, more military families are worried about meeting basic household needs and debt payments today than in 2014, the NFCC found.

In fact, service members are now twice as likely not to be able to pay all their bills on time than they were just a few years ago. Roughly 3 in 10 spouses or partners of service members said they do not pay their bills on time and about 1 in 10 said they currently have debts in collection, according to the survey.

**Senate confirms Army, Navy chiefs**

The Hill © May 24, 2019 BY REBECCA KHEEL  

The Senate has voted to confirm the officers nominated to be chiefs of the Army and Navy.

As part of a batch of dozens of military nominees, the Senate confirmed Adm. Bill Moran to be chief of naval operations and Gen. James McConville to be Army chief of staff by unanimous consent on Thursday night. The Senate also confirmed replacements for Moran and McConville, who have been serving as the vice chiefs of their respective services. The new vice chiefs are Adm. Robert Burke for the Navy and Gen. Joseph Martin for the Army.

Moran will take over for Adm. John Richardson, who is expected to retire after the change of command….

**Defense bill includes pay hike, steps to improve family housing, Inhofe says**
The defense bill completed this week by the Senate Armed Services Committee takes major steps toward improving family housing, boosting military pay and modernizing weapons systems, U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe said Friday.

“Each and every provision addresses some of the most pressing challenges facing our military: curtailing threats from (China and Russia) and rogue regimes, securing new warfighting frontiers of space and cyberspace and addressing management issues within the Department of Defense, in particular, privatized housing,” said Inhofe, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

2019’s Best & Worst States for Military Retirees (Florida Ranked Number 2)

People typically view retirement as the end of the line — a time for rest, relaxation and the pursuit of interests long ago put on the back burner. But the story is far different for military retirees who must deal with the trials of reasimilation into civilian life. For starters, the average officer is only 45 years old — 42 for nondisability enlisted personnel — upon retirement from service. Many of those who reenter the job market face tough challenges during the transition while others struggle with more difficult problems, such as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, disability and homelessness.

Marines Will Cover up to $500 in Licensing Fees for Spouses Under New Policy

The Marine Corps has announced its policy for covering the cost of spouses' professional credentials and licensing fees following a permanent change-of-station move.

In a Marine administrative message issued Thursday, Marine and Family Member Programs Director Marie Balocki said the service will reimburse up to $500 per PCS to cover the costs of professional licensing or re-certification, to include exams and registration fees, after a move.

The Army and Air Force announced details of their reimbursement plans earlier this month; the Navy is expected to follow suit next month.

To be eligible, Marine spouses must successfully obtain the same license or certification in the professional field they practiced at a previous duty station in the new state.
Boeing's Tapestry Solutions announces $259M military aircraft software contract

May 29 © UPI By Ed Adamczyk

Boeing's Tapestry Solutions division announced a 10-year, $259 million contract to provide Weapon Planning Software to the U.S. military and its allies. Tapestry announced receipt of the contract on Tuesday.

The Defense Department referred to the contract as the development, enhancement and support of the WPS program, a core component within the Joint Mission Planning System architecture, for the U.S. Air Force in February. The WPS suite is the standard framework of applications for precision-guided munition planning in A-10, B-1, B-2, B-52, F-15E, F-16, F-22, F/A-18 and F-35 aircraft, bombers and fighter planes worldwide.

Work will be largely performed at Tapestry's facilities in St. Louis and in Niceville, Fla., and is expected to be completed by February 2029. The Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Eglin AFB, Fla., is the contracting agent.
June 7

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – There is no Task Force meeting in June. The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL adjacent to NAS Whiting Field.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   *(Note: we’ve changed to a new teleconferencing system with a new call-in number and format.)*
   
   Call-In Number: 888-585-9008  
   Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Disaster Aid Bill Signed** – This week the US House of Representatives passed the long-awaited supplemental disaster aid bill and President Trump signed it into law yesterday. The bill provides $19.1 billion in disaster relief aid for multiple states including $1.5 billion for the rebuilding of Tyndall AFB.

4. **Association of Defense Communities National Summit** – The ADC will hold their annual summit in Washington, D.C. from June 10-12 next week. Over 800 people are expected to attend including members of congress, top DoD leaders, and heads of military installations, defense industries, training ranges, private sector supporters and community/state partners. FDSTF will be represented by Bruce and Ray.

5. **Governor’s Base Commanders’ Conference** – On Wednesday, June 12 Governor DeSantis will hold his annual meeting with military base commanders from around the State of Florida. This will be the governor’s first opportunity to meet with each of the base commanders and will offer the base commanders an opportunity to brief the governor on ongoing projects and discuss items of concern in each of their local communities. The conference be held at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

6. **Attachments:**
   - Florida D-Day 75th Anniversary Proclamation

**Ray Collins**

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

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News Clips of Interest:

**Tyndall AFB**

**President Trump signs disaster aid bill**

Northwest Florida Daily News © June 6, 2019 By Patrick McCreless

President Donald Trump signed into law on Thursday the long-awaited supplemental disaster aid bill for Hurricane Michael recovery, including the rebuilding of Tyndall Air Force Base.

The bill was signed nearly eight months since the Category 5 hurricane struck the Panhandle. The legislation, passed by the House a few days ago after much political bickering, also includes billions of dollars for other recent natural disasters.

For Bay County specifically, the legislation includes around $1 billion to help rebuild Tyndall, which was severely damaged in the hurricane….

**$19.1 billion disaster aid package on the way to desk of President Trump, at last**

Tallahassee Democrat © June 3, 2019 By News Service of Florida

The federal disaster-relief package, long sought by Florida officials and Panhandle residents recovering from the ravages of Hurricane Michael, received approval Monday from the U.S. House after three earlier attempts were blocked.

The 354-58 vote, which came after the House returned from a 10-day holiday recess, sends the $19.1 billion package to President Donald Trump. The Senate backed the measure 85-8 on May 23.

U.S. Rep. Neal Dunn, a Republican from Panama City, expressed frustration Monday with his GOP colleagues who blocked the measure, which includes $1.2 billion to rebuild Tyndall Air Force Base, one of the storm-battered region’s biggest economic drivers….

**Florida to get a big chunk of federal dollars for hurricane relief. Here’s how it breaks down**

Orlando Sentinel © June 4, 2019 Compiled from various Staff and Wire Reports

The $19.1 billion federal disaster relief package approved by Congress on Monday contains massive amounts of money for hurricane relief for Florida.
The largest portion of the package earmarks $1.5 billion for the rebuilding of Tyndall Air Force Base, which was essentially destroyed by Hurricane Michael this past October.

The base has been home to the 43rd Fighter Squadron’s F-22 Raptor training and operations, but the jets were moved to nearby Eglin Air Force Base because of damage from the storm....

Congress sends Trump disaster bill with aid to storm-struck military posts

DefenseNews.com Posted June 4, 2019 By Joe Gould

Congress has approved a $19.1 billion disaster aid deal that contains nearly $3 billion for storm-stricken military facilities around the country after the House passed it Monday, 354-58.

President Donald Trump is expected to sign the package, sending aid to victims of Western wildfires, Midwestern flooding and hurricanes that hit the South and Puerto Rico — as well as Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida; Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; and Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, both in North Carolina.

The bill allotted the Air Force a total of $1.67 billion, the Navy and Marine Corps $981 million, the Coast Guard $477 million, the Army National Guard $42 million, and the Department of Veterans Affairs $3 million. Appropriators offered a mix of military construction and operations and maintenance funding, some with the flexibility to be spent over several years.

Acting U.S. Air Force Secretary visits Tyndall

mypanhandle.com Posted June 3, 2019

It has been almost 8 months since Hurricane Michael and Tyndall Air Force base still sits in ruins.

His second day on the job, the new Acting United States Air Force Secretary, Matthew Donovan, visited Tyndall Air Force base. Secretary Donovan flew into the base Sunday morning to see the damage for himself. For Donovan, Tyndall holds a much deeper meaning.

"I was just looking at an old photo of me taken with all my folks, about 300 folks in front of that hangar and I can tell you, it doesn't look anything like it does today," he said.

US Air Force Base Still in ‘Recovery Mode’ Eight Months After Hurricane Michael
"When you walked out of one building, certainly every direction that you would look, you see destruction. Debris was everywhere. All the roads were blocked — mostly trees, in some cases power lines. So the initial reaction walking around was, this is a big deal," Laidlaw told NPR for an article published Friday, describing the damage inflicted by the hurricane.

"I would say in many ways we are still very much in recovery mode. We've been very judicious about how we spend the resources that we have. As you drive around the base, you'll see a lot of temporary roofs — 12- to 24-month roofs," Laidlaw continued. Fire department members and other personnel are currently living in modular homes at the base.

Tyndall and Bay County officials sign agreement to put tax office on Tyndall

Tyndall and Bay County are opening a Tax Collector's Office on Tyndall Air Force Base.

The agreement will provide Tyndall Air Force Base with a Tax Collector's Office that is close to airmen's work centers. Airmen and retirees can register vehicles, obtain hunting and fishing licenses, become Florida residents and more.

The new building will be on a site near the current base library.
Save the wildlife: don’t beach drive

Officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and Tyndall Natural Resources offices are urging drivers to not operate their vehicles on the beach for the safety of all coastal life.

In accordance with Tyndall AFB Instruction 32-7003 Beach Vehicle Access Procedures, beach driving on base is restricted to official uses and emergency responses only. Those authorized to drive on the beach have had the proper training and familiarization prior to getting behind the wheel.

“Most of Tyndall’s beaches are designated Critical Wildlife Areas and home to multiple endangered species of sea turtles, shore birds and beach mice,” said Danielle Bumgardner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services wildlife biologist. “Unwarranted driving on the beach can be hazardous to the threatened animals and their nests.”

The base currently has 30 sea turtle nests resting along its many miles of beach.

NAS Pensacola
Waffle House hero honored with joyride in Blue Angels jet

A Tennessee man who wrestled a gun away from a Waffle House shooter has been honored with a joyride in a Blue Angels jet.


Blue Angels pilot Lt. Cary Rickoff says he showed Shaw some aerobatics, as well as high-speed and dynamic maneuvers…

Shaw is credited with disarming the shooter who killed four people and wounded four others at the Nashville restaurant in 2018….
NAS Whiting Field

NAS Whiting Field Helicopter Training Squadron Eight (HT-8) changes command

weartv.com Posted June 7, 2019

MILTON, Fla. (WEAR-TV) — On Friday, the Helicopter Training Squadron Eight (HT-8) at Naval Air Station Whiting Field will have a new leader.

The change of command ceremony will be held at Naval Air Station Whiting Field at 10:00 a.m.

The Navy reports, Cmder Jessica Parker, commanding officer of Helicopter Training Squadron Eight (HT-8) will relinquish command to Cmdr. Lena Kaman, executive officer, HT-8.

Team Orlando

National Center for Simulation Names George Cheros President & CEO

National Center for Simulation press release June 3, 2019 By Mary Trier

The National Center for Simulation (NCS) Board of Directors is pleased to announce George Cheros as its selection for President and CEO of NCS.

The NCS is celebrating its 25th year and has been a key contributor to the growth of the more than $6 billion M&S industry in Central Florida and throughout the nation.

NCS was born out of the U.S. military services’ mission, along with the University of Central Florida, to build and support training and simulation and expand the technology and grow the industry. NCS has worked hand-in-hand to solidify partnerships between the military, academic, and industry organizations. Its role to expand and diversify to other industry sectors is a focal point for future growth and expansion.

US Coast Guard District 7

Coast Guard offloaded thousands of pounds of weed and cocaine. Here’s what it’s worth.

Miami Herald © June 6, 2019 By David J. Neal and Carli Teproff
The Coast Guard offloaded 26,000 pounds of cocaine and 1,500 pounds of marijuana Thursday morning at Port Everglades, the result of more than a dozen interdictions in the waters off the coast of Mexico and Central and South America from March until May.

“Three-hundred fifty million dollars of street value that’s not going to go to some of the most violent criminals in the world in this hemisphere. Do let me just say thank you first to the team of [the cutter] Hamilton,” said Kevin McAleenan, acting secretary of Homeland Security, with the drugs in the background at the Fort Lauderdale port.

A little math and the U.S. cocaine market says McAleenan’s estimation of the street value falls well short of what the drugs are actually worth….

**Other Items of Interest**

**Lt. Gen. David H. Berger confirmed as next Marine Corps commandant**

Marine Corps Times © June 6 2019  BY Shawn Snow

Lt. Gen. David H. Berger was confirmed by the Senate Wednesday evening to be the next commandant of the Marine Corps.

The incoming commandant currently is the commander of Marine Corps Combat Development Command, where he oversees the latest tech and training to prepare the Corps for the future battlefield.

He will take the mantle as top Marine when Gen. Robert B. Neller, the 37th commandant of the Marine Corps, steps down at the end of his term.

**House to Advance Multiple Appropriations Bills to Avoid Fall Shutdown**

defensecommunities.org Posted June 6 2019  By ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/house-to-advance-multiple-appropriations-bills-to-avoid-fall-shutdown/

The House will vote on a nearly $1 trillion spending package next week as the first of several appropriations measures that Democrats want to pass to avert automatic spending cuts and a possible government shutdown this fall when a new fiscal year begins, CQ reported Wednesday.
The bill, including a $733 billion defense topline, combines five of the 12 annual spending bills in an attempt to speed up the appropriations process in advance of looming budget negotiations over the summer.

The spending bills include an overall $1.295 trillion fiscal 2020 discretionary spending limit that the House approved under a “deeming” resolution in April.

Niceville software firm gets part of $259M military contract

A Niceville-based computer software firm will expand after being awarded a subcontracting role by a Boeing subsidiary heading up a weapons planning software (WPS) contract.

Dynamic Software Solutions (DS2) is a partner with Boeing’s Tapestry Solutions Inc. in a contract awarded through the Air Force Materiel Command and involving the service’s Armament Directorate at Eglin Air Force Base. The contract covers precision-guided munitions planning for a number of military aircraft, including the A-10 close air support jet, the B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers, and fighter aircraft including the fifth-generation stealth F-22 and F-35 jets.

In connection with the contract, DS2 and Tapestry Solutions “anticipate adding a significant number of local jobs,” according to the EDC, which pegs the likely hiring at “up to 30 or more personnel.” Joe Staton, CEO of Dynamic Software Solutions, told the EDC that the company “intends to hire and train locally.”

Here’s what the first few years of US Space Command might look like

Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond, who is nominated to lead U.S. Space Command, breezed through his confirmation hearing Tuesday. If approved by the Senate, Raymond’s confirmation will be the first step necessary to establish the new combatant command.

SPACECOM will be officially established once a commander is confirmed, its first space operators are assigned, and its Unified Command Plan — which lays out the command’s missions and responsibilities — is approved. The initial cadre responsible for standing up SPACECOM will be a group of about 642 personnel from U.S. Strategic Command, Raymond said in his written responses. That staff includes all personnel from Joint Force Space Component Command and its distributed space mission operations centers, as well as additional staff that will transfer from U.S. Strategic Command’s headquarters.
U.S. Space Command would require 617 personnel for its operations in FY20, with 587 transferring from other military space organizations, according to budget documents. From there, the size of the command would expand — but it’s unclear how many operators will transfer to the new organization or whether there will be a net increase of jobs as a result from the churn….

Memories of the Longest Day still linger for these D-Day survivors

MilitaryTimes.com Posted June 5, 2019 By Brian Mackley
https://www.militarytimes.com/2019/06/05/memories-of-the-longest-day-still-linger-for-these-d-day-survivors/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ebb%2006.06.19&utm_term=Editorial%20%20%20Early%20%20Bird%20%20Brief

Inside a hospital tent in England on the night of June 5, Army Nurse Opal Grapes was relaxing after another long day of getting prepared for the invasion of Europe.

As celebrations take place in France and around America honoring the men and women who took part in that mission on its 75th anniversary, there are fewer and fewer who remember it firsthand. Grapes, 98 and living in Houma, Louisiana, is one of five American D-Day survivors to share those recollections with Military Times.

“I just remember the night before, a group of nurses and I were sitting around talking and we heard the sky roaring with planes and so we knew that D-Day was happening,” Grapes said. A retired Army Nurse, Grapes remembered the invasion from the moment the first planes flew across the English Channel to midafternoon. By then her hospital was already filled with hundreds of casualties.

Sarasota D-Day veteran to be honored by the French government

heraldtribune.com Posted June 5, 2019 By Jonah Hinebaugh

Bernard “Buck” Best didn’t fight on a battleship or on the front lines during World War II — but he is no less of a hero.

He’s receiving the French Legion of Honor by Consulate General Clement Leclerc Thursday at a ceremony in Naples for his help liberating the country that had been under German control for four years. This is the highest French order of merit of civilians and military personnel.

The 94-year-old Sarasota resident worked as a U.S. Navy salvage diver off the coast of Normandy. Best and other divers spent countless hours clearing the strategically valuable harbor, removing debris and — most importantly — the sea mines the Germans had placed to slow the Allied advance and prevent reinforcements from landing on the beach.
These three military bases may soon house unaccompanied immigrant children

MilitaryTimes.com Posted June 5, 2019 By Karen Jowers

Three military installations are being considered to temporarily shelter unaccompanied immigrant children who have been apprehended at the border, officials said.

Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma, may be the closest of the three to receiving the children. Fort Benning, Georgia, is also being considered, and HHS officials were reportedly scheduled to tour vacant property at Fort Benning today to determine its suitability for potential future use to house the children.

The bases are being considered because shelters at the border are beyond capacity to hold the children, ages 17 and under, while HHS officials work to find sponsors for them, usually family members. The three bases are part of a request from HHS to temporarily house up to 5,000 children in property that is not currently being used, Mitchell said. There may or may not be other bases under consideration in the future, he said.

The military is being pulled deeper into the climate change debate

MilitaryTimes.com Posted June 6, 2019 By Leo Shane III

In response to military bases in several states still struggling with repairs after recent extreme weather events, House Democrats are calling for the Department of Defense to get serious about climate change.

Included in the House Armed Services Committee’s draft of the annual defense authorization bill is language requiring an overhaul of Defense Department plans for responding to weather vulnerabilities at bases across the globe.

The new bill language requires consideration of “potential adverse consequences of long-term changes in environmental conditions, such as increasingly frequent extreme weather events,” including the potential costs of such planning.
June 14

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – There is no Task Force meeting in June. The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL adjacent to NAS Whiting Field.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   *(Note: we’ve changed to a new teleconferencing system with a new call-in number and format.)*
   
   **Call-In Number:** 888-585-9008   **Conference Room:** 262-492-927

3. **Association of Defense Communities National Summit** – The ADC held their annual summit in Washington, D.C. Monday through Wednesday this week. Florida was represented by approximately 20 members of the FDSTF, the Florida Defense Alliance and several local Defense Alliances. All present had many valuable opportunities to hear from, and discuss concerns with, multiple members of Congress, Mrs. Karen Pence (2nd Lady of the United States), numerous defense and service secretaries, undersecretaries, assistance secretaries and service chiefs as well as local defense community leaders from around the country. The articles of interest this week summarize the discussions from this summit and the hyperlink that follows links to the summit website.
   
   [https://www.adcsummit.org/](https://www.adcsummit.org/)

4. **Governor’s Base Commanders’ Conference** – On Wednesday, at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Governor DeSantis held his first meeting with military base commanders from around the State of Florida. Encroachment on several bases, quality of schools or difficulties for students transferring mid-term due to Permanent Change of Station moves, and Tyndall AFB reconstruction efforts were topics that surfaced repeatedly.

5. **Eight Florida Bases on List of DoD’s Most Threatened by Climate Change** – This week the Department of Defense presented to Congress a prioritized list of the bases most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. This week’s list is a supplement to a January report (attached) on the overall impact of climate change on the military’s bases, however DoD did not have the list of affected bases prioritized by January. Of note, six Florida Air Force bases plus NAS Key West and USMC Support Facility Blount Island all are among DoD’s installations most vulnerable to the ongoing effects of global climate change.

6. **Attachment:**

Ray Collins
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

‘Space Corps’ gets OK in House committee’s NDAA markup

defensenumbers.com | Posted June 13, 2019 | by Joe Gould
https://www.defensenumbers.com/congress/2019/06/13/space-corps-gets-ok-from-hasc-ndaab-markup/

The House Armed Services Committee approved a new military branch for space early Thursday.

The panel unanimously adopted the measure by a voice vote after debating for less than an hour. It was offered by Strategic Forces Subcommittee chairman Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., and Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., who first offered the idea of a sixth branch two years ago.

The language aims to establish a Space Corps within the Department of the Air Force, with its own streamlined acquisition system, a four-star commandant on the Joint Chiefs, and a civilian secretary….

House panel to debate counteroffer to Trump’s Space Force

defensenumbers.com | Posted June 10, 2019 | by Joe Gould
https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/06/07/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-upcoming-homeport-
The House Armed Services Committee will debate a new military branch for space as part of the annual defense policy bill, but it will be “smaller and more focused” than President Donald Trump’s Space Force proposal, the panel’s chairman said Monday.

Like Trump’s proposal, the idea is to create an organization within the Department of the Air Force. House funding authorizers are expected to debate the matter Wednesday as an amendment during committee markup, HASC Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., told reporters Monday.

“The main difference is less bureaucracy,” Smith said, adding that there would be fewer four-star generals, fewer mandatory transfers of personnel to Space Command and fewer costs overall....

**Tyndall AFB**

**Tyndall Receives $250 Million from Disaster Relief Package for Recovery Projects**

defensecommunities.org | Posted June 12, 2019


Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., will receive $250 million of the disaster recovery funds provided in the recently passed disaster relief bill, Inside Defense reported.

The bill, signed by President Donald Trump last week, allocated the Air Force $670 million for expenses. Tyndall is expected to begin making awards for its share of the funding to rebuild base infrastructure damaged in Hurricane Michael last October.

Brig. Gen. Patrice Melancon, Tyndall’s Program Management Office executive director, said the installation will soon award contracts for smaller repair projects and to replace three key buildings: a fire station that was wiped out by the hurricane, a small arms training range and the air battle manager simulation building, according to Inside Defense....

**FL National Guard / Camp Blanding**

**Leaders talk Florida Guard capabilities before peak hurricane season**
Ahead of any threatening hurricane or potential natural disaster, the governor of Florida has the authority to activate the state's National Guard. Since the numbers and specific equipment needed might vary depending on the severity of the threat, it is vital for senior leaders at the state level and the Division of Emergency Management to understand the force's capabilities.

With that goal in mind, the Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. James O. Eifert and key Florida National Guard leaders met with DEM Director Jared Moskowitz today at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center post headquarters.

Joined by Legislative Affairs Director Jared Rosenstein and Chief of Staff Jon Bussey, Moskowitz was briefed on the successes and lessons dating back to the state's response after destructive Hurricane Irma, the largest response effort in state history, and last year's category 5 storm, Hurricane Michael, that wreaked havoc on the Florida panhandle.

**NS Mayport**

**What you need to know about the upcoming homeport shifts**

Shaking up its forward-deployed flotilla in Spain, eight U.S. Navy warships and a California helicopter squadron have been tabbed for homeport shifts over the next three years.

Initially announced on Tuesday but fleshed out for Navy Times on Friday, the Pentagon plans call for all four guided-missile destroyers stationed in Rota to return home over the next two years, to be swapped out with updated hulls.

The Pentagon believes the first warship to switch out will be the Naval Station Mayport-based destroyer Roosevelt, which is scheduled to replace the destroyer Carney in 2020. Carney was the last destroyer to make the homeport switch to Spain, arriving in Rota on Sept. 25, 2015. It’s expected to return to Florida.

**NAS Key West**
NASKW bids farewell to Baker, welcomes Sohaney

keysnews.com | Posted June 7, 2019 | by Alex Wilson

More than 300 people gathered at Naval Air Station Key West on Thursday to witness the dual ceremony for NAS Key West’s change of command and Capt. Bobby “Beetle” Baker’s retirement from his 26-year-long military career. Two VFC-111 “Sun Downers” fighter jets and a NAS Key West….

DoD Budget

House Armed Services Panel to Mark Up Full 2020 NDAA Bill Wednesday

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 10, 2019
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/house-armed-services-panel-to-mark-up-full-2020-ndaa-bill-wednesday/

The House Armed Services Committee will mark up its fiscal 2020 annual defense authorization bill Wednesday after most of the legislation advanced through the panel’s subcommittees last week.

Overall, the Democrat-led House’s fiscal year 2020 NDAA would authorize a $733 billion defense budget, including $633 billion for the Pentagon’s base budget and $69 billion in overseas contingency funding.

The Senate Armed Services Committee completed the majority of its NDAA markup activity behind closed doors last month….

Will a smaller defense spending plan pinch military personnel money?

militarytimes.com | Posted June 11, 2019 | by Leo Shane III
A top House Republican will push for adding $17 billion to the Democrat-proposed defense authorization bill total, arguing the current plan shortchanges critical personnel and construction accounts needed to maintain military readiness.

The amendment from Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, would add $1.2 billion in personnel spending and nearly $750 million in training funding in the House Armed Services Committee’s draft of the annual defense authorization bill. That money is already included in the authorization bill draft passed by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The money is unlikely to find its way into the House draft, given Democrats’ public position to rein in military spending as they push for other domestic priorities.…

Smith seeks bipartisan balance for first defense policy bill

defensenews.com | Posted June 11, 2019 | by Joe Gould

On the one hand, the House Armed Service Committee’s draft defense policy bill would check President Donald Trump on his border wall, and on the other, it holds back some when it comes to restricting America’s nuclear arsenal.

Speaking with reporters Monday, Rep. Adam Smith acknowledged he has sought to balance the concerns of progressives (who likely favor the border restrictions) and conservatives (who already oppose its restrictions on a low-yield nuclear warhead).

Up for debate in committee on Wednesday, the bill backs House Democrats’ proposed $733 billion national security budget, which falls short of the $750 billion Trump requested.…

Armed Services chairman dismisses Republican criticisms of $733B defense bill

thehill.com | Posted June 10, 2019 | by Rebecca Kheel

The Democratic chairman of the House Armed Services Committee on Monday defended his version of the annual defense spending bill amid Republican criticisms of the top-line dollar figure and nuclear cuts.
Smith’s version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would authorize a fiscal 2020 defense budget of $733 billion, which covers the Pentagon and Department of Energy nuclear programs.

The Trump administration, however, proposed a $750 billion defense budget. Republicans argue that’s the minimum needed to ensure the U.S. military is ready to counter Russia and China, citing defense officials' testimony on the need for 3 to 5 percent year-over-year budget growth.…

This week in Congress: The annual defense debate all-nighter

militarytimes.com | Posted June 10, 2019 | by Leo Shane III

House Armed Services Committee members will hold their marathon mark-up of the annual defense authorization bill on Wednesday, an event that is expected to last more than 12 hours and feature some contentious military policy debates.

Unlike the Senate Armed Services Committee, which conducted the majority of its work behind closed doors last month, the House panel has a tradition of a lengthy public negotiation for the budget policy bill.

Both chambers could pass those committee drafts by the end of the month, giving staff most of the summer to work out a compromise deal between Democrat-led policies from the House and Republican-favored ones in the Senate.…

Military Pay Raise Safe, All Else Uncertain in Defense Budget, Key Lawmaker Says

military.com | Posted June 11, 2019 | by Richard Sisk

A planned 3.1% military pay raise is safe, but wrangling will continue over the shape of the defense budget on issues ranging from nuclear weapons and the Space Force to the border wall and Guantanamo Bay, Rep. Adam Smith, D-Washington, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said Monday.
"I think we need to have spending discipline within the Pentagon," and slimming the defense budget to $733 billion is a good place to start, Smith said.

By giving the Pentagon more than $733 billion, "I think we encourage inefficiency," he said….

**House panel advances $733B defense budget bill over GOP objections**

defensenews.com | Posted June 13, 2019 | by Leo Shane III and Joe Gould

House lawmakers advanced a $733 billion defense policy bill on Thursday after nearly 21 hours of sometimes heated debate on the size of the Pentagon budget, the size of the country’s nuclear arsenal and a host of other military priorities for next year.

The 33-24 final vote by the House Armed Services Committee on the draft of the defense authorization bill marked one of the most divided stances from the committee in years, as Republicans voiced concerns with Democrats’ priorities in the measure.

The legislation, which sets military spending policy for the upcoming fiscal year, has been adopted by Congress for 58 consecutive years, usually by sizable bipartisan margins. Committee officials insist that’s because the needs of the military usually rise above the partisan politics of Capitol Hill.

But this year, the narrow passage out of committee illustrated the stark divide in defense policy between the two parties, and hints at a lengthy battle to come as the measure moves across Capitol Hill to the Republican-controlled Senate in the coming weeks….

**HASC Advances Fiscal 2020 NDAA for Floor Vote**

defensecommunities.org | Posted June 13, 2019 | by ADC author

The House Armed Services Committee approved its fiscal 2020 defense authorization bill early Thursday morning and advanced it for floor consideration, CQ reported.

The Democrat-crafted bill, completed in an unusually contentious 21-hour markup, authorizes $733 billion in defense spending, which is $17 billion less than the administration’s $750 billion request. Several Republicans on the panel supported the administration’s higher topline.
The measure advanced on a largely party-line vote 33-24 with Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) and most of the panel’s Republicans opposing the usually bipartisan NDAA legislation. Overall, the bill reflects a 2% increase over fiscal 2019 spending, authorizing a $622.1 billion base budget and $68.1 billion for uncapped Overseas Contingency Operations accounts.

Cyber

Who does what for DoD cyber? Congress wants to know

fifthdomain.com | Posted June 12, 2019 | by Mark Pomerleau

During a congressional hearing in March, one House member well-versed in cyberwarfare issued an unusual — and understated — criticism of U.S. Cyber Command and the Pentagon’s broader cyber organization.

“Standards and capabilities have yet to be defined and understood across each of the services,” Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., said in an opening statement. “Relationships and responsibilities are still being worked out between Cyber Command, regional combatant commanders, and each of the services.”

Despite being established almost 10 years ago, Cyber Command and formal Department of Defense cyber operations are still relatively new. The command’s cadre of cyberwarriors — the 133 teams that perform cyber missions — reached what the military calls full operational capability in May 2018 and the services are continuing to build out headquarters organizations used to plan, conduct and synchronize cyber operations and teams.

Hill staffers for at least the past year have been concerned with how the command and its mission forces are maturing, including how forces are used. Their questions highlight how little the broader cyber community understands how the military deploys cyber teams.

Defense Industry

Air Force awards $20M contract for new common ground system

c4isrnet.com | Posted June 2, 2019 | by Nathan Strout

Despite being established almost 10 years ago, Cyber Command and formal Department of Defense cyber operations are still relatively new. The command’s cadre of cyberwarriors — the 133 teams that perform cyber missions — reached what the military calls full operational capability in May 2018 and the services are continuing to build out headquarters organizations used to plan, conduct and synchronize cyber operations and teams.
The Air Force is one step closer to the creation of a new common platform for satellite command and control.

The Air Force’s Space and Missile Systems Center Braxton Technologies of Colorado Springs a $20 million contract May 17 to begin prototyping and integrating the new Enterprise Ground Services (EGS). The Air Force announced the deal in a May 31 press release.

The purpose of EGS is to develop a common ground system and end user experience for all of the Air Force’s upcoming satellite programs. Today, most military satellites have custom-built ground systems. Not only can that be expensive, it also makes it difficult for end users to adapt to new systems and for ground systems to communicate with each other.…

**Other Items of Interest**

**These Are the US Military Bases Most Threatened by Climate Change**

defenseone.com | Posted June 12, 2019 | by Ben Watson and Patrick Tucker
[https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2019/06/these-are-us-military-bases-most-threatened-climate-change/157689/](https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2019/06/these-are-us-military-bases-most-threatened-climate-change/157689/)

After a five-month delay, U.S. lawmakers can finally see which military bases are most threatened by climate change — information that arrived just ahead of a Congressional finding that the Defense Department has little idea how to prepare for these threats.

Each service evaluated its infrastructure’s vulnerability to increased flooding, drought, and wildfires; thawing permafrost; rising rivers and coasts; and other effects of climate change. The four services flagged a total of 46 bases as particularly threatened.

Which states have the most bases at risk? California and Florida both have eight; Virginia has six; South Carolina and Hawaii each have three; Arizona, North Carolina, D.C., and Guam all have two; and Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Washington, Maryland, Louisiana and Japan all have just one at-risk base.

The Air Force list is “noteworthy in that it’s very Florida-heavy, and very different than the subset of bases [the Defense Department] was previously considering,” said Conger, who first reported on the Air Force list.…

**GAO: Most U.S. Installations Underprepared for Climate Change**
A Government Accountability Office report issued Wednesday says a majority of U.S. military installations surveyed in a recent study have based their resiliency plans on past weather patterns instead of climate change projections.

GAO visited or contacted 23 military installations and reported that DOD does not consistently assess climate change risks at its bases and that many installations are not factoring in rising greenhouse gas effects in their resiliency planning.

“GAO also found that most of the installations had not used climate projections because they lack guidance on how to incorporate projections into their master plans,” the report says. “Not assessing risks or using climate projections in installation planning may expose DOD facilities to greater-than-anticipated damage or degradation as a result of extreme weather or climate-related effects….”

**DoD council will examine how ‘wholesale’ changes in military health care affect troops’ families**

Citing upcoming changes in the military health care system, a high-level Defense Department advisory council will be focusing on how those changes affect military families.

“This is an area where there’s going to be a great amount of turbulence associated with the redoing of our health care system, so ultimately it’s really important that we understand how it’s impacting our families as we make these changes,” said James Stewart, acting under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness and chairman of the council. “These are wholesale, large changes to the way we provide care to our beneficiaries, not necessarily to the members, but certainly to our members’ families.

This summer, DoD is expected to issue a report with details on which military medical facilities will be closed, which will be downsized, and which ones will be ramped up. And DoD is reportedly rethinking the entire structure of its contracts for health care in the civilian community, which could include smaller Tricare regions and possibly agreements with some high-performing civilian health care systems. Across the board, these changes are being referred to as Military Health System reform….
Why it’s taking so long to confirm Trump’s defense secretary choice

militarytimes.com |Posted June 11, 2019 | by Leo Shane III

President Donald Trump announced Patrick Shanahan as his pick to lead the Pentagon a month ago, but his confirmation hearing is likely still a few weeks away.

That’s because Senate Armed Services Committee officials are waiting on an FBI background check and other formal paperwork from the executive branch before they can move ahead with the process, a move the panel’s chairman hopes will move quickly.

“I would like to do it soon, because I’m the guy who has been yelling and screaming that we have to have this nomination confirmed,” Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., said Tuesday when asked about Shanahan’s status. “If you don’t have him confirmed, all these people he is dealing with don’t know if they are dealing with the right person. I have heard this personally….”

Trump still hasn't officially nominated Patrick Shanahan more than a month after saying he would

taskandpurpose.com |Posted June 11, 2019 | by Jeff Schogol

It has been more than a month since President Donald Trump announced on May 9 that he would nominate Patrick Shanahan to officially become defense secretary – and nothing has happened since.

A U.S. official told Task & Purpose that Shanahan has been so busy in the past few months – including traveling to several Asian countries recently – that he has only been able to complete all the paperwork required for his nomination in the past few days.

Shanahan has served as acting defense secretary since Jan. 1. The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee told Military Times reporter Leo Shane that lawmakers should be able to confirm Shanahan's nomination before August – provided the FBI background check and other requirements are completed in the near future…. 
Army’s Mark Esper Addresses ADC 2019 Defense Communities National Summit

defensecommunities.org | Posted June 10, 2019

Army Secretary Mark Esper addressed the 2109 Defense Communities National Summit Monday in a keynote discussion session where he touched on a range of pressing Army, installation and community issues.

On the State of Military Housing: “We are moving into the hard part of the process,” Esper said. He said DOD’s next priority will involve “building the back-end accountability culture” necessary to resolve privatized housing issues….

On Military Family Quality of Life: Esper said that the Army has an “enduring commitment to its soldiers and their families.” Esper particularly voiced the top installation and community quality of life priorities, such as quality child care, education, housing, infrastructure, and raising the profile and opportunities for military spouse employment….

DOD’s McMahon Expresses Support for DCIP at Defense Communities National Summit

defensecommunities.org | Posted June 12, 2019
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/dods-mcmahon-expresses-support-for-dcip-at-defense-communities-national-summit/

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment Robert McMahon addressed the 2019 Defense Communities National Summit Tuesday in a morning question-and-answer session.

On the Defense Community Infrastructure Program: “Conceptually it’s a very important program,” McMahon said. “If the funding is made available, then the question is how to go execute. There are infinite projects and a finite amount of money. It’s a DOD program that will be pursued if the funding comes through.”

On BRAC: McMahon emphasized that in the current budget environment there are no new planned BRAC rounds, but that could change in the future. “You can make difference by talking to your garrison and installation commanders,” McMahon said. “What are you doing today to make sure you’re a gainer?” Thinking of things you can do to help installations is essential….?”
More military housing watchdogs on the way, but debate remains on cost

House lawmakers are demanding more oversight of military housing problems but providing less money than their Senate counterparts to do the work in budget legislation to be debated this week.

Privatized military housing residents will have say in new tenants bill of rights

Privatized military housing residents will have say in new tenants bill of rights
The U.S. Navy’s Littoral Combat Ship was supposed to be cheap, fast, flexible and easy to build. But after spending $30 billion over a period of around two decades, the U.S. Navy has managed to acquire just 35 of the 3,000-ton-displacement vessels.

“We’re deploying LCS this year, it’s happening,” Commander of Naval Surface Forces Vice Adm. Richard Brown told reporters…. Brown said the LCSs USS Montgomery and USS Gabrielle Giffords would deploy from San Diego to the Western Pacific while USS Detroit deployed from Florida. USS Little Rock in early 2020 also would deploy from Florida.

U.S. Southern Command in February 2019 announced that Detroit would conduct counterdrug operations. "We expect to have a littoral combat ship this year, and that will be a big benefit for our exercise program for our engagement with partners and because of the flexibility it brings for counter-narcotics interdiction," SOUTHCOM commander Adm. Craig Faller said….
June 21

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – There is no Task Force meeting in June. The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL adjacent to NAS Whiting Field.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   *(Note: we've changed to a new teleconferencing system with a new call-in number and format.)*
   
   Call-In Number: 888-585-9008    Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Representative Ponder appointed to Task Force** – Please give a warm welcome to the newest member of the Florida Defense Support Task Force. This week the Speaker of the House appointed Representative Mel Ponder of the 4th District to the Task Force. Representative Ponder will begin his term on July 1st and is replacing Representative Trumbull.

4. **Governor DeSantis Signs 2019-2020 Budget** – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the FY 2019-2020 state budget. The *Bold Vision for a Brighter Future* state budget totals $90.98 billion and provides nearly $400 million in tax relief. See the attachments below for the Governor’s budget transmittal letter, budget highlights and the list of vetoed items.

5. **Defense Budget Negotiations Continue in Congress** – The US House of Representatives passed a spending package Wednesday that includes $733 billion for defense funding for fiscal 2020, considerably less than the $750 billion President Trump requested. Meanwhile, in the Senate, debate on their version of the defense appropriations bill continues with a vote not expected until next week. The two versions of the defense appropriations bill are significantly different, therefore there is a significant chance that the final version will not be worked out in conference committees, passed by both houses and ready for the president’s signature before October 1st.

6. **Shanahan out, Esper in as Acting Secretary of Defense** – In a surprise development, on Tuesday acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan withdrew his name as nominee for the permanent post of SECDEF and President Trump named Army Secretary Mark Esper to be his new acting defense secretary. Shanahan stated that he is withdrawing himself from consideration in order to save his family from public scrutiny over past domestic violence incidents involving himself, his ex-wife and his son. Shanahan will turn over the reins at midnight on Sunday, June 23, with Esper taking over at 12:01 a.m. Monday.
News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

Interim Air Force secretary: I’ve always supported the Space Force

defenseneWS.com | Posted June 20, 2019 | by Valerie Insinna

Now that Heather Wilson is no longer secretary of the U.S. Air Force, expect service leadership to hew much closer to the Defense Department’s perspective on the overhaul of military space organizations that includes the launch of a Space Force.

“I can tell you one thing: I’ve always supported the necessity of an independent Space Force,” said acting Air Force Secretary Matt Donovan, who before this month held the undersecretary position. “In fact, I wrote papers over 20 years ago advocating for an independent Space Force.”
During an exclusive June 19 interview on the sidelines of the Paris Air Show, Donovan expressed support for the administration’s plan, including its position on keeping the Space Force inside the Department of the Air Force.

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

Military-Minded Francis Rooney Pushes Harder to Ban Drilling in the Eastern Gulf

Sunshine State News | Posted June 13, 2019 | by Kevin Derby


“Water quality impacts all of Florida’s residents and visitors,” Rooney said when he introduced his proposal. “I want to ensure that all areas east of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico are permanently protected from offshore oil drilling. In 2022, the moratorium on drilling and exploration will expire. Offshore drilling will negatively affect our environment, tourism, and military readiness. I am fighting to protect our Florida coast for future generations to enjoy - Florida’s economy is dependent on clean water and a healthy environment.”

This week, Rooney ramped up his efforts, testifying before the U.S. House Rules Committee on the bill. “The Eastern Gulf is home to the Gulf Test Range, a 120,000 square mile range that stretches from the Florida panhandle to Key West. This unimpeded training and testing area is of critical importance to our military now and will become even more important in the future, as hypersonic and drone testing increase. Our military has no better location to carry out these exercises and there is no compelling reason to place drilling interests ahead of military necessities. The proximity to major military bases and its large scale make the Eastern Gulf of Mexico area a unique asset for national defense that cannot be replicated,” Rooney said before the committee.

NAS Whiting Field

Whiting Field helicopter training squadron changes command (PHOTOS)

srpressgazette.com | Posted June 13, 2019 | by By Ramon Rios
A Navy Reserve officer who had served as executive officer of Helicopter Training Squadron 8 at Naval Air Station Whiting Field became the squadron’s commanding officer in Friday ceremonies, continuing to make history for the training unit.

Cmdr. Lena Kaman, who had been executive officer — the squadron’s second in command — since April 2018, became the first member of the Navy Reserve’s Full-Time Support program to command a squadron at Whiting Field. Naval Air Station Whiting Field is the site of all initial helicopter training for the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps.

Kaman replaces Navy Cmdr. Jessica Parker, who had commanded the squadron since April 2018. Parker will be heading to the U.S.S. Bataan, a Norfolk, Virginia-based amphibious assault ship, where she will serve as “air boss….”

**Female team leading Navy helicopter training changes command**

navytimes.com citing Pensacola News Journal via the AP | Posted June 13, 2019 | by Annie Blanks


For the first time in the history of Helicopter Training Squadron Eight at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, two women held the top two leadership positions in the Navy’s oldest helicopter training squadron.

For the past 14 months, Cmdr. Jessica R. Parker, commanding officer, and Cmdr. Lena C. Kaman, executive officer, have held the reins at the elite training unit, which — along with two other squadrons stationed at Whiting — trains 100 percent of all rotary pilots for the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps.

In a change of command ceremony Friday at the Whiting Field Atrium, Parker relinquished command of HT-8 to Kaman. Parker is heading to Norfolk, Virginia, to become the air boss onboard the USS Bataan, an amphibious assault ship, while Kaman assumed the title of commanding officer of HT-8 at Whiting. Prospective Executive Officer Patrick O’Neill became executive officer….

**DoD Budget**

**This Week on Capitol Hill: Moving Ahead with the Defense Budget**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 17, 2019 | by ADC author

The Senate moves forward with its fiscal 2020 defense authorization bill Tuesday with lawmakers set to take an evening vote to advance the bill for formal debate, CQ reported Monday.

In the Democrat-led House, lawmakers will try to pass the chamber’s lower $733 billion defense spending appropriation as part of a four-bill, nearly $1 trillion minibus package that includes spending for several federal agencies. Lawmakers will consider 57 amendments to the House bill.

The two sides will have to reach a compromise on fiscal 2020 defense spending and many other spending issues by Oct. 1 or face another partial government shutdown….

**Top Congressional, Administration Leaders to Resume Budget Negotiations This Week**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 17, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/top-congressional-administration-leaders-to-resume-budget-negotiations-this-week/

Top lawmakers from both parties and senior administration officials will meet this week for more negotiations to reach an overall spending agreement that would avoid billions in automatic cuts this fall, Politico reported Monday.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) are expected to meet with Acting White House Chief of Staff Mitch Mulvaney, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, and Acting Management and Budget Office Director Ross Voight to discuss a two-year agreement.

All parties acknowledge an agreement remains elusive, particularly given that the GOP-led Senate and the White House have not yet agreed on topline spending, according to Politico….

**Border Construction Funding to Remain a Looming Issue for NDAA Passage**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 18, 2019 | by ADC author

Senate Democrats are attempting to use the chamber’s fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act to block President Donald Trump from redirecting Pentagon funds for southern border barrier construction.
Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) filed an amendment Monday to the chamber’s version of the annual defense policy bill that would prevent the use of DOD funds authorized in the expansive legislation toward border construction, according to The Hill. The amendment would also block using DOD funds authorized between fiscal years 2015 and 2019.

The move, which is unlikely to succeed in the GOP-led Senate, is similar to a provision in the Democrat-led House fiscal 2020 NDAA which advanced out of the House Armed Services Committee last week….

**Defense bill hits Rand Paul speed bump**

An annual mammoth defense bill is running into a familiar speed bump: Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.).

Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) says Paul is slow-walking the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), including forcing lawmakers to wait until next week to formally proceed to the defense bill.

"He could actually block this for a long period of time," Inhofe said, adding that lawmakers need to finish the bill by the end of next week….

**Two-Year Budget Deal Still Elusive After Administration, Capitol Hill Negotiations**

Senior White House officials met with top congressional leaders Wednesday to resume negotiations toward reaching a comprehensive deal on spending limits but left at a stalemate on overall spending to avoid another government shutdown this fall, Politico reported.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) met with Acting White House Chief of Staff Mitch Mulvaney, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, and Acting Management and Budget Office Director Ross Voight to discuss a two-year agreement.
However, the meeting ended after failing to agree on topline funding allocation, raising new doubts over their ability to avert another fiscal crisis later this year, according to Roll Call.

**House Passes $733 Billion Defense Spending Appropriations Bill**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 19, 2019 | by ADC author


The House passed a four-bill, nearly $1 trillion minibus spending package Wednesday that includes a $733 billion topline in overall defense funding for fiscal 2020, which starts Oct. 1.

The package passed on a 226-to-203 vote that fell along party lines. The chamber’s entire Republican ranks and seven Democrats voted against the measure.

The defense spending breakdown includes $645.1 billion in base funding, $261.7 billion in base nondefense spending, $68.1 billion for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), and $8 billion in nondefense OCO funding, according to a bill summary.

**White House Advocating One-Year Fallback Plan After Fiscal 2020 Budget Talks Fail**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 19, 2019 | by ADC author


The White House is focusing on a fallback proposal if no comprehensive spending deal can be reached to avoid a fiscal crisis this fall, CQ reported Thursday.

After senior administration officials and top congressional leaders failed Wednesday to agree on a two-year overall spending agreement, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin advocated that the White House would seek a one-year suspension of mandatory spending caps to avoid steep sequestration cuts starting Oct. 1.

The move would also require a stopgap measure to extend current funding levels for fiscal 2020, a solution that is uncertain to get Democrats’ support, Politico reported.

Both parties have expressed doubts about prospects for a short-term agreement as they seek a broader deal that would lift mandatory spending caps imposed under a 2011 deficit reduction act. Without a budget deal or a suspension of spending caps, across the board cuts would go into effect by about 10%, or $125 billion in fiscal year 2020…. 
House Democrats Focusing on Installation Resiliency Planning in Fiscal 2020 NDAA

defensecommunities.org | Posted June 20, 2019 | by ADC author

House Democrats are focusing on installation resiliency to climate change impacts as a key issue as part of its fiscal 2020 NDAA, according to an American Institute of Physics report.

The Democrat-led Armed Services Committee, building on climate change provisions in the last two approved NDAAs, is pushing to require DOD to factor in climate change and extreme weather impacts into its base master plans, the AIG report says.

Congress first mandated DOD to estimate climate change and extreme weather impacts on large bases through the fiscal 2018 NDAA.

Defense bill includes funding for PFAS cleanup, phaseout of firefighting foam with the chemical

Burlington County Times | Posted June 14, 2019 | by David Levinsky

The key defense policy bill was advanced from the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday morning and includes several provisions related to perfluorinated chemical contamination, including $121.3 million for clean up work and remediation of drinking water on or near military installations.

Protecting service members and their families from possible health impacts from a toxic chemical found at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and more than 100 other military installations across the nation is a key priority in this year’s National Defense Authorization Act.

The key defense policy bill was advanced from the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday morning and includes several provisions related to perfluorinated chemical contamination, including $121.3 million for clean up work and remediation of drinking water on or near military installations and ending the use of firefighting foam that contains the chemical.

Cyber
Could a new office protect critical US tech?

The Fifth Domain | Posted June 20, 2019 | by Kelsey Reichmann

In early 2019 China stood out in the annual World Wide Threat Assessment presented by U.S. intelligence officials for its threats to U.S. networks. And multiple Chinese tech companies have had devices banned from the United States by the White House, citing national security risks. Now two senators want to create an executive office dedicated to securing the supply chain from growing adversary threats.

Sens. Mark Warner, D-Va., and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., filed amendments to the annual defense policy bill that would create an Office of Critical Technologies within the executive branch aimed at protecting the United States from state-sponsored technology theft.

The office would focus on creating coordination throughout the government on cybersecurity-related issues and its director would act as chief policy spokesperson for the federal government for cybersecurity and technology issues.

Congress: New devices = new threats = new security?

The Fifth Domain | Posted June 20, 2019 | by Andrew Eversden

A bipartisan bill directed at enhancing cybersecurity on internet-connected devices bought by the United States government cleared another hurdle in Congress June 19, passing through the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

The bill, titled the “Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2019,” directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop minimum security standards for federal IoT devices.

“While I’m excited about their life-changing potential, many IoT devices are being sold without appropriate safeguards and protections in place, with the device market prioritizing convenience and price over security,” said Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., in a statement.

Florida city pays $600,000 ransom to save computer records

The Associated Press | Posted June 20, 2019 | by Terry Spencer
A Florida city agreed to pay $600,000 in ransom to hackers who took over its computer system, the latest in thousands of attacks worldwide aimed at extorting money from governments and businesses.

The Riviera Beach City Council voted unanimously this week to pay the hackers' demands, believing the Palm Beach suburb had no choice if it wanted to retrieve its records, which the hackers encrypted. The council already voted to spend almost $1 million on new computers and hardware after hackers captured the city's system three weeks ago.

The hackers apparently got into the city's system when an employee clicked on an email link that allowed them to upload malware. Along with the encrypted records, the city had numerous problems including a disabled email system, employees and vendors being paid by check rather than direct deposit and 911 dispatchers being unable to enter calls into the computer. The city says there was no delay in response time….

**Defense Industry**

**Boeing Space and Launch Headquarters Moving to Florida's Space Coast**

PR Newswire | Posted June 19, 2019

To strengthen collaboration and integration across its portfolio, Boeing [NYSE: BA] is relocating the headquarters of its Space and Launch division to Titusville, on Florida's revitalized Space Coast.

Space and Launch, a division of Boeing Defense, Space & Security, currently has its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

In announcing the relocation of the headquarters to a region that includes Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base, Boeing leaders said the timing of the move makes sense for multiple reasons:

- The Boeing-built X-37B uncrewed, reusable space vehicle continues to perform record-setting, long-duration missions for the U.S. Air Force.
- Boeing's satellite programs anticipate increased tempo in local payload processing and launch activity.
The company is enhancing its focus on mission integration and launch system operations in collaboration with Air Force partners nearby at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and the 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, and strengthening relationships with Air Force Space Command in Colorado and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

**Boeing moves its Space and Launch headquarters to Florida**

foxbusiness.com | Posted June 19, 2019 | by Shelley Ng

Boeing Opens a New Window. announced Wednesday it will be moving its Space and Launch division from Virginia to Florida.

The aircraft manufacturer intends on moving to Titusville, along the Florida's so-called Space Coast, by the end of the year. The area is home to several key spaceflight locations including Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Kennedy Space Center and the 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base.

The Space and Launch division is under Boeing's Defense, Space & Security unit, which currently calls Arlington, Virginia, its home.

**Other Items of Interest**

**Shanahan Out; Army Secretary Esper to Be Acting SecDef**

defenseone.com | Posted June 18, 2019 | by Katie Bo Williams

In a shock announcement on Tuesday, President Trump tweeted that he has named Army Secretary Mark Esper to be his new acting defense secretary, and that the current acting secretary, Patrick Shanahan, “has decided not to go forward with his confirmation process” to hold the role permanently amid explosive revelations about his turbulent 2015 divorce.

The sudden move comes after months of speculation surrounding Shanahan’s nomination.

Shanahan will turn over the reins at midnight on Sunday, June 23, with Esper taking over at 12:01 a.m. Monday, Pentagon officials announced late Tuesday night.

**Mark Esper is acting defense secretary. Will Trump make it permanent?**
The Mark Esper era will begin at the Pentagon on Monday.

Chief Pentagon Spokesperson Jonathan Hoffman confirmed that transfer will take place at midnight on June 23. Both defense leaders will spend the next few days working out operational issues to ensure “an orderly transition that ensures our men and women in uniform have the leadership and resources they need to keep our nation safe.”

And Esper could be in line for another promotion quickly. When asked by reporters if Esper would be eventually be named to the permanent defense secretary post, President Donald Trump responded, “most likely, that’s what I’m thinking about doing.”

**With new Pentagon chief Mark Esper, Pompeo gains an ally in West Point classmate**

In selecting Army Secretary Mark Esper to succeed Patrick Shanahan as acting secretary of defense, President Trump has picked a combat veteran whose views are more likely to align with those of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and serve as a bulwark against the more hawkish national security adviser John Bolton.

Esper and Pompeo, both former Army officers, went through the U.S. Military Academy at West Point together, class of 1986.

Esper’s views on warfare were shaped as an infantry officer in the 1991 Persian Gulf War assigned to the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, in which he was awarded a Bronze Star, among other military decorations.

**New acting Pentagon chief has closer ties to Trump**
Army Secretary Mark Esper, who’s been tapped to be the new acting secretary of Defense, is a former aerospace executive like the departing Pat Shanahan. But he comes to the job with key supporters close to the president, deeper ties to the military and bipartisan support on Capitol Hill.

As secretary of the Army, the soft-spoken Esper has made few waves. His flagship project has been establishing a four-star command to field new technology and doctrine for the service as it shifts focus from counterinsurgency to competition with China and Russia.

Another of his pet issues has been the growing trend of new recruits whose parents also wore the uniform. "I am concerned that we are becoming increasingly isolated from the larger public because [the Army] is becoming a family business in many ways," Esper said at a think tank event last year. "If you talk to any senior Army leaders, you'll find one, if not all their children are in the Army. And so, the family business has taken over."...

**Five names to watch as Trump searches for his next defense secretary**

Military Times | Posted June 18, 2019 | Leo Shane III, Aaron Mehta, and Joe Gould


For the second time in six months, President Donald Trump is searching for his next defense secretary.

Who that will be remains unclear. In the last few months, former Army Vice Chief of Staff Jack Keane has been touted as a potential pick, but he has said publicly he is not interested in the job. White House officials have not yet offered a timeline for a new nominee.

Here’s a look at some of the likely names being considered:...

**Air Force secretary’s space adviser Stopher to step down**

Spacenews.com | Posted June 18, 2019 | by Sandra Erwin


John Stopher, principal assistant to the secretary of the Air Force for space is stepping down from his post effective July 19. On Tuesday he submitted his resignation letter to President Trump.

In the letter to the president, Stopher said he plans to return to the private sector “where I can help align the world’s greatest innovators who are ready and able to solve the critical space challenges that lie ahead.”
Stopher joined the administration in August 2017 as deputy undersecretary of the Air Force for space and director of the principal DoD space advisor staff. In April 2018 he became the principal assistant to the secretary of the Air Force for space.

**Starbucks Military Family Store Emphasizes Community, Spouse Employment**

defensecommunities.org | Posted June 20, 2019 | by ADC author

Fort Hood, Texas, near Killeen, has become another community beneficiary of a Starbucks program to address and boost military spouse employment when this month the coffee corporation transitioned one of its franchises to a Military Family Store. The community-centered program, which has awarded the designation to more than 50 military community stores since 2013, designates certain franchises as Military Family Stores when they are nominated by the community.

“Military Family Stores are located around the country, to serve as a community gathering spot and as a resource to assist transitioning military families,” Starbucks said according to a story published in the Killeen Daily Herald.

Military Family Stores also emphasize military spouse employment, Starbucks says, a population that government estimates range the unemployment rate between 16% and 24% nationwide. Starbucks announced in 2013 its goal to hire 10,000 veterans and military spouses, and after reaching that target decided to hire 25,000 by 2025.
June 28

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – There is no Task Force meeting in June. The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL adjacent to NAS Whiting Field.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   *(Note: we've changed to a new teleconferencing system with a new call-in number and format.)*
   
   Call-In Number: 888-585-9008  Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Governor DeSantis signs Military Friendly Bill** – Wednesday, Governor DeSantis signed CS-CS-SB 620 – Military-friendly Initiatives. CS/CS/SB 620 provides a number of benefits to servicemembers and their families and additional protections and benefits for military organizations, land interests and uses. These include:
   
   • Adds two military installations to the list of those that designated local governments are required to coordinate with regarding compatibility of land development;
   
   • Provides that a conservation easement created to prevent encroachment to a military installation survives a sale of property for nonpayment of taxes;
   
   • Establishes the Blue Angels license plate to be developed by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and used to fund the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation;
   
   • Requires school districts to accept a permanent change of station order as proof of residency for all public-school programs including special academic programs;
   
   • Specifies the time at which active duty members, spouses, and their dependents are classified as residents for tuition purposes.

4. **Senator Broxson named next Chairman of FDSTF** – President of the Senate, Bill Galvano, today appointed Senator Doug Broxson as the next Chairman of the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Senator Broxson’s term of office as chairman begins on July 1st and will run for one year.

5. **Mr. Tom Neubauer reappointed to FDSTF** – Also today, President of the Senate Galvano reappointed Mr. Tom Neubauer as a member of the FDSTF. Mr. Neubauer’s new term of office will likewise begin on July 1st and will continue until June 30, 2023.

6. **Florida Chamber Foundation's 2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit announced** – The Florida Chamber of Commerce announced the 2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit which will be held in the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville on August 13th and 14th. The summit will gather leaders from Florida’s military and defense industry, economic development experts, policymakers and the business community to examine the challenges and opportunities facing the defense
community in Florida. Follow the link below for more information and to register for the event.
https://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/

7. Attachments:
- Letter of Transmittal - Gov DeSantis signs SB 620 - 20190626
- CS/CS/SB 620 – Military-friendly Initiatives
- Senator Broxson Appointment Letter- Chair
- Tom Neubauer Reappointment Letter - 20190628 - signed

Ray Collins
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

Gov. DeSantis says Trump can override the Air Force to bring Space Command to Florida

Orlando Sentinel | Posted June 24, 2019 | by Chabeli Herrera

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is not done fighting for Florida to be the home of the newly formed Space Command, despite the U.S. Air Force’s insistence that only Colorado, California and Alabama are still in the running.

The nation’s 11th combatant command doesn’t have a headquarters yet, but the Air Force — the military branch overseeing Space Command — last month released its shortlist of six
potential sites it’s still eyeing. Despite an aggressive campaign by the state to pursue the headquarters, Florida didn’t make the list.

But speaking at Merritt Island on Monday morning, DeSantis put that information into a question, suggesting that Florida still had a chance — if the governor can convince President Donald Trump to make the final call in favor of the Sunshine State….

**Hurlburt Field**

**24th SOW welcomes new commander to charge sole ST wing**

24th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs | Posted June 24, 2019 | by Senior Airman Rachel Yates

Hundreds of Air Commandos, families and friends gathered to welcome the new commander of the 24th Special Operations Wing during an assumption of command ceremony, here, today.


Air Force Special Tactics is the most highly decorated community in the Air Force since the end of the Vietnam War and has received one Medal of Honor, nine Air Force Crosses, 46 Silver Stars, nearly 650 Bronze Stars medals (more than 50 with valor), and hundreds of Purple Hearts.…

**NSA Panama City**

**NEDU Observes 16th Change of Command, Welcomes Rahming**

www.navsea.navy.mil | Posted June 25, 2019 | by NEDU Public Affairs
Navy Experimental Diving Unit observed its 16th change of command ceremony in Panama City, Florida June 20, 2019.

Cmdr. Kiah B. Rahming relieved Capt. Jay Young as the NEDU commanding officer. Young accepted orders to serve as the Director of Ocean Engineering, Supervisor Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV), Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) in Washington D.C. Rahming transferred to NEDU from Southeast Regional Maintenance Center, Mayport, Florida June 2019.

Rahming, a native of Key West, Florida is an Engineering Duty Officer who graduated Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in 2009 where he qualified as a Marine Expeditionary Diving Officer and a Salvage Officer. His past commands include USS Austin (LPD 4), USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), Supervisor of Shipbuilding in Newport News, Virginia, Norfolk Ship Support Activity, Commander, 6th Fleet, Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific, and Southwest Regional Maintenance Center….

Tyndall AFB

Tyndall Air Force Base receives new commander for the Continental U.S. NORAD Region

mypanhandle.com | Posted June 20, 2019 | by Taylor Rambo

There were leadership changes on Thursday at Tyndall Air Force Base. Lieutenant General Marc Sasseville took command of the Continental U.S. NORAD Region of the First Air Force.

He is taking command from Lieutenant General Scott Williams, who is retiring after 32 years of service.

Sasseville is coming to Tyndall from Arlington, Virginia, where he served as Deputy Director of the Air National Guard at the Pentagon….

FL National Guard / Camp Blanding

Governor Ron DeSantis Oversees Deployment of the 125th Fighter Wing of Florida Air National Guard

flgov.com | Posted June 27, 2019 | by staff of Governor Ron DeSantis
Today, Governor Ron DeSantis received a briefing and helped oversee the deployment mission of the 125th Fighter Wing of the Florida Air National Guard on a Central Command (CENTCOM) deployment in Southwest Asia. The Governor was joined by Florida National Guard Adjutant General James O. Eifert, Florida Air National Guard 125th Fighter Wing Commander Paul Reedy, Florida Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant General Brian M. Simpler and Florida National Guard Assistant Adjutant General John D. Haas.

“It was an honor to join these brave men and women as they embark on their deployment mission,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Their service is invaluable to the security of our state and our country. Casey and I wish these brave men and women the very best on this deployment. Our state and nation are sincerely grateful for their selfless service and sacrifice.”

Florida National Guard Rehearses With Civilian Rescuers

When disaster strikes, personnel from various civilian agencies across the State unite with members of the Florida National Guard’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), forming multiple tactical response teams and task forces.
In early May, those same partners, comprised of personnel ranging from Duval to Palm Beach Counties, came together for a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) to fine-tune response efforts for the next large-scale disaster.

After completing a swim test Tuesday morning, the Soldiers and Airmen of CERFP joined their civilian counterparts on their respective teams and traveled to Camp Blanding Joint Training Center to complete an extensive area search, structure collapse and maritime rescue.

NS Mayport

LCS fleet at Mayport set to grow, gradually

The Florida Times-Union / jacksonville.com | Posted June 21, 2019 | by Steve Patterson

They’re hundreds of miles from Jacksonville, but new littoral combat ships that will become mainstays of Naval Station Mayport are taking steps toward entering the U.S. Navy’s fleet.

The ship that will become the USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) was launched last Saturday from a shipyard in Marinette, Wis., while the future USS Billings crossed Canadian waters after completing a test of its engineering plant at the same shipyard.

The Billings is scheduled to reach Mayport for a homecoming next month and be commissioned Aug. 3 in Key West, said Lt. j.g. Jimmy Griffin, a spokesman for the Navy’s LCS Squadron Two. The Minneapolis-Saint Paul faces a long process of sea trials and adjustments before it can be commissioned. It isn’t scheduled to be in Mayport until late next year.

MacDill AFB
EPA meets with MacDill residents about ongoing mold issues in base housing

For months Amie Norquist's children coughed through the night. She took them to numerous doctor visits and now believes mold in her assigned home at MacDill Air Force Base caused her families health problems. "I would hear our two youngest coughing through the night from their bed. Our two oldest children developed a croupy sounding cough almost all of the time," said Norquist.

Norquist and her family have now moved off base but the problem has gained a lot of attention.

The Secretary of the Air Force flew to MacDill to meet with the base commander about the problem and last week a Congressional delegation traveled to MacDill for an update.

DoD Budget

House Advances $108B VA-Milcon Bill

The Democrat-led House appeared on track to pass a $108 billion fiscal 2020 VA-Military Construction bill after quickly moving through a number of amendments Friday and ending floor debate on the measure, CQ reported.

…the bill is part of a larger five-bill, $383.3 billion minibus package…

The full five-bill minibus spending package faces little chance of surviving intact, however, as the GOP-led Senate and Trump administration disagree with the House on overall discretionary spending levels.

McConnell Dismisses Call to Delay NDAA Vote, Democrats Face Filibuster Decision
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said Tuesday that the chamber’s version of the fiscal 2020 NDAA would not be slowed by minority calls this week to delay its passage until after the Democratic presidential debates, CQ reported.

McConnell, speaking from the Senate floor Tuesday, said Democrats will have to filibuster the annual defense policy bill if they want to delay final votes on the measure this week, according the report.

Democrats have sought to slow the NDAA’s passage by including a key amendment that would block the White House from striking Iran without congressional approval and requesting delay of a vote until after this week’s Democratic presidential debates, according to Roll Call….

**House Passes $383 Billion Minibus Package; VA-Milcon Bill Includes $108.4 Billion for FY 2020**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 25, 2019 | by ADC author

The Democrat-led House passed a five-bill, $383.3 billion minibus spending package Tuesday that would provide $108.4 billion in VA-Military Construction funding, according to a House Appropriations Committee press release.

The package, passed largely along party lines 227-194, provides an increase of $10.4 billion in VA-Milcon discretionary spending above the enacted fiscal year 2019 level, according to a House Appropriations Committee summary.

The VA-Milcon bill, traditionally one of the most bipartisan annual spending measures, drew heightened interest in the FY 2020 measure by also including a provision that would block President Donald Trump from redirecting DOD funding for building a southern border barrier. The bill is unlikely remain intact through conference committee negotiations later this summer….

**House, Senate NDAA Reports Include Support for Increased IGSAs, Public-to-Public Partnerships**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 25, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/house-senate-ndaa-reports-include-support-for-increased-igstras-public-to-public-partnerships/

This year’s House and Senate Armed Services Committees’ fiscal 2020 NDAA Reports include updated language in support of increasing Intergovernmental Support Agreement
(IGSA) authorities and enhanced use of public-to-public agreements to generate annual installation savings for DOD.

In the House Armed Services Committee’s FY20 NDAA report the panel expressed approval that many installations have entered into IGSAs, which allow DOD and state and local governments to provide, receive and share installation support services, and it highlighted that many of the IGSAs have resulted in millions in savings to DOD. While the report expresses support for IGSAs, it also notes concern that savings are not being returned to installations that use them to improve services and reduce costs.

To address concerns that installations are not financially benefiting from IGSA savings, the panel included language in the House NDAA calling for DOD to produce a new “Report on Fiscal Impacts of Intergovernmental Service Agreements.” The report, which would be due Dec. 31, 2019, would detail the actual savings realized by IGSAs, explore returning a portion of the savings back to installations, and analyze the overall fiscal impact to the military services of IGSAs….

**Senate Lawmakers Reach Agreement for Thursday NDAA Vote**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 26, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/senate-lawmakers-reach-agreement-for-thursday-ndaa-vote/

The GOP-led Senate reached a deal Wednesday afternoon to allow the chamber’s fiscal 2020 NDAA a floor vote by the end of the week by agreeing to separate vote on a Democrat-sponsored amendment that would prevent President Donald Trump from striking Iran.

The agreement, negotiated by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and senior Democrats, paves the way for advancing the mandatory annual defense policy bill Thursday, CQ reported. Democrats had threatened this week to block cloture on the typically bipartisan NDAA bill unless an agreement was reached to allow the chamber’s Democratic presidential candidates to vote on the attached Iran amendment.

Floor debate and possible passage of the NDAA is expected Thursday….

**Senate Passes $750 Billion NDAA, Sets Up Looming Differences With House Version**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 27, 2019 | by ADC author
Senate lawmakers passed Thursday their version of the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act which would authorize $750 billion in DOD funding, according to The Hill.

The traditionally bipartisan annual spending bill passed overwhelmingly 86-8 with the GOP-led chamber authorizing increased defense spending levels over fiscal 2019.

The DOD funding levels, if approved through upcoming House-Senate conference negotiations, would set a defense base budget of $642.5 billion. The Pentagon’s Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) accounts, which are not subject to mandatory spending caps, would be funded at $75.9 billion. The bill also authorizes $23.3 billion for national security programs under the Department of Energy, according to the report.

**US Senate passes its defense policy bill 86-8, setting up fight with House**

defensenews.com | Posted June 27, 2019 | by Leo Shane III and Joe Gould


Senators on Thursday overwhelmingly passed a $750 billion defense authorization bill for next year despite concerns from congressional Democrats over the size spending totals, an expansion of the U.S. nuclear arsenal and a lack of a check on President Donald Trump’s war powers.

The 86-8 vote all but erased a week of uncertainty surrounding the must-pass budget policy measure, which has passed Congress for more than five consecutive decades. That measure has faced a difficult path this year as the White House and Democratic leaders spar over a host of military issues.

**Defense Industry**

**Regulators approve merger of Harris, L3; deal to close June 29**

Florida Today | Posted June 21, 2019 | by Dave Berman


Melbourne-based Harris Corp. has received the required regulatory approval for its blockbuster merger with New York-based L3 Technologies Inc., the companies announced Friday. As a result, the high-technology and defense companies have set June 29 as the closing date for their planned "merger of equals," which was announced in October.
The combined company — which will have about $16.4 billion in annual sales — will be based in Melbourne. The two companies have a combined stock market value of about $44 billion.

Harris is one of the Space Coast's largest employers, with about 6,800 employees in Brevard County and 17,500 worldwide. L3 has about 100 employees in Brevard County and 31,000 worldwide.

**Aerojet Rocketdyne Coleman Aerospace wins $140M boost to existing defense contract**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted June 24, 2019 | by Malak Saleh

Aerojet Rocketdyne Coleman Aerospace Inc., an Orlando-based subsidiary of El Segundo, California-based Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings Inc. (NYSE: AJRD), won a $140 million-plus modification to an existing deal with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

The contract previously was valued at more than $366 million, however with the new fiscal award, the contract value now is roughly $506 million, making it the highest valued contract for the local aerospace engineering hub this year.

Aerojet Rocketdyne Coleman Aerospace is a defense industry systems engineering developer that provides a variety of suborbital launch vehicles, payloads, and launch services and specializes in missile formation. As part of the modified deal, Aerojet Rocketdyne Coleman Aerospace will provide six additional medium-range ballistic missile targets. Manufacturing and development is expected to begin by this month and be completed by December 2027.

**Other Items of Interest**

**White House Announces Intent to Nominate Esper for Defense Secretary; Two Other DOD Officials for Top Pentagon Roles**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 24, 2019 | by ADC author

The White House announced Friday President Donald Trump’s intent to nominate Army Secretary Mark Esper for Secretary of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense David Norquist as
Deputy Secretary of Defense, and Army Under Secretary Ryan McCarthy as Secretary of the Army.

Earlier in the week Trump had named Esper as acting defense secretary after on Monday he announced that former Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan would not continue to pursue his nomination for the Pentagon chief due to personal reasons.

The announcement of the three nominations allowed the administration to informally authorize the officials into their new positions so that they would be in place this week, Military.com reported Friday....

**Esper lays out priorities in first message to the force as acting SECDEF**

Navy Times | Posted June 24, 2019 | by Meghann Myers


Still officially the Army secretary, Acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper finished out his first day on the job with a memo to the Defense Department on Monday.

At the top of his list are lethality, a buzzword carried on from his predecessors, as well as building alliances and improving the department’s efficiency, according to the letter.

“Since rejoining the Department nearly two years ago as the Secretary of the Army, my confidence in the incredible skill, professionalism, and commitment of our military and civilian workforce has grown even stronger,” Esper wrote....

**Hypersonic Missiles Are Unstoppable. And They’re Starting a New Global Arms Race.**


On March 6, 2018, the grand ballroom at the Sphinx Club in Washington was packed with aerospace-industry executives waiting to hear from Michael D. Griffin.

In recent decades, Griffin’s predecessors had prioritized broad research into topics such as human-computer interaction, space communication and undersea warfare. But Griffin signaled an important shift, one that would have major financial consequences for the executives in attendance. “I’m sorry for everybody out there who champions some other high priority, some technical thing; it’s not that I disagree with those,” he told the room. “But there has to be a first, and hypersonics is my first.”

Griffin was referring to a revolutionary new type of weapon, one that would have the unprecedented ability to maneuver and then to strike almost any target in the world within a matter of minutes. Capable of traveling at more than 15 times the speed of sound, hypersonic missiles arrive at their targets in a blinding, destructive flash, before any sonic booms or other meaningful warning. So far, there are no surefire defenses. Fast, effective, precise and unstoppable — these are rare but highly desired characteristics on the modern battlefield. And the missiles are being developed not only by the United States but also by China, Russia and other countries.…. 

**The 2019 DoD Warrior Games are Underway in Tampa**

More than 300 wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans from all four U.S. military branches, U.S. Special Operations Command and five partner nations are in the Tampa area until June 30 competing in adaptive sports as a part of the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games, hosted by U.S. Special Operations Command.

This is the second time the Warrior Games are being held in public venues and not on a military installation. The games are free to watch, open to the public and offer a rare opportunity to watch and be inspired by wounded warriors who have shown incredible resilience as they overcome significant physical and psychological challenges to compete in adaptive sports all around Tampa.
Teams representing the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy, U.S. Special Operations Command, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and Denmark are competing in archery, cycling, golf, indoor rowing, powerlifting, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, wheelchair tennis and track and field....
A new Air Force satellite won’t launch until July now

C4ISRNET.com | Posted June 24, 2019 | by Nathan Strout
The Air Force delayed the launch of the fifth Advanced Extremely High Frequency communications satellite June 23 after a launch vehicle battery failure was discovered during final processing.

The launch was scheduled for June 27 in Cape Canaveral, Florida, but has now been pushed to July 9 at the earliest. A technical team is evaluating the issue and replacing the battery on the United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket which will carry the AEHF highly protected communications satellite to orbit.

The AEHF satellites are meant to replace the Milstar system, providing highly secure, jam-resistant communications for the military and national leadership….

What’s an advanced Russian warship doing in Havana harbor?

The Associated Press via The Navy Times | Posted June 24, 2019 | by Michael Weissenstein, Andrea Rodriguez and Vladimir Isachenkov

One of the Russian navy’s most advanced warships entered Havana’s harbor Monday and docked at the port used until this month by U.S. cruise lines. Here are some questions and answers about the Admiral Gorshkov’s travels through the Caribbean.

WHAT IS THE ADMIRAL GORSHKOV?

The Admiral Gorshkov entered service last year. It is one of the Russian navy’s most advanced warships and is armed with cruise missiles, air defense systems and other weapons. The frigate is based at the Arctic port of Severomorsk and is part of Russia’s Northern Fleet.

WHAT IS THE SHIP DOING IN THE CARIBBEAN?
The navy says the Admiral Gorshkov crossed through the Panama Canal into the Caribbean Sea on or around June 18. The naval group has covered a distance of over 28,000 nautical miles since leaving Severomorsk in February, with stops in China, Djibouti, Sri Lanka and Colombia, the navy says. It says the ships are scheduled to make calls at several Caribbean ports, without specifying which.

**Veterans have a new ally to help treat PTSD: Florida’s colleges and universities**

The Tampa Bay Times via www.stripes.com | Posted June 27, 2019 | by Amanda Zhou


When Army Staff Sgt. Brian Anderson returned home after tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, he tried a variety of therapies for post-traumatic stress disorder. The 37-year-old Green Beret said he lost five friends in combat over a span of six months.

One treatment came in the form of a shaggy golden retriever named Hero. “He helped me through a lot of tough times coming home,” Anderson said. Hero is no ordinary dog. As a service animal, Hero was trained to act as a physical barrier between Anderson and people in crowded situations. If someone comes up behind Anderson, Hero gives him a nudge to let him know, so that Anderson doesn’t feel like he’s about to be attacked.

Service dogs like Hero are one example of the alternative therapies for PTSD and traumatic brain injuries that Florida’s universities and colleges will be able to provide through a federal contract with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed the bill allowing the partnership while appearing at the University of South Florida. It was passed unanimously by the Florida House and Senate, and includes other alternative treatments such as equine therapy, music therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and accelerated resolution therapy, a form of psychotherapy.

**New App Helps Service Members, Families Locate Military Discounts**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted June 27, 2019 | by ADC author


Service members and their families now can have access to a new app that helps them find military discounts in their location.
The app, Deal Patrol, … offers service members a comprehensive database of military discounts that are accessible through the free and user-friendly app.

Deal Patrol … is free through Apple’s App Store and Android’s Google Play. Once installed, service members and their families can use it wherever they travel, and businesses can also submit their military discounts using the app…..
Task Force members -- 

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL adjacent to NAS Whiting Field.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –  
   *(Note: we've changed to a new teleconferencing system with a new call-in number and format.)*  
   
   **Call-In Number:** 888-585-9008   
   **Conference Room:** 262-492-927

3. **America Celebrates the 243rd Anniversary of Independence Day** – I hope everyone had a safe and happy 4th of July. All of us at the FDSTF staff wish a continues great weekend to each and every one of you. There was a surprising amount of activity and defense-related news pertinent to Florida for a short work week because, America’s military never takes time off while the rest of us are relaxing.

4. **Space Force vs. Space Corps vs. Space Command; What’s the Difference?** – With President Trump, the US Senate and the US House of Representatives each proposing different ideas for a US Space Force, US Space Command or US Space Corps, and with at times the same terminology being used to refer to different things, it has become somewhat complicated to keep track of what is the real concept each is proposing. In order to clarify things, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) this week published a primer to explain the similarities and differences in each concept. I have attached a copy of the primer to this week’s update.

5. **ADC’s Defense Communities Leadership Academy Returning This Fall** – The Association of Defense Communities announces it will host the 2nd annual Defense Community Leadership Academy (DCLA) that will be held in conjunction with Blue Star Families on September 23-25, 2019 in Washington, D.C. This training event is focused on teaching community leaders how to better support military families and through the sponsorship of a number of generous and patriotic companies the training will be of little cost to participants. Details are near the end of this update.

6. **Incoming Chairman of the FDSTF Shares His Views** – Our incoming Chairman, State Senator Doug Broxson, had the opportunity to speak with a NPR this week regarding the work and role of the Task Force. I’ve included a couple of articles about his new term as Chairman and a hyperlink to the podcast of his radio interview.

7. **NAS Whiting Field Draft EIA Published and Available for Public Comment** – The US Navy just published a draft Environmental Impact Assessment for NAS Whiting Field related to the planned helicopter upgrades for the base. Details appear in the article below, I have
attached the full draft EIA and the document is available for public comment on the official website until July 19th.

8. Attachments:
   - CSIS primer on differences in concepts for Space Force, Space Command and Space Corps
   - Audio of interview by WUWF NPR with FDSTF Chairman, State Senator Doug Boxson: https://cpa.ds.npr.org/wuwf/audio/2019/07/DDBroxsonFDSTF0708.mp3
   - Draft Environment Impact Assessment for NAS Whiting Field

News Clips of Interest:

FDSTF

Florida Senate President names Senator Broxson Chairman of Florida Defense Support Task Force

South Santa Rosa News | Posted June 28, 2019 | by staff reporters

Senate President Bill Galvano (R-Bradenton) today named Senator Doug Broxson (R-Pensacola) as Chair of the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Originally appointed to the Task Force by Senate President Joe Negron, Senator Broxson will begin a one-year term as Chair on July 1, 2019.

“I am pleased to appoint Senator Broxson as the Chair of the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Senator Broxson has always been a passionate advocate for Florida’s military bases and their critical missions, particularly during this challenging time where we are monitoring the restoration and modernization of Tyndall Air Force Base,” said President Galvano. “Tyndall is critical to the economy of
many of our Panhandle communities devastated by Hurricane Michael….

**Broxson Chairs Base Protection Panel**

wuwf.com | Posted July 3, 2019 | by Dave Dunwoody
https://www.wuwf.org/post/broxson-chairs-base-protection-panel#stream/0

As of this month, state Sen. Doug Broxson is kicking off a one-year term as Chair of the Florida Defense Support Task Force.

Broxson (R-Pensacola) was named by Senate President Bill Galvano to the post after originally placed on the task force by then-President Joe Negron.

“I was the chair two years ago; it’s rotated back to me,” said Broxson. “It’s really been a great honor to go and meet all of our military around the state and see how the community supports their bases.…”

**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Rutherford Whips up Delegation Support for Banning Energy Exploration Off Florida**

Sunshine State News | Posted July 3, 2019 | by Kevin Derby

Towards the end of last week, U.S. Rep. John Rutherford, R-Fla., introduced a proposal closing off energy exploration in the South Atlantic and extends the moratorium on energy exploration in the Gulf of Mexico through 2029.

Rutherford dubbed his proposal the “Bolstering Economies, Anglers, Coastal Habitats, Ecosystems, and Security (BEACHES) in Florida Act” and reeled in the support of much of the Florida delegation in the U.S. House.

The bill was sent to the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee last week. So far, there is no companion legislation over in the U.S. Senate….

Space Force / Space Command

Space Force & Beyond: Gen. Raymond’s 3-Ring Space Circus

The newly confirmed Commander of US Space Command, Gen. John Raymond, may face not one, not two, but three Herculean tasks over the next year: standing up SPACECOM as a new Combatant Command; managing the long-standing Air Force Space Command as it moves under the new SPACECOM; and — if the Senate has its way — starting up the new Space Force.

If this sounds both confusing and daunting, that’s because it is.

“It makes no sense to ask a single individual to do all three jobs, especially during the critical first two years,” says Doug Loverro, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for space policy and a long-time proponent of a Space Force. “That is basically setting it up for failure….”

CBO: HASC ‘Space Corps’ To Cost $3.6 Billion Through 2024

A new report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) finds that the House Armed Services Committee’s proposal for a Space Corps, passed June 12, will cost some $3.6 billion between
fiscal years 2020 and 2024. The estimate, based in part on a previous — and somewhat controversial — study, derives from CBO’s assessment that the new military service would require “between 4,100 and 6,800 additional personnel for new management and support positions.”

The $3.6 billion estimate includes both startup costs to create the Space Corps and recurring costs thereafter. CBO’s previous report, issued in May, estimated that the Trump Administration’s version of the Space Force would “increase DoD’s annual costs by $1.1 billion to $1.9 billion, and incur onetime costs of $1.8 billion to $4.7 billion.”

Interesting, the CBO’s review of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) doesn’t look at the effect of their version of the Space Force….

**Space ‘Force’ Vs. ‘Corps’: One’s Not Actually A Service**

breakingdefense.com | Posted July 1, 2019 | by Theresa Hitchens

Will the Space Force or Space Corps — whatever Congress decides to call it — legally count as a new armed service? Or will it be just a new name without legal weight, something the next administration (or the current mercurial president) could reinterpret at will?


By contrast, the House language does formally set up a new service, even though it changes the name from “Space Force” to “Space Corps….”

**Pentagon Eyes Military Space Station**

breakingdefense.com | Posted July 2, 2019 | by Theresa Hitchens

The Pentagon’s Defense Innovation Unit wants options for an unmanned orbital outpost to support space experiments and operations — a logistics hub that might even grow, DIU’s solicitation suggests, to a larger manned space station.
DIU, which is charged with tapping non-traditional commercial companies for innovative technologies to meet Pentagon needs, issued a solicitation last week that gives interested vendors until July 9 to propose a “solution… for a self-contained and free flying orbital outpost.” The platform is to support “space assembly, microgravity experimentation, logistics and storage, manufacturing, training, test and evaluation, hosting payloads, and other functions.”

While the near-term requirements are obviously aimed at prototyping an autonomous, robotic mini-space station to house experimentation, the “future desired capabilities” listed in the solicitation are much farther reaching. They include the capability to dock with unmanned and manned spacecraft and, even more surprisingly, “human rating….”

**NAS Whiting Field**

**With new helicopters heading to NAS Whiting, Navy issues environmental impact study**

A plan to expand helicopter training at Naval Air Station Whiting Field by purchasing 130 new helicopters has received a tentative go-ahead from the Navy.

The 560-page draft environmental assessment released by the Navy late Thursday recommends purchasing the new helicopters and building new facilities to support expanded training at Whiting and its six outlying landing fields.

"This is great news," said Santa Rosa County Commissioner Don Salter. "Navy personnel have been working on this for a long time.”

The report, which is available at nepa.navy.mil/ahts, is available for public comment through July 19. Copies of the report are also available at public libraries throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. (editorial note: I have also attached a copy of the draft EA to this E-mail. Also, emphasis added above is mine. RC)

**Hurlburt Field**

**Ex-SOCOM vice commander named new Special Ops chief**

NW Florida Daily News | Posted June 28, 2019 | by Jim Thompson
The former vice commander of U.S. Special Operations Command in Washington, D.C., became commander of Air Force Special Operations Command in a Friday morning ceremony at Hurlburt Field, AFSOC’s headquarters.

Gen. David Goldfein, U.S. Air Force chief of staff, presided over the command change where hundreds of AFSOC airmen, former AFSOC leaders and personnel, community leaders and civilian AFSOC partners gathered in a Hurlburt Field hangar.

“You are the perfect man at the perfect time for this critical position,” Army Gen. Richard D. Clarke, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, of which AFSOC is a part, told Air Force Lt. Gen James C. Slife minutes before Slife assumed command of the nearly 21,000 airmen and civilians currently serving in Air Force Special Operations Command.

Eglin AFB

Eglin AFB gets new commander

NW Florida Daily News | Posted July 2, 2019 | by Jim Thompson

“A 20th-century mindset won’t win the next war,” the new commander of the the 96th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base said Tuesday at a change of command ceremony, as he urged the military and civilian personnel now under his leadership to continue “on our way to becoming airmen of the 21st century.”
“It is truly an honor ... and I am humbled to be here,” added Brig. Gen. Scott Cain, who comes to Eglin AFB from the Arnold Engineering Development Complex at Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma, Tennessee, where he served as commander of the engineering complex. In addition to serving as the 96th Test Wing commander, Cain will, as his predecessors, serve as Eglin’s installation commander. The base comprises more than 20,000 military, civilian and contractor personnel, covering multiple branches of the U.S. military.

Cain replaces Brig. Gen. Evan Dertien, who will become director of Air Space and Cyberspace Operations for the Air Force Material Command at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Dertien had commanded the 96th Test Wing and served as installation commander at Eglin AFB since May 2017.

**New AIM-260 Missiles Are So Secretive They Will Require A Custom Storage Bunker At Hill AFB**

The Drive | Posted July 1, 2019 | by Tyler Rogoway And Joseph Trevithick

Big news hit in late June that the USAF and the Navy have been well on their way to secretly developing an all-new beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile intended to replace the AIM-120 AMRAAM. The missile is officially called the AIM-260 Joint Advanced Tactical Missile, or JATM. The effort has been fast-tracked in order to counter rapid developments in long-range air-to-air missile capabilities among America's peer state competitors and especially China.

The USAF's Fiscal Year 2020 military construction budget plan, dated March of 2019, details the need for $6.5M to build a "Joint Advanced Tactical Missile Storage Facility" at Hill AFB's sprawling Site A weapons storage area.

In addition to likely testing at Hill AFB, there are also reports that JATM flight and potentially live-fire testing will also occur at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. This is not surprising given that Eglin is home to Air Force's main Armament Directorate, the service's central manager for the development of new aerial weapons, as well as the Air Force Research Laboratory's Munitions Directorate. Details about the testing requirements also give a general sense about the AIM-260's capabilities over the AMRAAM.
"We've seen charts for the Air Force range requirements for Eglin Air Force Base showing circles for the test area for AMRAAM and the test area for the JATM," Steve Trimble, Aviation Week's Defense Editor and good friend of the War Zone, said on the Check 6 Podcast on June 27, 2019. "The AIM-260 missile has a range circle that's roughly double the size of the AMRAAM circle."…

Tyndall AFB

Senate NDAA Includes Additional Disaster Recovery Funding for Florida, Nebraska Installations

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 1, 2019 | by ADC author https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/senate-ndaa-includes-additional-disaster-recovery-funding-for-florida-nebraska-installations/

The Senate’s approved version of the annual NDAA last Thursday includes significant repair and recovery funding for military installations that have suffered major extreme weather damage over the past year.

The bill, which authorizes a $750 billion fiscal 2020 defense topline, includes several new funding provisions that would aid installations in Nebraska toward repairing severe flooding damage, the Omaha World-Herald reported Friday.

In addition funding targeted for Nebraska installation repairs, the Senate NDAA would also provide another $1.27 billion in construction funding for Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., My Panhandle reported Friday….

‘We’re basically building an entire base’: AFWERX brainstorms ideas for massive Tyndall reconstruction


The effort to rebuild hurricane-devastated Tyndall Air Force Base will be daunting and unprecedented. Virtually all of the Florida base’s roughly 480 buildings sustained at least some damage — and about 300 of them are beyond saving and must be demolished.

To get the job done, the Air Force is going to need some creative ideas, said Brig. Gen. Patrice Melancon, executive director of the Tyndall Program Management Office supervising the
reconstruction effort, in a June 27 interview. “Let’s face it, we’re basically building an entire base,” she said. “We’re not just going to build the Tyndall that we had, we’re going to build the base that we need.”

“I’m looking to see how we can do some prototyping here at Tyndall that can maybe then be rolled out to the rest of the Air Force,” Melancon said. “I don’t know why we wouldn’t be able to figure out how to take what we’re doing here, and use that to impact the rest of the Air Force as they modernize their infrastructure….”

**NS Mayport**

**LCS Billings Commander Removed After Hitting Merchant Ship in Montreal**

USNI News | Posted June 29, 2019 | by Sam LaGrone


The commander of a Littoral Combat Ship that hit a moored ship in the St Lawrence River in Canada has been removed from command, USNI News has learned. Cmdr. Michael Johnson was removed from command of the yet-to-be commissioned Billings (LCS-15) on Friday, a Surface Force Atlantic spokeswoman told USNI News on Saturday morning.

“The relief follows the recent collision in Montreal, Canada, which occurred on June 21.” Former Billings commander Cmdr. Nate Rowan, now commander of the blue crew on USS Wichita (LCS-13), assumed command of the ship.

“Billings sustained minor damage above the waterline. While the ship is able to safely transit to its homeport, Naval Station Mayport, Fla., the ship will temporarily remain in port in Montreal to conduct a full damage assessment. No injuries were reported from either vessel. An investigation into the incident is ongoing,” a Navy spokesperson told USNI News earlier this week….”

**Navy Completed Hellfire Tests on Littoral Combat Ship, Will Likely Deploy Later This Year**

USNI News | Posted July 3, 2019 | by Megan Eckstein
The Navy has finished the structural testing needed to confirm that the Hellfire anti-surface missile can safely operate on the Littoral Combat Ship, and the missile will go out on a ship deployment later this year, USNI News understands.

The service had previously wrapped up structural testing for the Freedom-variant ships that are homeported in Mayport, Fla., a source told USNI News. Testing on the Independence-variant hulls wrapped up about two weeks ago with a successful engagement. The AGM-114L Longbow Hellfire missile makes up the surface-to-surface missile module, which supplements the rest of the LCS’s surface warfare mission package.

The source added that USS Detroit (LCS-7), which is undergoing maintenance now, is still on track to deploy to U.S. 4th Fleet later this year and would likely bring the SSMM with it. Detroit’s deployment would be the first from Mayport in the LCS program’s history...

**US Special Operations Command**

**The 2019 Warrior Games drew record number of athletes and crowds**

Military Times | Posted July 1, 2019 | by Military Times staff
The 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games came to a close June 30 in Tampa, Florida.

This year’s games were co-hosted by U.S. Special Operations Command and the city of Tampa. For only the second time since the games began in 2010, the events for the annual Paralympic-style competition were held in public venues instead of on military installations.

The venue change helped this year’s games break several Warrior Games records, according to the Tampa Bay Times, including the most athletes and public turnout.

Avon Park

A-10 Warthog hits bird, drops 3 dummy bombs over Florida

The Associated Press via The Air Force Times | Posted July 1, 2019 | by Author

The Air Force says it’s investigating after a fighter jet struck a bird and dropped three dummy bombs used for training over northern Florida.
Moody Air Force Base in central Georgia said in a news release there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage after the 25-pound (11-kilogram), nonexplosive training munitions were dropped Monday afternoon by an A-10C Thunderbolt II jet. The base said a “bird strike” had caused “an inadvertent release” of the three dummy bombs.

The Air Force said it didn't know where the training bombs landed, but the suspected area was about 54 miles (87 kilometers) south of the base near Suwannee Springs in northern Florida.

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**DoD Budget**

**Senate Passes Defense Bill, Prepares To Battle House On Nukes, War Powers**

Breaking Defense | Posted June 28, 2019 | by Paul Mcleary


The Senate is holding an unusual day-long vote Friday to consider an amendment to the chamber’s version of the 2020 defense policy bill that would prohibit the president from taking military action against Iran without the approval of Congress.

As of mid-day, Senate Republicans are on track to prevail in defeating the amendment, with 47 “Yes” and 41 “No” votes recorded. A minimum of 60 yes votes are needed for passage.

The likely defeat is another blow to Democrats and a handful of Republicans seeking to place curbs on presidential power to wage war and sell arms overseas without Congressional approval.

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**Phase-Out of PFAS-Based Firefighting Foam Included in Senate FY 2020 NDAA**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 1, 2019 | by ADC author

The Senate’s NDAA approved last Thursday includes a new provision that would require federal environmental regulation of toxic PFAS chemicals while setting a DOD deadline to end their use in firefighting foam, Environment America announced in a news release Friday.

The provision, attached as an amendment to the mandatory defense policy legislation, was co-sponsored by Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Ranking Member Thomas Carper (D-Del.).

The Democrat-led House broadly supports PFAS regulation and is unlikely to try to remove the provision in upcoming NDAA conference negotiations.

**US Senate Approves $750 Billion Defense Policy Bill**

Defense One | Posted July 1, 2019 | by Charles S. Clark

The Senate on Thursday approved a $750 billion version of the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, handing uniformed personnel a 3.1% pay raise, streamlining software acquisition and bringing greater accountability to the long-backlogged security clearance process.

Responding to Trump administration proposals, the bill (S. 1790) also would establish the United States Space Force under the Air Force.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., successfully attached two amendments to require the Pentagon to use environmentally safe chemicals in firefighting.

**Defense Industry**

**L3, Harris Technologies merger creates Florida’s largest aerospace, defense firm**

Orlando Sentinel | Posted July 1, 2019 | by Marco Santana

Harris Technologies has completed a long-expected merger with L3, creating Florida’s largest aerospace and defense company and the eighth-largest business in the state.
The new company, L3Harris, employs 8,400 people across 40 locations in the state, including 7,000 in Central Florida with a large portion on the Space Coast where Harris has had its headquarters.

L3Harris, which has $17 billion in revenue annually, becomes the sixth-largest defense company in the country. Initially announced in October, the all-stock merger was finalized Monday.…

**Other Items of Interest**

**Joint Chiefs Chairman Confirmation Hearing Scheduled July 11**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 2, 2019 | by ADC author


The Senate Armed Services Committee announced Friday it will hold its confirmation hearing for Army Gen. Mark Milley to become the next Joint Chiefs chairman on July 11, after the panel’s return from the July 4 congressional recess.

Gen. Milley, who has served as the Army’s chief of staff since 2015, would replace Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford who finishes his term at the end of September.

The rotation in the Pentagon’s military leadership comes as DOD has been navigating recent transition in the agency’s senior civilian leadership.…

**White House faces time crunch with Trump's top Pentagon pick**

The Hill | Posted July 3, 2019 | by Ellen Mitchell


The White House is racing against the clock to install a permanent Pentagon chief.
Acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper, President Trump’s pick for the top defense post, is not permitted to serve in his current role beyond July 30. That’s because a federal law known as the Vacancies Act prohibits officials from serving in acting capacities for more than 210 days.

To complicate matters further, Esper is not allowed to serve as acting secretary while his nomination is under consideration in the Senate, meaning he will need to temporarily step aside during the confirmation process that also comes amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran….

**Perspectives: Climate Change Is Threatening America’s Military Installations, Harming National Security**

Tampa Bay Times via Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 1, 2019 | by John Conger, special to the Tampa Bay Times


Floridians know that climate change is endangering their health, prosperity and communities. A new hurricane season is a reminder that it’s also threatening America’s national security — beginning with military bases right here in Florida.

This growth in savage storms spells greater danger for military bases across Florida. The Navy’s list of most threatened bases includes Naval Air Station Key West, hammered by Hurricane Irma two years ago. The Marine list includes Blount Island Command near Jacksonville.

The Air Force recently reported that six of its 10 most vulnerable bases are here in Florida — including facilities near Miami and Brevard, as well as Tampa’s MacDill Air Force Base, which it ranked as more vulnerable than Tyndall….

**U.S. Warship Shadowing High-End Russian Frigate Near Cuba**

USNI News | Posted June 25, 2019 | by Ben Werner


A U.S. destroyer is off the coast of Havana, Cuba, shadowing a detachment of Russian naval ships that includes one of the country’s most advanced surface ships, USNI News has verified.
As of Tuesday morning, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham (DDG-109) was roughly 50 nautical miles north of Havana and about 72 miles from Key West, Fla., operating in the Straits of Florida, according to publicly available ship location data reviewed by USNI News.

A day earlier, Russia’s first-in-class frigate Admiral Gorshkov arrived in Havana. Admiral Gorshkov was joined by support vessel Elbrus and salvage tug Nikolay Chiker, according to several media reports.

The intelligence community’s space agency gets a new leader

C4ISR Net | Posted June 28, 2019 | by Kelsey Reichmann

The intelligence community’s space agency got a new director June 27. Christopher Scolese was confirmed by the Senate to lead the National Reconnaissance Office.

Scolese testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee earlier in the month, laying out his goals for the agency if confirmed. Those goals would focus on industry partnerships and artificial intelligence. He also testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in May, fielding questions about the NRO combating adversaries.

Scolese, who has worked with NASA since 1987, most recently served as director of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center.

ADC’s Defense Communities Leadership Academy Returning This Fall

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 1, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/dc360/adcs-defense-communities-leadership-academy-returning-this-fall/

The Association of Defense Communities announces it will host the 2nd annual Defense Community Leadership Academy (DCLA) that will be held in conjunction with Blue Star Families on September 23-25, 2019 in Washington, D.C. This two-day learning and networking opportunity for emerging community leaders from around the country will explore the latest tools and strategies for growing capacity to support military families at the local
Leading service member and military family support professionals will serve as faculty and guide participants through an innovative training program.

Selectees will be able to participate in the program with little cost due to the generous support of sponsors including the Defense Credit Union Council and Booz Allen Hamilton.

To learn how to apply for this year’s DCLA, be sure to look for more information in your email Tuesday, or on the DCLA website at: https://www.defensecommunities.org/dcla/…

**Brand New Marine One Helicopter To Make Debut at Trump’s July 4th Parade**

Defense One | Posted July 2, 2019 | by Marcus Weisgerber

The U.S. military’s new Marine One helicopter is scheduled to make its public debut Thursday as part of the military July 4 Washington flyover called for by President Trump.

Even though it’s still in testing and not expected to fly Trump until at least late next year, the VH-92 is slated to join the VC-25A, a Boeing 747 better known as Air Force One when the president is on board.

Even though the new VH-92 is not ready to fly the president, the rest of the aircraft already sports the iconic dark green livery that’s become synonymous with the aircraft of Marine Helicopter Squadron One. The Marines are testing three of the helicopters, made by Sikorsky, which is owned by defense contractor Lockheed Martin….
July 12

Task Force members --

1. **July Meeting Next Thursday** – The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL near NAS Whiting Field. I have included a copy of our agenda (as of Friday, July 12th) as an attachment to this E-mail. Please also check our website next week for any updates that may occur prior to the meeting.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   *(Note: we’ve changed to a new teleconferencing system with a new call-in number and format.)*
   
   Call-In Number: 888-585-9008  Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **DIG and DRG Award Announced** – Governor DeSantis announced today more than $2.9 million in funding through the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program and the Defense Reinvestment Grant Program. Details on the grants appear in the first article below.

4. **DoD Budget Work Continues in Washington** – Both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate continued work on their respective versions of the Defense Budget this week. As is often the case, the various versions are significantly different, so it will still be quite some time before a final defense budget comes out of Washington.

5. **Hearings on Top Leadership Changes Continue in Washington** – Also in Washington, there were a number of top-level leadership events this week. General Milley had his Senate confirmation hearings this week to be the next Chairman of the JCS, Acting Secretary Esper’s confirmation hearings to be the next Secretary of Defense were scheduled for next week, Vice Admiral Gilday had his name put forward by the Secretary of the Navy to receive the nomination to be the next Chief of Naval Operations and General Berger had his Change of Command Ceremony to become the next Commandant of the Marine Corps.

6. **Attachments:**
   - Agenda for FDSTF Meeting #75, July 18, 2019, Milton, FL
News Clips of Interest:

Defense Community Grants

**Governor Ron DeSantis Announces More Than $2.9 Million to Communities for Continued Work with Military Installations through Infrastructure and Reinvestment Grants**

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis | Posted July 12, 2019 | by Governor Ron DeSantis Public Affairs Staff

Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced more than $2.9 million in funding for military-related programs through the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program and the Defense Reinvestment Grant Program, administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). These grants provide funding to defense-dependent communities to support advocacy and military community relations.

“As a veteran, I know the value in supporting Florida’s military installations and their surrounding communities,” said Governor DeSantis. “We will continue to rebuild and create resilient bases, especially those impacted by Hurricane Michael, for the hardworking men and women who serve our country and state.”

“Under Governor DeSantis’ leadership, DEO will continue to support military installation communities across the state,” said Ken Lawson, Executive Director of DEO. “These grants are another great example of how we are utilizing every resource we have available to help Florida communities, especially those in the Panhandle that are recovering from Hurricane Michael....”

**Corry Station**

**IWTC Corry Station Changes Command, Sends Cmdr. Chad Smith Ashore**

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service | Posted July 10, 2019 | by Glenn Sircy
Cmdr. Zach McKeehan relieved Cmdr. Chad Smith as commanding officer of Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Corry Station during a change of command ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola, July 10.

Smith, a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, assumed command of IWTC Corry Station in September 2017, and was responsible for leading the largest schoolhouse in the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) domain.

McKeehan, a native of Central Point, Oregon, is coming to IWTC Corry Station from his most recent assignment at Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii, where he served as executive officer.

**Hurlburt Field**

**AC-130J Ghostrider Gunships Have Flown Their Very First Combat Missions**

The Drive | Posted July 10, 2019 | by Joseph Trevithick
https://www.hyperlink-to-article.html

The U.S. Air Force's new AC-130J Ghostriders have been flying combat missions in Afghanistan since June 2019. The gunships took over from AC-130U Spooky IIs that had been supporting U.S. and coalition special operations forces and their Afghan partners in that country. Those Spooky IIs have now returned to the United States, marking the last scheduled combat deployment ever for that version of the AC-130.

Northwest Florida Daily News had been the first to report on June 28, 2019, that the AC-130J had flown its first-ever combat mission in Afghanistan. This detail had emerged during a change of command ceremony at Hurlburt Field in Florida, during which U.S. Air Force Lieutenant General James Slife took charge of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) from Lieutenant General Brad Webb. The Ghostrider's first combat sortie had taken place "just days before," according to the story.

"We are pleased to announce the AC-130J has deployed in support of combat operations overseas," U.S. Air Force Captain Keavy Rake, an AFSOC spokesperson, confirmed to The War Zone in an Email on July 10, 2019. "The first AC-130Js deployed in late June 2019 to relieve the AC-130Us, who arrived home to Hurlburt Field on 8 July 2019...."
Final AC-130U Spooky Returns from Combat Deployment

The Destin Log | Posted July 10, 2019 | by Special to GateHouse Media Florida

The final AC-130U Spooky gunship returned to the base Monday from its last scheduled combat deployment, marking another milestone in the transition from the Spooky to the updated AC-130J Ghostrider gunship.

The Spooky has spent nearly a quarter-century in the field, seeing combat for the first time in 1995.

While the Spooky gunships assigned to Hurlburt have been returned from combat deployments, they will continue to be used in training and other missions until the transition to the AC-130J Ghostrider is completed.

Historic MacDill squadron reflects as final mission departs

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service | Posted July 12, 2019 | by Senior Airman Rito Smith

As Lt. Col. Michael Charles, the 310th Airlift Squadron director of operations signed his name on the orders for the final C-37A flight out of MacDill Air Force Base, a historic squadron reflects on their legacy of teamwork.

Lt. Col. Dan Lindley, 310th AS commander, spoke to his squadron, “you all have gone above and beyond and because of the team dynamic we were successful. It takes a whole team to accomplish what we have in the last 18 years and for all of your hard work, thank you.”

After serving for decades across different roles in support of nearly every major conflict, from being a troop carrier squadron in WWII, to providing aerial detection and monitoring over the Panama Canal Zone, the 310th Airlift Squadron was moved to MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, where it provided executive airlift for combatant commanders beginning in 2001.

Cape Canaveral AFS

Air Force anti-jamming efforts get a boost

C4ISR Net | Posted July 8, 2019 | by Nathan Strout
The Air Force will see two major satellites launched from Florida in late July following the delay of an advanced anti-jamming communications satellite launch in June.

The first launch will be the fifth Advanced Extremely High Frequency satellite.

That satellite’s launch was originally slated for June 27 on an Atlas V rocket, but a battery failure was discovered during final processing a few days prior to the launch date. The launch was delayed to allow for reevaluation and replacement of the problem battery. It has now been rescheduled for July 17 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

July 25 will mark the second major satellite launch, as the second GPS III satellite is launched into orbit on a Delta IV rocket.

DoD Budget

Congress returns to budget stalemate

Defense News | Posted July 8, 2019 | by Joe Gould

Lawmakers returning to Washington, D.C., this week are in a race against the clock to reach a budget deal to ease statutory spending caps and avoid a government shutdown starting Oct. 1.

While the Democratic-led House has passed 10 of its 12 appropriations bills, Senate appropriators have not yet scheduled a markup on any of theirs. Meanwhile, White House officials have floated the idea of a one-year stopgap funding bill, which would freeze the 2020 federal budget at the 2019 level.

Both chambers of Congress are only in session three more weeks before the August recess.

House Takes Up its Fiscal 2020 NDAA, Approval This Week Uncertain

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 10, 2019 | by ADC author
The Democrat-led House took up its version of the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act by starting with a floor vote Wednesday on a rule that would govern debate of more than 439 amendments to the legislation, CQ reported.

The mandatory annual defense policy bill, which sets policies and spending for defense programs, faces mounting lawmaker challenges beyond amendments to gain final passage out of the House. The lower chamber could have difficulty rounding up the votes to pass its $733 billion defense spending topline due to objections from both sides of the aisle, according to the report.

Democratic leaders are hoping to pass the legislation by the end of this week after the Senate passed its $750 billion version late last month.

**McConnell Presses Negotiating Partners to Reach Comprehensive Two-Year Budget Agreement**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 10, 2019 | by ADC author

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said Tuesday he continues to seek a comprehensive two-year budget agreement that would lift the debt limit and set fiscal 2020 federal spending before the August congressional recess to avoid a potential mid-September government default and Oct. 1 shutdown.

“We’ll be trying to reach an agreement soon because the House is only in for three more weeks and time is running out,” McConnell said at a news conference.

Agreement by the Democrat-led House, the GOP-led Senate and the White House on a comprehensive deal is necessary to avoid the need for a stopgap funding measure and short-term debt relief.

**House Democrats: Please Pass A Bipartisan Defense Policy Bill**

Breaking Defense | Posted July 9, 2019 | by Rick Berger

Hell hath no fury like a lawmaker betrayed. This week, the House will take up the crucial National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress’ primary instrument to oversee the
U.S. military. Though the NDAA has passed for 58 straight years, partisan political choices threaten to end that streak.

The Democratic House passed out of committee the National Defense Authorization Act by a 33-24 vote, an abnormally close vote for a bill that garnered roughly 60 votes every year since 2000. Anemic support for the NDAA in committee derives from Chairman Adam Smith’s decision to eschew the committee’s tradition of bipartisanship in its drafting and markup process.

The bill contained several “poison pill” provisions Republicans could not vote for, including a $733 billion topline that represents flat spending, cuts to previously bipartisan conventional missile and nuclear weapons and programs, and prohibitions on nuclear weapons publicly identified as redlines for GOP members. Rather than seeking a bipartisan compromise approach on these issues—as the committee did on the Space Force question—committee Democrats chose to go it alone.…

**Houses Lawmakers Continue Moving Through NDAA Amendments; Republicans Express Frustration**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 11, 2019 | by ADC author

The Democrat-led House continued debate Thursday on more than 300 remaining amendments filed on its version of the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, after the chamber approved more than 100 amendments Wednesday, Roll Call reported.

The must-pass annual defense policy bill traditionally receives bipartisan support but faced rising criticism from leading Republicans who expressed unhappiness with the amendments Democrats allowed for debate, according to the report.

With hundreds of amendments for consideration, House leaders have relied on pushing through more than a dozen bundled amendment packages to limit debate and adopt largely noncontroversial provisions.…

**House Democratic leaders hopeful progressive wing won’t derail defense policy bill**

Defense news | Posted July 11, 2019 | by Joe Gould
House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith said Wednesday progressives have a path to vote for the chamber’s annual defense policy bill this week after their amendments were approved for consideration.

If their support holds, it would allow House Democratic leadership to advance the must-pass military policy legislation without having to court Republican support and potentially backtrack on a number of liberal priorities already in the measure.

On the verge of a floor debate, the path for the bill has been in question as Republicans plan to vote against it and amid flaring tensions between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and progressive lawmakers. In a recent New York Times interview, Pelosi criticized a group of four freshman Democrats exemplified by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., who opposed a $4.6 billion emergency border aid bill because it lacked strong language on migrant custody issues.

**Trump Threatens NDAA Veto If House Cuts Stand**

Breaking Defense | Posted July 10, 2019 | by Theresa Hitchens


The Trump Administration has issued a laundry list of objections to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) version of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act — including a threat to veto the bill if the HASC-approved $733 billion top-line for DoD spending passes Congress.

Major objections in the “Statement of Administration Policy” provided to the House Rules Committee obtained by Breaking Defense, include:

- The $103 million cut to the Air Force’s Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) program….

**U.S. Conference of Mayors Endorses Defense Community Infrastructure Program Funding**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 11, 2019 | by ADC author

The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) unanimously passed a resolution last week supporting $100 million in funding for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) in next year’s defense appropriations.

The Conference of Mayors’ endorsement for DCIP came during their 87th Annual Meeting in Honolulu after the resolution was advanced by Everett, Wash., Mayor Cassie Franklin.

Approved by Congress in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, full funding of DCIP would provide critical funding for community infrastructure outside the base that has a direct impact on military readiness. Congress is currently considering funding for DCIP as part of the fiscal 2020 defense appropriations….

Defense Industry

Lockheed Martin snags $175M in latest missile deal with U.S. Navy

Orlando Business Journal | Posted July 10, 2019 | by Malak Saleh

An Orlando branch of Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT) landed a contract worth up to $175 million with the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. The deal primarily involves testing and product revitalization of the current Long Range Anti-Ship Missile.

The work, to be done by Lockheed Martin's Missiles & Fire Control facility in Orlando, is expected to be completed by November 2022.

Choosing Central Florida for this new contract was strategic for Lockheed, said Dana Casey, a Lockheed Martin spokeswoman. "We’ve been experiencing phenomenal growth in Orlando for the past several years…."
Lawmakers return from their holiday break with a host of military issues on the docket and only a few weeks of summer work left to complete them.

The full House begins its debate on the annual defense authorization bill this week, with a host of hot-button issues like transgender troops and climate change expected to be among amendment fights.

On the other side of Capitol Hill, senators will begin the confirmation process for Gen. Mark Milley to take over as the next joint chiefs chairman. .

**Esper’s defense secretary confirmation hearing planned for Tuesday**

The Senate Armed Services Committee has agreed to hold a confirmation hearing on July 16 for Mark Esper to be the next defense secretary, if the White House delivers the formal nomination by the day before, Defense News has learned.

The committee has already received Esper’s advance policy questions and background-check details, and committee Chairman Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., has received agreement from committee members to waive the traditional seven-day waiting period between when paperwork arrives at the Senate and when a confirmation hearing begins.

“If we get the [official nomination] from the White House on Monday, we will have the hearing on Tuesday,” Inhofe said today.

Hours after publication of this article, the committee officially made the announcement that Esper’s hearing would be held at 9:30 AM next Tuesday. In the lead up to the announcement, several SASC members told Defense News they were in favor of moving as quickly as possible on the nomination. .
Coasting through his confirmation hearing on Thursday, President Trump’s pick for chairman of the Joint Chiefs drew questions from lawmakers on Iran, his independence, and his views on military leadership, but few challenges.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle did repeatedly ask Army Gen. Mark Milley about the Trump administration’s dearth of confirmed leaders at the Pentagon and how it has affected civilian control of the military.

Both Republicans and Democrats praised Milley from the dais. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., committed to supporting his nomination; Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine who caucuses with Democrats said, “I don’t think there’s anyone that I have met in my work here that I have more confidence in and in the position that you’re about to embark upon….”

In a confirmation hearing that covered everything from budget to national security threats to sexual assault prevention, two senators used their time to level with the nominee for the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: How far are you willing to go to keep the president from doing something dangerous?

Army Gen. Mark Milley, currently the chief of staff of that service, told both that he would be willing to resign rather than follow an “illegal, unethical or immoral order.”

“We are not going to be intimidated into making stupid decisions,” he said. “We will give our best military advice regardless of consequences to ourselves….”
Army Gen. Mark Milley headed to the White House in November to be interviewed for the top military job in Europe. He emerged from the meeting with an even loftier prize: President Donald Trump asked Milley whether he wanted to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Milley faces his next crucial job interview Thursday, when the Senate Armed Services Committee holds his confirmation hearing. But the November episode demonstrated many of the traits that Milley would bring to the job: sky-high ambition, an ability to take over the room and a willingness to use his Trumpworld connections to get what he wants.

Few who know Milley, a 61-year-old who has seen combat from Panama to the Middle East, are surprised he’s made it this far. Well-read and brash, Milley has had his eye on the chairmanship for years. POLITICO spoke to 13 people who have either worked with or for Milley, and the interviews portray him as a tough-talking warrior-thinker: He’s Princeton-educated, an officer for whom books on Thucydides’ Trap are “light reading.” He’s also a hockey player with a thick frame, stern gaze and boundless energy, known to bend others to his will.

Admiral picked to lead Navy is retiring; bad judgment cited

The four-star admiral set to become the Navy’s top officer on Aug. 1 will instead retire, an extraordinary downfall prompted by what Navy Secretary Richard Spencer called poor judgment regarding a professional relationship.

Moran had been vetted for promotion to the top uniformed position in the Navy, nominated by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the Senate in May to succeed Adm. John Richardson as chief of naval operations and as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

With Moran’s departure, Richardson will extend his tenure as Navy chief and Spencer said he would recommend a new candidate for nomination by Trump and consideration by the Senate. Richardson’s official retirement date is in September.
Navy Secretary Gets Green Light to Nominate Adm. Michael Gilday as Next CNO

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer will nominate the three-star former head of Navy’s Cyber Command to become the 32nd chief of naval operations, a deep selection for the sea service’s top officer unseen since 1970.

Three sources told Defense News that Vice Adm. Michael Gilday, the Director of the Joint Staff since March 1, will be promoted over his four-star colleagues, who will stay at their current commands.

He’ll succeed Adm. John Richardson, whose tenure was marked by a steadfast push to modernize and toughen the Navy in an era of great power competition as well as twin guided-missile destroyer collisions that killed 17 sailors in 2017 and the ongoing “Fat Leonard” public corruption scandal that gutted a generation of high-ranking officers serving in the Japan-based 7th Fleet..

Navy nominee brings cyber experience to top echelons of Pentagon leadership

The expected nomination of Vice Adm. Michael Gilday to lead the Navy brings forward an officer with key cyber experience to the top echelons of military leadership.

Gilday, a career surface warfare officer, lead the Navy’s component to U.S. Cyber Command, 10th Fleet/Fleet Cyber Command, from July 2016 to June 2018.

He would be the first officer to lead a service that has also commanded a service cyber component…..

Gen. David Berger becomes the 38th Marine commandant. Here’s what he will face leading the Corps
Gen. David Berger became the Corps’ 38th commandant following a passage of command ceremony held at Marine Barracks in Washington on Thursday.

“We will never send our Marines into a fair fight,” Berger told those in attendance.

“I know we need to modernize the Marine Corps,” and need to train better and recruit the best people, he said. “Marines are different;” they are not defined by equipment or vehicles, but by their warrior ethos, he said.

Army, Navy face big shake-up on the road to confirming the next SECDEF

The clock is ticking. The Pentagon has until the end of this month to get a secretary confirmed before Congress and the White House get involved with the Defense Department’s long-vacant top job.

Following former Defense Secretary James Mattis’s resignation last year, and the June nomination withdrawal of his no. 2, former Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, top defense officials are putting together contingencies for keeping leadership in place at the department after multiple setbacks. Best case scenario: Acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who had been serving as Army secretary since late 2017, gets a confirmation hearing and a Senate vote in the next couple of weeks.

Under federal law, Esper cannot be considered for the Pentagon’s top job while he serves in the “acting” role, so the plan is to send him back to the Army after the Senate announces they have received his nomination for SECDEF. Then current Navy Secretary Richard Spencer will step into the acting role during the confirmation process....
July 19

Task Force members --

1. **Last Meeting** – The Task Force held our monthly meeting yesterday, July 18, 2019 in Milton, FL. On Wednesday six members of the Task Force plus three staff members took a tour of NAS Whiting Field and heard mission briefings from both the base and Training Air Wing Five. The tour was highlighted by opportunities for all members of the group to practice in flight simulators for both the T-6 (fixed wing) and TH-57 (helicopter) trainer. Thursday’s meeting included discussions of many important issues with a heavy emphasis on the need for prompt resolution of the situation with the advocacy contract and to move ahead with a public education campaign on the importance to national defense of Gulf Test & Training Range Complex.

2. **Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be via conference call on August 18, 2019. I’ll send out the call-in data as we get closer to the meeting date.

3. **Gulf of Mexico Drilling and Gulf Range Protection Efforts** – This week the Department of the Interior announced plans to auction off concessions for new oil exploration in the Gulf of Mexico and the US House of Representatives announced that it plans to vote on two pieces of legislation to restrict offshore oil drilling during the week of September 9th. I’ll included gists of multiple articles below describing both efforts in greater detail, however all of the articles may not be accessible via the Internet to everyone, so I’ve saved them and included them as attachments.

4. **Top Defense Department Leadership Confirmation Processes Move Forward** – On Thursday the Senate Armed Services Committee approved President Donald Trump’s nominations for the Pentagon’s top two spots; Army Secretary Mark Esper for Secretary of Defense and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Both nominations now move on to the full Senate which will probably schedule a confirmation vote for each nominee for some time next week.

5. **2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit** – Just a reminder, the Florida Chamber will hold it’s 2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit in Jacksonville on August 13th and 14th. I’ve attached the flier for the event below.

6. **Attachments:**
   - Tampa Bay Business Journal article on changes in Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
   - E&E News article on US House of Representatives planned vote on Gulf of Mexico oil exploration restrictions
   - E&E News article on US CBO estimate of value of oil reserves in Gulf of Mexico
   - 2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit
News Clips of Interest:

FDSTF

After some turmoil, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance emerges with new board, focus

Tampa Bay Business Journal | Posted July 12, 2019 | by Crystal Owens
No URL available: See attached article for complete account

The Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to serving the area’s defense community, has emerged following a turbulent time with a new, broader range of focus.

The organization in June 2018 voted out its president Lisa Monnet under suspicion of misappropriated funds that resulted in the cancellation of a $135,000 grant and since then has been working to rebuild a stronger alliance.

“The organization didn’t do what it was supposed to do. The organization didn’t have the right sort of governance that came in that caught that,” said board member Lawrence Martin Jr., Maj. Gen., USAF (retired), and senior consultant, Two Blue Aces Consulting. “I’m new coming onto the board, and I’ve been extremely impressed with the governance that’s been put in place, the checks and balances and the efforts to make sure the organization is doing the right thing…."

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

Interior Announces Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico

In support of President Donald J. Trump’s America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt today announced that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will offer 77.8 million acres for a region-wide lease sale scheduled for Aug. 21, 2019. The sale would include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

“The Trump administration is laser focused on developing our domestic offshore oil and gas resources in an environmentally conscious manner, and the Gulf of Mexico is front and center for that development,” said Secretary Bernhardt. “The expansion of America’s energy sector has been a major economic driver for the American people in keeping energy prices low. Our work in the Gulf of Mexico to ensure America leads the world in energy production is paramount.”

Lease Sale 253, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the fifth offshore sale under the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Under this program, a total of ten region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf-wide lease sales are scheduled to be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

**House to vote on offshore drilling bills**

E&E News | Posted July 17, 2019 | by George Cahlink

No URL available: See attached article for complete account

The House will take up two bills in the coming weeks that would block the Trump administration from expanding offshore drilling.

Legislation sponsored by Florida Reps. Francis Rooney (R) and Kathy Castor (D), H.R. 205, would permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in the eastern side of the Gulf of Mexico.

The other bill, H.R. 1941, sponsored by South Carolina Democratic Rep. Joe Cunningham, would prevent the Interior Department from including the Atlantic and Pacific planning areas in the administration's proposed 2019-2024 offshore drilling plan.

Both measures were approved by the Natural Resources Committee last month after a lengthy debate with some bipartisan support.

Some lawmakers thought leaders would bring up the bills before August recess, but House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said they would come up the week of Sept. 9.

**CBO's price tag for drilling in eastern Gulf: $400M**
A new Congressional Budget Office report has tried to put a price tag on potential drilling off the coast of Florida for lawmakers who want to make the current moratorium permanent, a potential hurdle for lawmakers hoping to bar drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. The CBO estimate puts a $400 million price tag, over 10 years, on the ban that would be enacted by H.R. 205, the "Protecting and Securing Florida's Coastline Act of 2019."

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) on Twitter today said that the bill will come up for a vote the week of Sept. 9, though it is unlikely to make it to the president's desk.

Nobody knows how much money could be made from drilling for oil and gas in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, currently closed to drilling through 2022 by a congressional edict. But researchers needed to have an idea of the value of leasing the area, because they needed to know what not leasing there would cost the federal government.

The bill, sponsored by Florida Reps. Francis Rooney (R) and Kathy Castor (D), would place a permanent moratorium on drilling within 125 miles of Florida's west coast and most of the eastern Gulf.

### Space Force / Space Command

**A key to the success of Space Force**

c4isrnet.com | Posted July 15, 2019 | by Nathan Strout

The lack of mobility between personnel in the military and the intelligence community could be a stumbling block for the Space Force, so attention must be paid to how assets will be shared effectively.

The Space Force, a sixth branch of the military proposed by the Trump administration, has received some level of support in both the House and Senate, although the details and scope of the force are still a matter of contention. While the Senate versions hews more closely to the White House’s proposal, the House has approved a Space Corps with some notable differences.

Most of the debate surrounding the Space Force has focused on the differences in how the proposals would stand up the new service and the structure of its leadership. However, during a panel held at the George Washington University Space Policy Institute, two experts on space
explained why cooperation between the intelligence community and the military is important and why ability of officers to move freely between the IC and the Air Force is critical to success.

**Tyndall AFB**

**Tyndall AFB and Bay District team up to bring childcare services to military families**

defensevisualinformationdistribution.com | Posted July 17, 2019 | by Kayla Tucker


Bay District Schools and Tyndall Air Force Base are teaming up to help bring more childcare services to the military families in our area.

Superintendent Bill Husfelt says Tyndall approached the district last month to see what can be done to bring more options for parents.

He says Tyndall has the individuals to care for the children but don’t have space. Husfelt says this partnership will begin this school year and is just a way they hope to help the families who are serving our country.

**Back to school at Tyndall AFB Education Center**

Defense Visual Information Distribution System | Posted July 10, 2019 | by Senior Airman Anthony Nin Leclerec


Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) kicked off their first class since Hurricane Michael on Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, June 20, 2019.

Tyndall AFB and GCSC have a partnership which allows students to attain a Community College of the Air Force certification and other associates and/or bachelors degrees.

GCSC provides an avenue for students who feel like the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) is not the right venue of education for them.

**NS Mayport**
The Navy Is On The Front Lines Of Adapting To Climate Change

Naval Station Mayport sits 15 miles east of Downtown Jacksonville at the mouth of the St. Johns River. One of two major naval installations in Jacksonville, Mayport is home base for the Navy’s third-largest fleet, along with more than 15,000 active-duty personnel and 32,000 of their family members. Any menace to Mayport threatens as many as 100,000 related jobs and around $1.3 billion in infrastructure.

That’s why the Navy’s taking note of this projection: The water surrounding Mayport will most likely rise between 3.7 and 6.1 feet by the end of the century, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. Worst case, the base would lose just over half of its land to the tide.

Sea level rise is also expected to bring hurricane storm surge into currently unaffected areas of Mayport. And the storm surge itself is expected to be deeper than ever. Mayport is one of more than 50 naval installations that would be seriously threatened if the sea rises 3 feet, according to a National Research Council report.

Navy Announces Commissioning Date for the Future USS Indianapolis

The U.S. Navy has approved the commissioning date for the future USS Indianapolis (LCS 17).

The Navy will commission the littoral combat ship Oct. 26, 2019 in Burns Harbor, Indiana. The commissioning ceremony signifies the acceptance for service and the entrance of a ship into the active fleet of the U. S. Navy.

The future Indianapolis will be homeported in Naval Station Mayport upon her commissioning.
**Team Orlando**

**One World Terrain to allow Soldiers to train anywhere**

US Army | Posted July 16, 2019 | by Joe Lacdan  
https://www.army.mil/article/224063/one_worldTerrain_to_allow_soldiers_to_train_anywhere

Carrying only a backpack and a drone, Soldiers could capture and eventually re-create entire sections of forests and steep mountains. They can map 3D data from the rough, dry wasteland of the Mohave Desert, the dense rainforests of Hawaii or the rocky, hilly landscape of woodlands. They can even replicate the detail of a bustling metropolis.

One World Terrain, a pillar of the Army's synthetic training environment, will give Soldiers a tool that could improve readiness by providing training in an accurate, realistic representations of theater environments. It would help achieve the vision of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley and Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper to build a more lethal force, by providing Soldiers skills at a more frenetic pace.

The cross-functional team assigned to develop the technology has CFT members collocated with the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation in its home base at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and here in the Institute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California….

**DoD Budget**

**Military budget showdown set as Democrats advance authorization bill over GOP objections**

Military Times | Posted July 12, 2019 | by Leo Shane III and Joe Gould  

House Democrats on Friday advanced a contentious $733 billion defense policy bill packed with progressive priorities that sets up a showdown with Senate Republicans and the White House in coming months over the future direction of the Defense Department.
Among the key points of conflict behind the 220-197 vote: limits on the president’s power to wage war on Iran; new rules allowing transgender recruits to join the ranks; restrictions on the U.S. nuclear arsenal; and overall spending levels for military missions.

Amid heated debate, Republicans accused Democrats of passing an unrealistic “messaging bill” in contrast to the typically nonpartisan tone of the expansive defense policy legislation. None voted for the final bill.

**Mnuchin Says Two-Year Spending Agreement Reached, Pelosi Casts Doubt On Settled Deal**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 18, 2019 | by ADC author


Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Thursday that a comprehensive two-year budget deal has been reached on fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021 spending levels, including a two-year debt limit extension, Roll Call reported.

Mnuchin also said that congressional leaders and the administration have agreed the spending cap increases will be offset by cuts elsewhere. “We’ve agreed that there will be offsets, so now we’re just trying to figure out whether we can get both the number agreed to in time and the specifics and a structure,” Mnuchin said.

Reaching a comprehensive spending deal that includes lifting the debt limit has pressed Washington as it seeks to avoid a potential government default as early as late August, as well as a potential government shutdown and mandatory spending cuts on Oct. 1, as On Base has reported. If a deal to raise current spending caps is not reached before October, approximately $71 billion in across-the-board defense cuts would be initiated through sequestration.

**Defense Industry**

**IAP Worldwide Services wins $10M add-on to Navy contract**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted July 16, 2019 | by Malak Saleh


Cape Canaveral-based IAP Worldwide Services Inc. has landed a $10.9 million addition to an existing contract with the Navy, boosting the total contract value to $31.8 million to date, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.
The work includes all management, supervision, labor hours, training, equipment and supplies necessary to perform base operating services to facility investment, service calls, pest control, operation of utility plants, refuse collection, special events and snow and ice removal. Washington, D.C.-based Naval Facilities Engineering Command contracted with IAP Worldwide to perform the work in Annapolis, Maryland, starting in August.

Cape Canaveral-based IAP Worldwide, which employs more than 2,000 people, provides engineering services to bridge the gap between IT networks and the operational field….

**This is Knight’s Armament’s new machine gun suppressor**

Gear Scout via Military Times | Posted July 16, 2019 | by Ian D'Costa


Knight’s Armament Company of Titusville, Florida, unveiled a new suppressor at this year’s Special Operations Forces Industry Conference where members of the SOF community get to interact with vendors and industry partners to preview and try out the latest and greatest in special operations kit and gear.

KAC’s suppressor is designed primarily to be used with the company’s premier belt-fed Light Assault Machine Gun platform, chambered for 5.56 NATO and marketed more towards the SOF and private military contractor communities than to conventional infantry forces.

True to its name, the LAMG is indeed very light, weighing only 8.6 pounds unloaded. In comparison, the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon weighs in at 17 pounds unloaded…..

**Lockheed Martin gets $24M add-on to Air Force contract**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted July 18, 2019 | by Malak Saleh


Lockheed Martin Corp. snagged a big contract to support an ongoing deal with the U.S. Air Force.

The Bethesda, Maryland-based defense contracting giant's Missiles & Fire Control business unit in southwest Orlando won a $23.6 million deal to finance operations to develop the Air
Force's Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM), according to the U.S. Department of Defense. This was an add-on to a previously awarded $51.1 million contract dating back to September 2018, making the total current contract value worth more than $74 million.

Work is expected to begin immediately. Lockheed Martin's Orlando operations team will handle program management and engineering, however, production and final assembly work will take place in Troy, Alabama, Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) spokeswoman Dana Casey said….

Other Items of Interest

Navy secretary temporarily takes over Pentagon’s top job ahead of Esper confirmation hearing

Military Times | Posted July 15, 2019 | by Meghann Myers

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer strode into the defense secretary’s office at the Pentagon on Monday afternoon, in a symbolic changing of responsibility that will allow current Army Secretary Mark Esper to make his case to Congress for promotion to the Defense Department’s top job.

Esper, who has been serving as acting defense secretary since late June, stepped down Monday afternoon just after 3 p.m., once his nomination was formally received by the Senate. He is due in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday morning.

“We are committed to transparency throughout this process,” DoD chief of staff Eric Chewning told reporters. “The American people deserve to know there’s only one secretary of defense and that person is fully capable of defending the country and protecting our homeland….”

Pentagon in its longest-ever stretch of leadership limbo

The Associated Press | Posted July 14, 2019 | by Robert Burns
When he resigned as defense secretary last December, Jim Mattis thought it might take two months to install a successor. That seemed terribly long at the time.

Seven months later, the U.S. still has no confirmed defense chief even with the nation facing potential armed conflict with Iran. That’s the longest such stretch in Pentagon history.

There is also no confirmed deputy defense secretary, and other significant senior civilian and military Pentagon positions are in limbo, more than at any recent time.

**Senate committee approves Esper and Milley to lead Pentagon, teeing up final vote**

Defense News | Posted July 18, 2019 | by Joe Gould

The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved President Donald Trump’s picks to the Pentagon’s top two spots: Army Secretary Mark Esper for defense secretary and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The panel confirmed the duo in separate voice votes Thursday during a closed meeting, which sets them up for Senate confirmation votes as soon as Thursday, but more likely next week. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is expected to set the timing for their votes.

The action came as the Pentagon nears 200 days without a permanent top leader, by far the longest absence in the history of the department. More than a dozen jobs there have no permanent occupant.

**Esper Easily Handles SecDef Confirmation Hearing; Senate Approval Expected Within a Week**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 16, 2019 | by ADC author
Dr. Mark Esper, who is currently the Army Secretary while awaiting appointment to become the next defense secretary, officially testified for the top DOD post in a generally smooth Senate confirmation hearing Tuesday.

On the topic of additional BRAC rounds, Esper provided a limited response regarding the potential for future BRAC activity.

“The President’s budget did not include a request for BRAC authorization. As such, the Department is focused on sustaining our installations and using existing authorities to optimize facility usage,” Esper wrote.

He also provided a limited response on how he would approach a congressionally authorized BRAC.

“If confirmed, and if Congress were to authorize another BRAC round, my focus would be on the military value of installations, as informed by the National Defense Strategy,” he wrote….

Esper Assures Wary Senators He’ll Keep Military Out of Politics

Defense One | Posted July 16, 2019 | by Kevin Baron

U.S. senators asked Army Secretary Mark Esper about many threats and worries during his Tuesday morning confirmation hearing. Perhaps the most common concern was President Trump himself.

The least mentioned topic: the actual wars and combat missions that American troops are fighting….

Can Mark Esper save DoD? Senators sure hope so.

Military Times | Posted July 16, 2019 | by Meghann Myers
For the second week in a row, a lifetime public servant tapped for one of the Pentagon’s top jobs declared he would sooner resign from the job than follow an order he finds “illegal, immoral or unethical,” at a time when lawmakers are concerned that President Trump’s foreign policy moves are a threat to national security.

In a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Tuesday, Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., asked Army Secretary Mark Esper: Should he be confirmed as the next secretary of defense, would he align his foreign policy views more closely with former Defense Secretary James Mattis or President Trump — as a rift between the two ultimately led to Mattis’s resignation late last year.

“I don’t know where to pick between the two,” Esper said. “But clearly, I share Secretary Mattis’s views, and I’ve expressed that publicly….”

**Inside the Pentagon’s Game of Musical Chairs**

Defense One | Posted July 15, 2019 | by Marcus Weisgerber

At 3:04 p.m. on Monday, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer became the third acting defense secretary since January. That’s when President Trump formally nominated Spencer’s predecessor, three-weeks-on-the-job Mark Esper, to become defense secretary proper.

Spencer’s short walk from one E-Ring office to another belied an immense jump in responsibility, from a service secretary in charge of manning and equipping a pair of service branches to a practitioner of global strategy and the second link in the wartime chain of command. How long will he keep the job? No one knows.

It’s the latest move in a bizarre game of musical chairs playing out at the Pentagon, which now has vacancies at 18 top political positions. And that game could continue well into the summer….

**Gilday nominated to be next chief of naval operations**

Stars and Stripes | Posted July 18, 2019 | by Caitlin M. Kenney

Vice Adm. Michael Gilday has been nominated by President Donald Trump to be the next chief of naval operations, according to a senate announcement Wednesday on the nomination.
Gilday, a three-star admiral, is now the director of the Joint Staff, a position he has held since March. If confirmed, he would be promoted to a four-star admiral.

"The entire Navy should be very excited by today’s announcement,” Adm. John Richardson, the current chief of naval operations, said Thursday in a statement posted to his official Facebook page. “Adm. Mike Gilday is a true cutting edge warfighter, a surface warrior who, by virtue of his leadership at 10th Fleet, fully appreciates the challenges we face in the cyber warfare arena and the increasing pace of competition in new domains....”

Here’s an updated map of military sites where DoD found cancer-causing chemicals in the drinking water

Military Times | Posted July 14, 2019 | by Karen Jowers

An environmental advocacy group has identified 58 more military sites where levels of harmful chemicals used in firefighting foam have been detected in groundwater or drinking water sources, from Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson, Alaska to Fort Eustis, Virginia.

This brings the total to 175 military installations and sites nationwide that are known to be contaminated by fluorinated compounds known as PFAS, according to the Environmental Working Group. An additional 44 civilian airports are included that are also used by Air National Guard units.

The advocacy group’s interactive map of all the sites includes information about the contamination in drinking water and groundwater. Many of the new sites reported relatively high PFAS levels — greater than 100,000 parts per trillion. Service members and military families can click on the interactive map to find the levels of contamination in a particular area, based on EWG’s research using DoD and other data. These sites were previously identified by military officials....

(B hyperlink to interactive map inserted directly below.)

https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/2019_pfas_contamination/map/

Bill Would Require DoD to Share Water Contamination Data with Local Communities
The House version of the defense policy bill would require the Pentagon to share data on groundwater contamination on military bases with local communities.

The $733 billion National Defense Authorization legislation passed by the House last Friday included an amendment sponsored by Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, requiring the Pentagon to share information on possible contamination from the chemical known as PFAS, widely used in firefighting foam at military bases.

Turner, whose district includes Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, said in a statement, "Our base, like many others around the nation, continues to deal with the detection of PFAS in our groundwater….

**Here’s what Congress is proposing to counter cancer-causing chemicals found on military bases**

Military Times | Posted July 17, 2019 | by Diana Stancy Correll

Congress is worried about dangerous chemicals found near military installations and is pushing for a series of changes to counter the chemicals’ impact on communities, amid opposition from the Trump administration to some proposals addressing the issue.

Perfluoroalky and polyfluoroalkyl, referred to as PFAS, are linked to cancer and can be found in items such as non-stick pans and food packaging, among other common household goods. The military employs the substances in firefighting foams developed in the 1960s, and the substances have now infiltrated water systems on military bases and in surrounding areas.

Here’s what each chamber of Congress is proposing to tackle PFAS contamination…:
July 26

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – Our next meeting will be via conference call on August 18, 2019.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   *(Note: this is the second meeting with our new teleconferencing system with a new call-in number and format. If you have a record of the number used prior to July please update it to this one.)*

   Call-In Number: 888-585-9008   Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Department of Defense leadership changes continue in Washington** – This week the full Senate confirmed Mark Esper as the new Secretary of Defense, and he was sworn into office yesterday. Later in the week the Senate confirmed Gen. Mark Milley as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Senate Armed Services Committee also approved the nomination of Gen. John Hyten as the next Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and David Norquist to be the next Deputy Secretary of Defense. Those two nominations are expected to go before the full Senate next week.

4. **House of Representatives passes Defense Budget Authorization Act** – Yesterday the US House of Representatives passed a two-year, $2.7 trillion budget plan with $738 billion in military funding in fiscal 2020. If agreed to by the Senate and signed into law by President Trump the approved DoD budget would avoid the last two years of budget sequestration specified in the Budget Control Act of 2011.

5. **2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit** – Another reminder, the Florida Chamber will hold it’s 2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit in Jacksonville on August 13th and 14th. I’ve pasted the hyperlink for the event below.

   https://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/
News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

SPACECOM Stand-Up: New Focus For Ongoing Missions

Breaking Defense | Posted July 25, 2019 | by Theresa Hitchens

The stand-up of the new version of Space Command (SPACECOM) will involve more than simply moving the desks from one office to another and changing the logo on the letterhead.

“A lot will be dependent on the development and implementation of Gen. [John] Raymond’s commander’s guidance,” says Jeff Renehan of LinQuest, the key contractor advising and assisting SPACECOM’s launch. “For example, the stand-up of the Joint Operations Center will have a bit of a different focus, as it will be primarily on the space warfighting mission — which is a good thing.”

What is this new thing called the JOC? “The Joint Operations Center is the USSPACECOM equivalent to the strategic level operations centers at other combatant commands such as USNORTHCOM and USSTRATCOM,” explains Maj. William Russell, Air Force spokesman. “The JOC directly supports the Commander USSPACECOM by integrating critical space system information and status from subordinate units and their operations centers such as the Combined Space Operations Center at Vandenberg AFB and the National Space Defense Center at Schriever AFB.”

Space Force Funding May Come Up Short This Year, Key Lawmaker Says

military.com | Posted July 25, 2019 | by Oriana Pawlyk

As Congress reviews the Trump administration's proposed Space Force, one lawmaker said funding within the fiscal 2020 defense budget may not be enough to get the new military service off the ground.
Rep. William "Mac" Thornberry, R-Texas, the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, told reporters Wednesday it will take time to balance the requirements coming from the White House, Congress and Pentagon for standing up a new service for space.

Thornberry said the White House started with a "relatively simple" implementation plan. Then, the Defense Department sent its own additions, which "not many people support" on Capitol Hill in their current form, he said.

**Eglin AFB**

**Air Force F-35s Are Getting Ground Collision Avoidance Tech 7 Years Early**

military.com | Posted July 24, 2019 | by Oriana Pawlyk


F-35 Lightning IIs belonging to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and Hill Air Force Base, Utah, have begun using a technology that can help prevent aircraft from flying into the ground, marking a new milestone for the stealth fighter, officials announced Wednesday.

Units at the bases are installing the Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System, known as Auto-GCAS, seven years ahead of schedule on the F-35A variant, the Joint Program Office and manufacturer Lockheed Martin said in a combined statement.

Auto-GCAS uses sensors that monitor how the aircraft is performing and whether the pilot is still in control. If a pilot loses consciousness, the system kicks in. The sensors that feed into it take into consideration the terrain below, the aircraft's trajectory and speed, and the human inputs, or lack thereof, to calculate how best to recover the jet and bring it down safely, or return it to a smooth trajectory....

**USMC Blount Island**

**New Commanding Officer named at Blount Island Marine Corps Facility**

First Coast News| Posted July 17, 2019 | by Lana Harris

Goodbyes are never easy in the military, and Tuesday was no different for the commanding officer at the Blount Island Command.

Colonel Andrew Bergen has served as command of the Marine Corps facility for two years but will be moving on to Camp Pendleton in California.

Dozens of people attended the change of command ceremony held today to see him off and to welcome Colonel Michael Livingston who was named as his successor. Colonel Livingston will now oversee the planning and operational expertise the Blount Island command provides to the Marine Corps and admits he has some big shoes to fill.…

NS Mayport

PHOTO RELEASE: Governor Ron DeSantis Presides Over Naval Station Mayport Change of Command Ceremony


Today, Governor Ron DeSantis presided over Naval Station Mayport’s Change of Command Ceremony. The ceremony represents the formal transition of authority and command from outgoing Commander, Captain David Yoder, to incoming Commander, Captain Jason Canfield.

“Captain Canfield brings a wealth of knowledge and experience including multiple tours abroad and has deployed in support of every numbered fleet across the globe in support of numerous operations,” said Governor DeSantis. “Captain Yoder is leaving Mayport in great hands and I’m confident Captain Canfield will serve and lead with distinction in his new role as Commander.”

Naval Station Mayport, home to the United States Navy’s 4th Fleet, is one of three major Navy installations in the Jacksonville area. The naval station is complete with both a seaport and air facility which aids in their mission of sustaining and enhancing warfighter readiness. Governor DeSantis was stationed at Naval Station Mayport during his service in the U.S. Navy.…

NAS Jacksonville
The City of Jacksonville has received two grants from the state that will go toward strengthening its relationship with area Navy bases.

The Defense Infrastructure Grant gives the city $500,000 to spend on a buffer zone for flight operations at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. The City has been working with the Navy to jointly acquire easements on property in the Military Influence Zones for both Naval Station Mayport and NAS Jax.

The $500,000 is to complete the purchase of an over 400-acre parcel of land near NAS Jax, according to the state.

Jacksonville officials are getting state help to protect operations at the city’s Navy bases by paying some neighbors to not develop their property.

A $500,000 state grant will be matched with federal funds to pay owners willing to sign easements that ensure they won’t build new homes or do things like create smoke or glare that interfere with military training.

Existing homes and low-impact uses like farming are still allowed on property with those easements, which the Navy seeks in areas the city dubs “military influence zones.”
The Brevard County Emergency Operations Center Civil Site Preparation project has received a Defense Infrastructure Grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in the amount of $366,666.

The Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast secured the grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

This is the second consecutive year that the EDC identified this opportunity as the EDC was awarded $500,000 last year, bringing the grant award total to nearly $867,000.

**DoD Budget**

**Budget deal advances despite GOP worries over costs, smaller boost for military**

House lawmakers on Thursday advanced a two-year, $2.7 trillion budget plan with $738 billion in military funding in fiscal 2020 over the objections of conservative colleagues who objected to the increased federal spending levels.

The measure — which passed 284-149 — has the support of President Donald Trump and leaders from both chambers but drew the support of only 65 Republicans in the final vote. That’s roughly one-third of the House GOP membership.

Senate lawmakers are expected to take up the matter next week. The measure is designed to prevent a partial government shutdown this fall and stabilize appropriations plans for all aspects of federal agencies until after next year’s presidential election.

**HASC Denies Pentagon Request to Reprogram $15M for New Space Development Agency**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 21, 2019 | by ADC author
The Pentagon has been denied a reprogramming request to allocate $15 million to the Space Development Agency (SDA) in fiscal 2019 by the chairman and ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, Space News reports.

Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) wrote current Pentagon Comptroller David Norquist on July 3 informing him of the decision stemming from concerns about leadership uncertainty at the new agency and the direction of its mission, according to the report.

The decision, based on a review of Pentagon reprogramming requests that included approximately $518 million over several fiscal years, has brought additional uncertainty to the agency, the report said. The denied funding has temporarily stalled agency activities, which included hosting an industry day event later this month to discuss upcoming projects with interested contractors.

**White House Proposes New Offsets Toward Reaching Fiscal 2020 Budget Agreement**

The White House has offered an assortment of spending cuts and changes to mandatory programs for Democratic negotiators to consider as part of finalizing a two-year spending agreement and a raise of the debt ceiling, Roll Call reported Friday.

The proposed offsets in exchange for raising mandatory caps in the fiscal 2020 and fiscal 2021 budgets would include $574 billion taken from the administration’s FY 2020 budget request, and another option to save $516 billion in “structural reforms” that would extend current discretionary spending limits through FY 2023, according to the report.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, serving as one of the administration’s chief negotiators in talks that extended through the weekend, said last week the White House seeks at least $150 billion in discretionary savings in a final agreement. A senior aide, according to the Roll Call report, described the number as a “floor…."

**Budget deal gives a big funding boost to defense, but Republicans wanted more**
The Defense Department will see a hefty hike in its funding next fiscal year under the budget deal announced by the White House and Democratic leaders on Monday, but it won’t be as much as congressional Republicans wanted.

The nearly $1.4 trillion spending plan — which would prevent a government shutdown this fall and do away with the final two years of budget caps known as sequestration — includes about $738 billion in military funding for fiscal 2020, a 3 percent increase from current year levels.

President Donald Trump on Twitter hailed the deal as “a real compromise in order to give another big victory to our Great Military and Vets!”

But despite the sizable increase in military spending, the plan falls roughly $12 billion short of the level that congressional Republicans had insisted was necessary to continue military rebuilding and keep up with national security threats….

**Congressional Leaders Work to Quickly Schedule Comprehensive Budget Agreement Votes**

Congressional leaders are moving quickly to gather support and lift confidence for passage of the comprehensive two-year budget agreement the White House and Capitol Hill reached Monday afternoon, Politico reported Tuesday.

The House, which is scheduled to adjourn Friday for the August congressional recess, has been working to schedule its vote before the end of the week. The Senate would likely follow with a vote next week, according CQ reporting.

Under the agreement, defense spending would be set at $738 billion for fiscal 2020, which is more than the $733 billion the Democrat-led House passed in its fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act…. 
Newly installed SecDef: The budget deal provides a ‘good’ number for defense

Military Times | Posted July 24, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta

Newly installed U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper says he is happy with the two-year budget deal’s recommendation for the Pentagon, despite it being $12 billion less than what the White House requested for fiscal 2020.

Speaking to press just hours after taking office, Esper also said he is focused on filling empty spots at the Pentagon as quickly as possible to “make sure we have that civilian control of the military” firmly in place.

The Trump administration’s request for defense in FY20 was $750 billion, a number Democrats in Congress tried to reduce to $733 billion….

Defense Industry

Merger mania: The military-industrial complex on steroids

Tom Dispatch via salon.com | Posted July 22, 2019 | by William D. Hartung
https://www.salon.com/2019/07/22/merger-mania_partner/

When, in his farewell address in 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned of the dangers of the “unwarranted influence” wielded by the “military-industrial complex,” he could never have dreamed of an arms-making corporation of the size and political clout of Lockheed Martin. In a good year, it now receives up to $50 billion in government contracts, a sum larger than the operating budget of the State Department. And now it’s about to have company.

Raytheon, already one of the top five U.S. defense contractors, is planning to merge with United Technologies. That company is a major contractor in its own right, producing, among other things, the engine for the F-35 combat aircraft, the most expensive Pentagon weapons program ever. The new firm will be second only to Lockheed Martin when it comes to consuming your tax dollars — and it may end up even more powerful politically, thanks to President Trump’s fondness for hiring arms industry executives to run the national security state….
Coming in 2021: The B-21 Raider’s first flight?

The Air Force’s No. 2 officer has a countdown on his iPhone for the first B-21 Raider flight, and it may happen sooner than you think: December 2021, to be exact.

“Don’t hold me to it, but it’s something like 863 days to first flight,” said Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Stephen Wilson, according to Air Force Magazine.

Wilson, who spoke July 24 at an AFA Mitchell Institute event, said he had recently visited B-21 prime contractor Northrop Grumman’s facilities in Melbourne, Fla., and that the company was “moving out on that pretty fast….”

Other Items of Interest

Esper confirmed as new defense secretary, ending Pentagon leadership uncertainty

The Senate on Tuesday overwhelmingly approved Mark Esper to be the country’s 27th defense secretary, ending a wait of more than 200 days for a permanent Pentagon leader.

Esper’s relatively drama-free confirmation vote — 90-8 — stood in contrast to the seven months of uncertainty in the highest levels of the military’s leadership.

After former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis was forced out of his post early on the first day of 2019, acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan helmed the department until he suddenly withdrew from consideration for the full-time job in June amid reports of domestic violence among his family members….
Army Gen. Mark Milley will be the 20th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, following an 89-1 vote in the Senate Thursday.

Milley, the former Army chief of staff, is expected to replace Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford as the nation’s top uniformed officer sometime in September. He will work again beside newly installed Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. The two worked side by side for two years, when Esper was Army secretary.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, a Democrat from Oregon, was the lone no vote….
Norquist Sails Through SASC Confirmation Hearing, Possible Senate Vote This Week

Acting Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist easily sailed through his Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing Wednesday for his White House nomination to be permanently appointed to the role, CQ reported.

Norquist, who was confirmed as DOD’s comptroller in 2017 and has been serving in an acting capacity as the Pentagon’s second-in-succession since January, received a warm reception from lawmakers with commenting they looked forward to voting for him.

During the hearing Norquist noted that he’s held three roles at DOD and each has emphasized a common theme of protecting the nation’s security while safeguarding the taxpayer’s money, DOD said in a press release….

To Support Military Families, Pentagon Must Fix Fractured, Outdated Programs: Report

The Pentagon puts significant resources and effort into caring for military families, but the department lacks a coordinated approach and has failed to keep up with the population's changing demographics, researchers said in a new study published Friday.

With the past two decades of war putting strain on the well-being of troops and families -- stress that can affect readiness -- the Defense Department wanted to review the issues facing military families.

The National Academies Committee on the Well-Being of Military Families was formed to conduct the review.
In Strengthening the Military Family Readiness System for a Changing American Society, the group found that, on the whole, military-connected children and families are doing well, but there are "subgroups that would benefit from greater support…"

(Hyperlink to report website below: draft online now, final report to be published later.)

https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25380/strengthening-the-military-family-readiness-system-for-a-changing-american-society

**Esper creates task force to deal with cancer-causing chemicals on military installations**

Military Times | Posted July 24, 2019 | by Howard Altman and Aaron Mehta


On his first full day as secretary of defense, Mark Esper has signed a memo establishing a task force to deal with cancer-causing chemicals found on military bases.

The purpose, he told reporters at the Pentagon Wednesday, is to “address all the key areas” of the military’s response to the presence of harmful chemicals used in firefighting foam.

The chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and/or perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) have been found to have caused contamination at more than 230 military installations, according to an environmental advocacy group. The Environmental Working Group says that harmful levels have been detected in groundwater or drinking water sources of the fluorinated compounds, known collectively as PFAS….
August 2

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – The next Task Force meeting will be via teleconference / Webex at 9:00 am EDT on August 15th.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   *(Note: this is our 1st teleconference-only meeting using the new call-in number and format. If you have kept a record of the number used prior to July, please update it with this one.)*

   Call-In Number: 888-585-9008 | Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Webex** –

   Meeting number (access code): 731 486 626 | Meeting password: Aug@15


   You may access the grant application at: https://www.tfaforms.com/4753345, or from the FDSTF website at: https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf/.

   If you have questions or require further assistance, please contact:
   Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, Florida Defense Support Task Force at (850) 878-4566 or msanders@enterpriseflorida.com.

5. **2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit** – It’s getting closer, just a week-and-a half away now. The Florida Chamber will hold it’s 2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit in Jacksonville on August 13th and 14th. Major topics will include protecting Florida’s bases from encroachment, the establishment of Space Command & Space Force, rebuilding Tyndall AFB and attracting more defense industry to Florida. I’ve pasted the hyperlink for the event below. General Mike Jones will headline the summit with remarks on the federal perspective and FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg will lead a panel discussion on the Gulf Range.

   https://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/
The Florida Chamber of Commerce announced Thursday that retired U.S. Army Major General Michael D. Jones will headline its Military, Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit next month.

Jones served for 34 years in the U.S. Army, including deployments to Bosnia, where he served as the Operations Officer for the 1st Armored Division and Multinational Division North, and Iraq, where he was responsible for combat operations and forming and training Iraqi security forces in Baghdad and developing the Ministry of Interior and Iraqi police and border forces.

Jones is one 20 speakers the Florida Chamber has announced for the summit, which will be held Aug. 13 and 14 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville. Other speakers include Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Director Danny Burgess, Sen. Doug Broxson, Rep. David Smith, Space Florida head Frank DiBello, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Director Ken Lawson and Enterprise Florida President and CEO Jamal Sowell.

The Pentagon plans to nearly double its spending on hypersonic-related technologies in fiscal year 2020 — if Congress approves it — and hopes to run around 40 flight tests of hypersonic vehicles over the next four years, Pentagon officials say.
It’s all part of the much higher profile of hypersonics have in the US military, with the White House receiving a hypersonics briefing earlier this month.

As Mark Lewis, an expert at the Institute for Defense Analyses, said here at the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) conference on the topic: “You can’t walk more than 10 feet in the Pentagon without hearing the word hypersonics….”

**Space Force / Space Command**

**US Space Command Set to Launch Within Weeks**

Air Force Magazine | Posted July 31, 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen

A new US Space Command will formally launch within weeks, the deputy commander of US Strategic Command told reporters July 31.

“I think it’d probably be about weeks—we should see the actual establishment of US Space Command,” Vice Adm. David Kriete said. “I think we’re on a good track in terms of our planning.”

Kriete said the timeline for launching the revived SPACECOM, which will take over responsibility for space combat operations from STRATCOM, will be at the discretion of new Defense Secretary Mark Esper. The Pentagon has not yet announced where SPACECOM headquarters will be, but its two major components will be located at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., and Schriever AFB, Colo. The Senate recently confirmed Air Force Space Command boss Gen. Jay Raymond to lead the combatant command….

**Tyndall AFB**

**Officials address lead concerns at Tyndall Elementary School**

WJHG/WECP | Posted July 31, 2019

https://www.wjhg.com/content/news/Officials-address-lead-concerns-on-grounds-at-Tyndall-Elementary-School---513457861.html
Tyndall Air Force Base and Bay District Schools held a press conference Wednesday afternoon to address lead concerns at Tyndall Elementary School and the possible exposure to un-remediated soil located on school grounds.

According to Base officials, Tyndall Elementary School was constructed on the site of a World War II aerial gunnery school training range.

Officials say that turret-mounted machine guns reconfigured to fire 12-gauge shotgun shells at clay targets were used in training at the range. Authorities at Tyndall tell us the lead shot from these machine guns and the remnants of clay pigeon targets are now considered to be potentially hazardous….

**NS Mayport**

**Naval Station Mayport welcomes Navy's newest warship**

Action News Jax | Posted July 31, 2019 | by Elizabeth Pace


The Navy’s newest warship will now call Naval Station Mayport home. USS Paul Ignatius (DD 117) pulled into Jacksonville Wednesday with more than 300 sailors.

The warship was named after Paul Ignatius, who served as secretary of the Navy during President Lyndon B. Johnson’s administration.

He spoke Saturday at the commissioning ceremony in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Ignatius is a 98-year-old Navy veteran who served during World War II….

**US Navy To Commission USS Billings Littoral Combat Ship**

Defenseworld.net | Posted August 1, 2019 | by Elizabeth Pace

[https://www.defenseworld.net/news/25224/US_Navy_To_Commission_USS_Billings_Littoral_Combat_Ship#.XUMg5B1KjiQ](https://www.defenseworld.net/news/25224/US_Navy_To_Commission_USS_Billings_Littoral_Combat_Ship#.XUMg5B1KjiQ)
The United States (US) Navy will commission its latest Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), the future “USS Billings” (LCS 15) on Saturday, August 3, in Key West, Florida.

The ship is designed to defeat asymmetric "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. It will be homeported in Mayport, Florida, the US Department of Defense announced on Wednesday.

The LCS is a set of two classes of relatively small surface vessels designed for operations near shore. The Freedom-class and the Independence-class are the first two LCS variants….

**Navy accepts delivery of USS Indianapolis littoral combat ship**

UPI | Posted July 29, 2019 | by Ed Adamczyk  

The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of its newest Freedom-class littoral combat ship, to be named the USS Indianapolis, in a ceremony in Marinette, Wis.

The delivery signifies the official transfer of the ship from Lockheed Martin and Fincantieri Marinette Marine to the Navy. The vessel is planned for commissioning on Oct. 26 in Burns Harbor, Ind. and will be homeported at Naval Station Mayport in Florida.

The ship completed its acceptance trials, the milestone prior to delivery, in June….

**Team Orlando**

**Florida Tech and Navy Agree to Education Partnership to Expand Student Opportunities**

Space Coast Daily | Posted August 1, 2019  

Florida Tech and the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division have agreed to an educational partnership to share labs and equipment, partner on research, and bolster collaborations in simulation and training, data science, artificial intelligence and other critical fields.
Florida Tech President Dwayne McCay and Capt. Tim Hill, commanding officer of the Orlando-based Naval Air Warfare Center, signed the agreement July 30 at a ceremony in the university’s Hartley Room.

Tuesday’s agreement is expected to more broadly enhance the educational experience of Florida Tech students and faculty and assists Center engineers and scientists with their mission. It will also facilitate the identification of other, mutually beneficial partnership opportunities between Florida Tech and the Center. Other areas of potential collaboration could include flight simulation, the psychology of teamwork, augmented and virtual reality, advanced manufacturing and Florida Tech’s Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID)....

**US Southern Command**

**U.S. Navy conducts tests of VTOL V-BAT revolutionary unmanned aircraft**

defence-blog.com | Posted July 27, 2019


U.S. Navy has announced that it conducts tests of newest and revolutionary unmanned aircraft, called the V-BAT, at the flight deck of the Military Sealift Command expeditionary fast transport vessel USNS Spearhead (T-EPF 1).

Spearhead sailed in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Key West, Fla., to conduct fleet experiments with multiple unmanned aerial and underwater systems, including the V-BAT vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) UAV, according to a news release put out by the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command & U.S. Fourth Fleet.

Some of the experiments conducted included testing the operating the V-BAT to provide improved detection and monitoring to support counter-narcotics missions in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific and testing position, navigation and timing (PNT) system for navigation in GPS denied/degraded environments....

**NAS Key West**
A Navy jet pilot’s landing was interrupted by a drone

Miami Herald | Posted July 31, 2019 | by Gwen Filosa

A Navy fighter jet pilot on Wednesday was forced to dodge a non-military drone that was flying in restricted airspace over the Boca Chica Bridge in the Keys, the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office said.

The pilot of an F/A-18 Super Hornet saw the drone — which was flying at about 800 feet — as he was coming in to make a landing.

“The incident required Navy officials to switch runways,” said Adam Linhardt, the spokesman for the sheriff’s office.…

DoD Budget

Divided Senate passes 2-year budget deal with military boost

Defense News | Posted August 1, 2019 | by Joe Gould

The U.S. Senate sent the president a $2.7 trillion budget plan with roughly $45 billion more in military funding over two years, despite complaints from fiscal conservatives the measure would raise the federal deficit.

The agreement — which passed 67-28 — has the support of President Donald Trump and bipartisan leaders from both chambers, but it sharply split Republicans in the final vote. Twenty-three Republicans voted “no,” and 30 voted “yes.”

Trump is expected to sign the measure within a day, which is designed to prevent a partial government shutdown this fall and stabilize appropriations plans for all aspects of federal agencies until after next year’s presidential election.…

Inhofe urges Republicans to unify and back budget deal for military’s sake

Defense News | Posted July 30, 2019 | by Joe Gould
With Senate Republicans split on whether to pass a bipartisan $2.7 trillion budget deal, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe worked to rally lawmakers Tuesday to the defense spending increase the deal represents.

Inhofe, R-Okla., delivered a floor speech amid reports Senate Republican leaders are working to whip support to avoid a repeat of last week’s House vote, where two-thirds of Republicans opposed the deal.

The deal contains $738 billion in military funding in fiscal 2020—above the $717 billion defense budget for 2019 and below the $750 billion Inhofe and House Armed Services Committee ranking member Mac Thornberry convinced the president to request. Thornberry, R-Texas, and Inhofe are backing the deal because it provides the military with stability and more than the $733 billion in the House’s-passed defense policy bill.…. 

**Defense Industry**

**Lockheed Martin celebrates missile program’s move to Space Coast that could bring 350 jobs**

Orlando Sentinel | Posted July 30, 2019 | by Marco Santana

Lockheed Martin marked the relocation of its ballistic missiles program here Tuesday, raising flags on a site that’s expected to eventually generate 350 new or relocated jobs.

But as it celebrated with the mostly symbolic gesture, economic leaders say the program’s arrival adds to a region that has already been boosted by launch firms SpaceX and United Launch Alliance.

“This headquarters expands what is already a growing trend to diversify the economy beyond a dependence on NASA programs,” Space Florida President and CEO Frank DiBello said. “That (lack of diversification) has hurt us so many times in the past.…. ”

**EDC Efforts Key in Relocation of Lockheed Martin FBM Headquarters to Florida’s Space Coast**
Today, the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast (EDC) recognized a significant milestone in Brevard County’s history as Lockheed Martin’s Fleet Ballistic Missile (FBM) Headquarters officially marked its relocation to Titusville, Florida.

This milestone comes nearly fifteen years after EDC efforts played an essential role in retaining the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) in Cape Canaveral. The FBM program supports NOTU and its submarine-launched Trident missiles. In 2005, a federal base-closure commission reversed a Department of Defense recommendation to relocate NOTU to Kings Bay, Georgia retaining nearly 1,000 jobs locally. The presence of NOTU was one of the key factors in the decision to relocate the FBM Headquarters, announced by Lockheed Martin in February 2017.

This move has already led to a commitment to invest nearly $40 million into the Titusville campus and the transition of 350 jobs from Sunnyvale, California. Lockheed Martin has developed, built and sustained six generations of submarine-launched ballistic missiles under the FBM program. The current generation of missiles, designated Trident II D5, are carried aboard the US Navy’s Ohio-class submarines and make up the sea-based leg of the nation’s nuclear triad. They are also carried aboard the United Kingdom’s Vanguard-class submarine as their nation’s sole nuclear deterrent.

### Other Items of Interest

#### Senate Confirms Norquist as Permanent Deputy Defense Secretary

Association of Defense Communities | Posted July 31, 2019 | by ADC author

Deputy Secretary of Defense David Norquist was confirmed into his new permanent post Tuesday evening with a Senate voice vote that easily approved him to become DOD’s second-ranking official.

Norquist, who was sworn in Wednesday, was the latest Senate confirmation vote came as the chamber hustled to vote on numerous high-priority administration nominees before the chamber adjourns for its August recess, according to Roll Call.
Norquist, previously DOD’s comptroller, led the Pentagon through its first complete audit in 2018 and though the department ultimately failed in the effort, he received bipartisan praise last week from the Senate Armed Services Committee for undertaking the daunting project.

**The Pentagon’s top two jobs are finally filled**

Military Times | Posted July 31, 2019 | by Meghann Myers

After a whirlwind few weeks, the Defense Department has two confirmed officials in its top civilian roles, and the Navy secretary has gone back to his official duties.

Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist took his oath on Wednesday afternoon, according to a Pentagon release, following his confirmation by the Senate on Tuesday evening.

“Secretary Norquist has been sworn in and has the full authority and responsibility of the deputy secretary of defense,” spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said in a statement. “Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer has ceased to perform the duties of the deputy secretary of defense and is serving solely as the secretary of the Navy.”

**Senate committee advances senior general’s nomination despite sexual assault accusations**

Military Times | Posted August 1, 2019 | by Leo Shane III and Joe Gould

Senate Armed Services Committee members on Wednesday advanced the nomination of an Air Force general accused of sexually harassing and assaulting an aide, but a full floor vote on his confirmation likely won’t take place for several more weeks.

Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., said his panel members comfortably backed Gen. John Hyten, 20-7, to become the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the second-highest uniformed military post.
“I have no concerns (about Hyten) at all,” he told reporters after the committee vote. “You’re talking about five classified briefings, where every member had every chance to ask every question….”

**Senate confirms Gilday as next chief of naval operations**

Military Times | Posted August 1, 2019 | by Leo Shane III

Senate lawmakers confirmed Vice Adm. Michael Gilday as the next chief of naval operations in a unanimous vote on Thursday, filling another Pentagon leadership vacancy before their extended summer legislative recess.

Gilday, the current director of the joint staff, was also promoted to a four-star admiral in the move. His confirmation hearing was completed only about 24 hours before the final vote, and less than a month after his nomination to the post.

Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee lauded his experience and demeanor during that Wednesday hearing, and had pushed Senate leaders to move quickly on his promotion this week to avoid waiting until September for final action….

**Legal Protections for Military Members in House Defense Bill**

Public News Service | Posted July 29, 2019 | by Eric Tegethoff

Congress's defense spending package could provide military service members and their families more legal protections.

The House-passed version of the National Defense Authorization Act includes provisions that ban forced arbitration clauses so service members can take consumer and employment fraud to court.

It also would overturn the Feres Doctrine – a 1950 Supreme Court decision designed to protect the Defense Department from lawsuits in medical cases, such as split-second decisions by medics on the battlefield….
Defense Against Hypersonic Attack Is Becoming The Biggest Military Challenge Of The Trump Era

Forbes | Posted July 30, 2019 | by Loren Thompson

In the eternal competition between offense and defense for military dominance, the offense is winning. Russia has been testing a hypersonic cruise missile with a speed above 6,000 miles per hour that can be used to deliver nuclear or conventional warheads against targets at sea or on land. The U.S. military at present has no defense against the weapon.

U.S. intelligence expects the missile, called Zircon, to be deployed on Russian warships in the near future. Meanwhile, Russia is testing a second hypersonic weapon, a glide vehicle boosted to speeds in excess of a mile per second by a ballistic missile, that is expected to carry a nuclear warhead over intercontinental distances. China has similar research under way, and has tested its own hypersonic system within the last year.

So a technology that the Pentagon until recently considered mainly a boon to the firepower of the joint force is now rapidly turning into the biggest military threat of the Trump era. It isn’t hard to see what makes hypersonic weapons so worrisome. Aside from their high velocity—five times the speed of sound or greater—they operate almost entirely within the atmosphere, at elevations below which existing early-warning sensors are optimized to monitor…..

DoD looking at how installations deal with unauthorized child care providers, in wake of baby’s death

Military Times | Posted July 31, 2019 | by Karen Jowers

Following the death of a 7-month-old baby girl in military housing in Hawaii, defense officials are evaluating how military installations deal with unauthorized family child care providers.

They’re also looking at whether any policy changes are needed.

The basic details about these new efforts were provided by a Defense Department official in a letter to military spouses who had expressed their concern about the child care situation…..

A leading environmental advocacy organization recommends that Congress adopt a three-part approach in dealing with toxic PFAS contaminants in its upcoming fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act conference negotiations, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) wrote Tuesday.

Earlier this summer the House and Senate versions of the annual defense policy legislation were approved, and EWG is proposing the final version retain three principles to deal with the toxic chemicals: report PFAS releases, reduce PFAS discharges and remediate legacy PFAS pollution.

The House and Senate versions of their FY 2020 NDAAAs currently contain PFAS-related provisions EWG supports:

- Report some PFAS releases through the Toxic Release Inventory.
- End military use of PFAS in firefighting foam and food packaging.
- Reduce industrial discharges of PFAS into drinking water supplies.
- Remediate sites with the worst PFAS contamination.

Florida members of Congress honor veterans by hand-washing memorial

A bipartisan group hand-washed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, U.S congressmen from Florida were involved with the effort.

The gesture was conceived as a show of respect for Vietnam veterans and a unification effort between the parties on the last day of session before the district work period, led by Florida Republican U.S. Rep. Michael Waltz.
Waltz represents Florida’s Congressional District 6, including Flagler and Volusia counties and parts of Lake and St. Johns counties....
August 9

Task Force members --

1. **Next Meeting** – The next Task Force meeting will be via teleconference / Webex next Thursday, August 15th at 9:00 am EDT. The meeting books have already been sent to Task Force members. The agenda and read ahead materials are also available on the FDSTF website at the hyperlink below:


2. **Meeting Call In Number** –  
   
   *(Note: this is our 1st teleconference-only meeting using the new call-in number and format. If you have kept a record of the number used prior to July, please update it with this one.)*

   Call-In Number: 888-585-9008 | Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. Webex –

   Meeting number (access code): 731 486 626 | Meeting password: Aug@15

4. **Governor DeSantis Appoints Three New Members to the Florida Defense Support Task Force** – Last Friday, August 2, 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed three new members to the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Major General James Eifert, USAF, the Adjutant General of Florida and the senior military advisor to the Governor, is the Governor’s new personal representative on the Task Force replacing the outgoing Adjutant General, Major General Michael Calhoun. Rear Admiral Stanley Bozin, USN (Ret.) of Jacksonville, Florida is replacing Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, USN (Ret.) on the Task Force. And finally, Captain Keith Hoskins, USN (Ret.) of Pensacola, Florida will occupy the seat previously held by Commissioner Barbara Stewart. I have attached biographies of all three of the new members to this E-mail.

5. **2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit** – The Florida Chamber’s 2019 Military, Defense & Veterans Opportunities Summit in Jacksonville is here! Next Tuesday and Wednesday, August 13th and 14th, the Chamber will hold its summit at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville. Major topics will include protecting Florida’s bases from encroachment, the establishment of Space Command & Space Force, rebuilding Tyndall AFB and attracting more defense industry to Florida. Many members of both the Florida Defense Support Task Force and the Florida Defense Alliance including FDSTF Chairman Senator Doug Broxson, Representative Mel Ponder, Colonel (Ret.) Jim Heald, FDA Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg and General (Ret.) Mike Jones will be presenting and participating in the conference. I’ve pasted the hyperlink for the event below.

   https://www.flchamber.com/event_post/military-defense-veterans-opportunity-summit/
6. Attachments:
   - Major General James Eifert biography
   - Captain Keith Hoskins, USN (Ret.) biography
   - Rear Admiral Stanley Bozin, USN (Ret.) biography

News Clips of Interest:

**Space Force / Space Command**

**France Is Launching a 'Space Force' with Weaponized Satellites**

space.com | Posted August 2, 2019 | by Hanneke Weitering

[https://www.space.com/france-military-space-force.html](https://www.space.com/france-military-space-force.html)

Months after President Donald Trump announced the creation of the U.S. Space Force, France is beginning to lay the groundwork for its own version.

French President Emmanuel Macron announced last month that the nation's air force will establish a space command for the purpose of national defense, particularly to protect French satellites.

Last week, French Minister of Defense Florence Parly detailed the nation's plan for its new space force, which involves equipping satellites with machine guns and lasers, according to the French news weekly Le Point….

**STRATCOM Move to Space Command: 2 Years, 100s Of People**

Breaking Defense | Posted August 6, 2019 | by Theresa Hitchens

Strategic Command (STRATCOM) expects to transfer about 400 headquarters personnel to the new Space Command (SPACECOM) over the next two years, beginning at the end of August with the shifting of space operations now the purview of the Joint Force Space Component Command.

“In essence, that component command under Gen. (John) Raymond has already been doing the operational mission,” Maj. Gen. Rick Evans, military assistant to STRATCOM head Gen. John Hyten, said here today. Raymond was confirmed as the new commander of SPACECOM in June. “So that really is pretty simple, and not a lot of changes there. That will just slide over and become part of United States Space Command pretty easily.”

That will happen, he said, as soon as SPACECOM is officially stood up — under current plans by the end of the month, although a STRATCOM official told me last week at the 2019 Deterrence Symposium that date may well slip into September….

**SATCOM, Offensive Space Key Challenges for SPACECOM Transition**

Breaking Defense | Posted August 7, 2019 | by Theresa Hitchens

Ensuring satellite communications work during war and figuring out how to coordinate defensive and offensive space (and cyber) operations with regional combatant commanders will be the top challenges as Strategic Command and Space Commands transition, senior military leaders here in Huntsville say.

Brig. Gen. Tom James, director of operations and exercises at the Joint Force Space Component Command, said satellite communications are so important to the warfighter that one of the first actions taken by Space Command (SPACECOM) will be the creation of a so-called SATCOM Integrated Operations Division.

He told the Space and Missile Defense Symposium yesterday afternoon that the new division “look across global satcom requirements” and study “plans for satcom support for geographical combatant commands,” in order to “look for gaps,” assess threats (such as adversary jammers) and figure out how to “fight through” a degraded space environment.

While the plan for the new SATCOM division “is just now in its infancy,” James said that because of its importance it may well reach initial operating capability (IOC) before SPACECOM itself — perhaps within the next 12 months….”

Eglin AFB
Air Force Pilots Get Certified on Helicopter Set to Replace UH-1N Huey

Pilots from the 413th Flight Test Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, recently received the certification they need to fly the MH-139 helicopter, scheduled to replace the Air Force's UH-1N Huey.

Maj. Zach Roycroft and Tony Arrington, an Air Force civilian pilot, completed the five-week course on the AW-139, Leonardo-Finmeccanica's commercial version of the helicopter, according to a news release. Roycroft and Arrington both received their "type certification," a Federal Aviation Administration qualification that requires specialized training for a specific aircraft, the service said. They earned the certification in Whippany, New Jersey, on July 29.

The first MH-139 aircraft delivery to the 413th is expected in late November. The Air Force plans to purchase 84 MH-139 helicopters, along with maintenance and support equipment, over the next decade....

Tyndall AFB

F-35 fighter jets coming to Tyndall Air Force Base

The Trump administration is confirming that a U.S. Air Force base in the Florida Panhandle that was devastated by Hurricane Michael will be rebuilt so it can house F-35 fighter jets.
Vice President Mike Pence tweeted Tuesday that squadrons of F-35 fighter jets will be based at Tyndall Air Force Base outside Panama City beginning in 2023.

The Air Force had previously conducted an evaluation showing Tyndall can accommodate three F-35 squadrons.

Vice president, acting Air Force secretary confirm Tyndall AFB’s future

Panama City News Herald | Posted August 7, 2019 | by Jim Thompson

In excited social media posts Tuesday, Vice President Mike Pence and Acting Air Force Secretary Matt Donovan confirmed Tyndall Air Force Base remains slated to become the home of three F-35 fighter jet squadrons, likely sometime in 2023.

Tyndall was all but leveled when Hurricane Michael roared ashore across the eastern end of the Florida Panhandle in October. Plans for rebuilding the base are predicated on making it the “base of the future” for the fifth-generation stealth fighter jet. Generally, those plans call for rebuilding the base with structures that can withstand 180-mph winds and making it resistant to storm surge.

F-35 operations at nearby Eglin AFB, which trains pilots and maintenance personnel for the fighter jet, won’t be affected by plans for Tyndall AFB, according to Robert Leese, press desk officer with Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs.
USS BILLINGS DOCKS AT NAVAL STATION MAYPORT

WOKV | Posted August 7, 2019 | by Adam Kirk

A new Littoral Combat Ship now calls Naval Station Mayport its home. The U.S. Navy commissioned the USS Billings (LCS 15), the eighth Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ship, during a ceremony in Key West on Saturday. It arrived at Mayport Wednesday morning.

Billings is the first ship in the U.S. Navy to be named after the largest city in Montana, and sails with the motto, “Big Sky over Troubled Waters.”

The ship is meant to operate as a countermeasure to mines in either close or deep ocean waters. A crew of around 70 sailors will sail aboard Billings.

Mayport LCS Sailors Train, Fight in Virtual Reality

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service | Posted August 5, 2019 | by Petty Officer 3rd Class Alana Langdon

Warships of today and our future, are cities of technology designed to hunt, hide, defend and fight. Their presence projects power throughout the seas. Just the thought of what a ship could do is often enough to keep peace in the forefront of warmongering minds.

The United States Navy understands that winning at war requires a Fleet of well-trained, capable Sailors. To keep in stride with increasingly complex war technology, the Navy continues to evolve its training and education to include digitally interactive, virtual reality training for LCS Sailors at its newly constructed Littoral Combat Ship Training Facility (LTF) on Naval Station Mayport, Florida, managed and operated by Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) Detachment Mayport.

“Virtual reality training at our school house is a vital tool that gives Sailors the ability to gain equal skills through constant practice,” said Fire Controlman 1st Class Michel Lavanture, Surface Warfare Mission Package instructor at LTF, from Hummelstown, Pennsylvania. “They are able to run through a high volume of scenarios in port and at sea that would not be possible due to the budgetary restraints of getting an actual ship underway….”
MacDill AFB

Speed wins: MacDill AFB contracting awards 100k in swift fashion

Source | Posted August 6, 2019 | by 1st Lt. Brandon Hanner, 6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

In order to compete in the future, innovative ideas to improve fleet readiness must reach the warfighter quickly.

In order to do just that, the 6th Contracting Squadron hosted its first-ever Pitch Day Aug. 1, at MacDill Air Force Base, where local small businesses proposed innovative ideas to help increase overall base efficiency and mission effectiveness.

“Small business tech start-ups and non-traditional defense contractors represent a critical sector of the market the Department of Defense is struggling to tap into,” said Lt. Col. Brian Sheehan, the 6th Contracting Squadron commander. “Pitch Day brought small business into help meet the MacDill (AFB) mission and they opened our eyes to problems that were unknown to us….”

MacDill Air Force Base Teaches Military Culture To School Teachers

WUSF | Posted August 8, 2019 | by Stephanie Colombini

Monday is the first day of school in Hillsborough County and teachers are preparing for the new year. For teachers at Tinker K-8 on MacDill Air Force Base, that includes learning about military culture at an orientation program the base hosted Thursday.

Many teachers at the public grade school have no background in the military, so MacDill officials started this program last year to give staff a sense of what goes on at the base and help them understand their students’ lifestyles.
Teachers learned about resources available to help students who are struggling while their parents are deployed or because they recently relocated. Those resources include the Military and Family Readiness Center and the Military and Family Life Counseling Program.

**US Special Operations Command**

**Preserving the Force and Family**

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service | Posted Month DD, 2019 | by Staff Sgt. Steven Colvin


Sometimes it isn’t always easy dealing with the stresses that come our way. There are times when we are strong enough to handle them, and then there are times when we need to reach out to someone or something to guide us through. The question is, “To whom or to where do we turn?”

U.S. Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT) personnel gathered at the Hillsborough Community College Regent Hall in Riverview, Fla., for a SOCCENT Newcomers and Family Orientation, Aug. 2, 2019. The semi-annual event is designed to help connect new service members, Department of Defense (DOD) civilians, DOD contractors and their families to resources that can help improve the health, welfare, and resilience of the force and family.

The Preservation of the Force and Family (POTFF) organization established this event to provide families within the special operations unit with services addressing the four main pillars of life - physical, spiritual, psychological and social needs.

**US Southern Command**

**U.S. and Colombian military are working on plans to aid Venezuela after Maduro**

McClatchy Washington Bureau | Posted August 7, 2019 | by Tara Copp


The U.S. is working with Colombia, Brazil and other regional partners on how to assist Venezuela if the embargo-like sanctions announced by the White House this week ultimately force President Nicolás Maduro to step down, the head of the U.S. Southern Command said.
Navy Adm. Craig Faller, the Miami-based head of U.S. forces in South America, said the nations are working on “planning and discussing what we could do, and will do for the ‘day after Maduro,’ when there’s a legitimate government, when we can go in and really assist the people of Venezuela.”

Faller said that, to him, the “‘day after Maduro’ meant a point in time where a legitimate government, not a Maduro government, has asked the United States and others to come in to Venezuela to help….”

**Homestead ARB**

**How U.S. spec ops troops did in shooting, tactical competition with Latin American countries**

Military Times | Posted August 8, 2019 | by Todd South


For the past 15 years, small groups of special operations troops from the United States and Latin America have met each year for a tactical competition while their senior leaders traded lessons learned and developed better ways to provide security, counter narcotics trafficking and handle disaster response across U.S. Special Operations Command-South.

Military Times spoke recently with the U.S. director of the Fuerzas Comando competition about what the event provides in tactical, operational and strategic interests.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kevin Key is the exercise director. This was his first year overseeing the event, which wrapped up in late June, but he has spent a decade on Army special operations assignments, predominantly serving with 7th Special Forces Group, which has a geographic focus on South and Central America….

**DoD Budget**

**Trump Signs Bipartisan Budget to Increase Defense Spending into Law**

AP via The Military Times | Posted August 3, 2019 | by The Associated Press
President Donald Trump on Friday signed a bipartisan debt increase and new set of spending limits that would help lock in spending increases for the Pentagon and elsewhere in the budget.

The hard-won agreement permits the government to resume borrowing to pay its bills and sets an overall $1.37 trillion limit on agency budgets approved by Congress annually. It also ends automatic spending cuts and eliminates the prospect of an October government shutdown.

The Senate voted 67-28 on Thursday to send the legislation to Trump. The House had already passed the bill.

**Defense Industry**

**CYIENT Defense Services Expanding in South Florida**

Florida Daily | Posted August 8, 2019

This week, CYIENT Defense Services, an engineering and technology company, announced it will expand its efforts in South Florida.

After working with the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County (BDB), CYIENT plans to create 50 new jobs with an average salary of $85,000, expanding from its current 150 employees in the region. The company has also invested more than $3.5 million into a new facility.

“CYIENT Defense Services provides engineering and technology solutions to global industry leaders,” the company noted. “In Palm Beach County, the primary focus will be in aerospace, with plans to expand into more industries in the future.”

**Hypersonics by the dozens: US industry faces manufacturing challenge**

Defense News | Posted August 8, 2019 | Jen Judson
The U.S. military is a few years from launching offensive hypersonic weapons that are currently under development. But building those initial missiles is one thing — manufacturing the weapons in multitude is another issue entirely.

“I would say we really need to understand, again, how can we produce precision hardware at scale,” Michael Griffin, the Pentagon’s undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, told a group of reporters Aug. 7 at the Space and Missile Defense Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama.

Building hypersonics is no longer a technical issue or a matter of understanding physics, but rather an issue of understanding the industrial engineering required to produce a larger number. “I’m not sure how much help the government can be there,” he said. “Mass production is not what we do. … That is going to be an industry problem….”

Other Items of Interest

Florida program puts commandos back in uniform and out on the streets as law enforcement officers

Military Times | Posted August 3, 2019 | by Kristine Froeba


A new special operations forces career-transition program in Florida is putting service members back in uniform by turning former commandos into law enforcement officers.

Run by the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office, the program is part of the Law Enforcement Academy at Pasco-Hernando State College. While PCSO officials say they would consider hiring program graduates, those completing the course become eligible to serve in law enforcement departments of any Florida county, said Pasco County Sheriff’s Office Cpl. Jennie Jones, an academy instructor.

The program is in its infancy and seeking recruits, said George McDonald, a retired Army Green Beret colonel and the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office Bureau Chief of Joint Operations….

Extreme Weather Threatens Military Facilities
Extreme weather events and rising sea levels are causing damage to U.S. military facilities and could threaten U.S. military infrastructure around the world.

“Is the military ready for climate change?,” asked Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA). “It is not.”

“In the last 12 months, severe storms have devastated Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, Tyndall Air Force Base, and Offutt Air Force Base,” he said during the House debate on the FY2020 defense authorization bill on July 10.

**ACC Commissions Study on Long-Term Weather Threats**

Air Force Magazine | Posted August 7, 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen
http://www.airforcemag.com/Features/Pages/2019/August%202019/ACC-Commissions-Study-on-Long-Term-Weather-Threats.aspx

Air Combat Command boss Gen. Mike Holmes recently called on the Air Force’s weather forecasters for a long-term look at how its assets could fare against climate change threats.

Airmen with the 14th Weather Squadron produced a weather and climate threat assessment that covered a 50-mile radius around ACC’s main operating bases as well as two others where ACC maintains a significant presence, said Ryan Hansen, a spokesman for the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB, Neb.

“Subject matter experts from the 14th WS mined authoritative datasets to determine the prevalence of impactful weather conditions,” Hansen said. “Assessed phenomena included extreme temperatures, droughts, high winds, floods, wildfires, severe weather, and instrument flight rule conditions.”

**Fast 5: Embry-Riddle Launches Military Bridge Training Program**

MRO Network | Posted August 9, 2019 | by Lee Ann Shay

On Aug. 5, Embry-Riddle started teaching 13 Marine Corps employees who will be transitioning out of the military A&P courses. Kenneth Witcher, dean of the university’s College of Aeronautics, discusses this new program, which will be followed up with a second one starting in December.
How is Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University working with the U.S. Defense Department to transition service people to civilian aviation maintenance careers?

It’s a Defense Department program that has looked for ways to give service members the skills they need to be successful as they transition from the service and into the civilian workforce. There are several Career Skill Bridge programs out there. Embry-Riddle is one of the first that stepped in from a university perspective with full education credits and training that provides that skill bridge.…

**Military Suicides Rise in 2018, Highest Recorded Level Since Data Has Been Collected**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted August 5, 2019 | by ADC author


A new DOD report issued last week details that military suicides reached their highest recorded level in 2018, adding attention to an ongoing issue that has seen a recent spike in numbers since the Pentagon began recording the data in 2001, The Washington Examiner reported.

The report, issued by the Pentagon’s Defense Suicide Prevention office, details that 325 military members committed suicide in 2018, slightly surpassing 321 suicides in 2012 following the Iraq War drawdown.

In 2018, three of the services saw a rise in numbers including 139 active-duty soldiers, 68 sailors, and 58 Marines perishing by suicide last year, while the Air Force saw a slight decline of 60 airman lost to suicide. In 2017 the Air Force had 63 recorded suicides. However, the total represents a sharp rise to 40 more service members lost in 2018 than the previous year, Military.com reported.…

**The first underwater veterans memorial is open for divers**

Military Times | Posted August 5, 2019 | by Brian Mackley

It wasn’t the typical ribbon cutting ceremony.

Instead of standing in front of some building, Heyward Matthews, a professor of oceanography at St. Petersburg College, wielded the oversized scissors in the water and cut a ribbon strung between two boats.

That’s because Matthews was dedicating the opening of the nation’s first underwater dive memorial honoring veterans, located 40 feet below the surface 10 miles off the coast of Dunedin Beach, Florida….
FDSTF Update – August 16, 2019

Task Force members --

1. **August Task Force Meeting** – Yesterday the Task Force held our August meeting via a conference call. All Task Force members, including the three members newly appointed by Governor DeSantis were on the call. Major items of interest that were discussed included the announcement that JIATF-South will remain in Key West and a review of the major items from the Florida Chamber’s Military, Defense and Veterans Summit in Jacksonville this week.

2. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be September 19, 2019 in Orange Park, FL and include a focus on Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

3. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   888-585-9008   Conference Room: 262-492-927

4. **Strategic Plan Review** – This week we distributed our 1st draft of the 2019 revision of the Strategic Plan to the Task Force members. Please review both the overall Florida plan and the sections that pertain to the specific bases in your areas and return your comments to me no later than August 30th. The process will work more smoothly if you coordinate with your local Defense Alliance organizations during your edit as they may have seen or heard things that need to be included and which haven’t been brought to your attention. Once I have everyone’s input I’ll consolidate all the comments and send out a 2nd draft which the Task Force will review at our September meeting.

5. **2019 Military Friendly Guide** – The 2019 Florida Military Friendly Guide is on the street (at least, on the virtual street)! That’s right, this week we posted our newly updated Military Friendly Guide highlighting all the new legislative measures passed this year and the Governor’s GI LAW program on our Task Force website. The hard copies are at the printing shop now and should be distributed within the next two weeks. In the meantime, you can download the updated digital version at this link:


6. **Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Summit** – This week the Florida Chamber held their 2019 Military, Defense and Veterans Summit in Jacksonville. There was a heavy emphasis on protecting the Gulf Range, continuing to work to have Space Command/Space Force located in Florida, the ongoing rebuild of Tyndall AFB and improving life for military families. Many of the FDSTF and FDA leaders were present and were featured as various keynote speakers, panelists and moderators. I’ve pasted a wide sample of the news articles covering the summit in my news clips of interest below.
7. **New Military Spouse Employment Assistance Programs** – In recent months both the Department of Defense and the VA have launched programs to help military spouses find employment and this week both agencies distributed new information to publicize these new efforts. There is also an employment scam that is increasingly targeting military spouses and American Defense Communities drew attention to its danger this week. I’ve put summaries of all of those articles in the news clips, as well.

**News Clips of Interest:**

**FDSTF**

**Jamal Sowell sees veterans, military industry as key to Florida’s economic future**

FLAPOL | Posted August 13, 2019 | by A.G. Gancarski


On Tuesday morning in Jacksonville, the Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans summit continued with a panel discussion. The subject: The “military, defense, and homeland security marketplace.”

Enterprise Florida CEO Jamal Sowell was the biggest name on the panel, along with a series of industry leaders, all with a shared goal: to take advantage of Florida’s competitive advantage as it relates to the defense industry.

“We have a natural history … a brand that people cannot buy,” Sowell said. “Because of that brand, geography … other states cannot replicate what we have. Because we have that, we sell that.” Sowell discusses the other unique value adds, including low taxes: “Florida is so unique, more unique than anywhere else.…”
**BRAC**

**Plans for a new base closing round may be running out of time:**

*Report*

Military Times | Posted August 15, 2019 | by Leo Shane III

The next few months could decide whether the Defense Department gets another base closing round in the next decade, according to a new analysis from a conservative think tank warning military officials not to dismiss the potential looming impact on budgets and readiness.

In a report released this week, author Frederico Bartels — policy analyst for defense budgeting at the Heritage Foundation — said a Pentagon report on the issue being compiled now represents “the best chance for the Department of Defense to make the case for a new round of BRAC” in years, and perhaps the last realistic chance to advance the idea for the near future.

In the fiscal 2019 national defense authorization act, lawmakers did include language for a new military infrastructure capacity report — due next February — where defense officials can make the case for the need for additional closures. Similar Pentagon reports in the last few years have shown excess capacity of between 19 and 22 percent.

Bartels said Pentagon leaders have repeatedly supported the idea of another round in recent years but have done a poor job selling lawmakers on the idea.

The full analysis is available on the Heritage Foundation’s website.…


**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Florida Chamber President: Offshore Drilling a Threat to State’s Defense Industry**

Florida Daily | Posted August 13, 2019 | by FLORIDA DAILY author
A prominent leader of the business community in Florida warned this week that expanded energy exploration off the coast of the Sunshine State could impact military bases across the state.

The Florida Chamber Foundation met in Jacksonville this week for the 2019 Military Defense and Veterans Opportunities Summit and Mark Wilson, the president and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, insisted the defense industry is a cornerstone of the state’s economy.

Wilson and retired Army Major Gen. Michael Jones noted that the moratorium on energy exploration off Florida’s coast ends in 2022—and that could hurt defense efforts in Florida.…

Collins Aerospace to Modernize Pentagon Test Range Systems

Aviation Today | Posted August 9, 2019 | by Frank Wolfe

Collins Aerospace Systems, a division of United Technologies Corp., is set to modernize test range systems for the U.S. Air Force, Navy and Army under a $7.6 million Air Force contract vehicle awarded on Aug. 8.

Under the task orders, Collins plans to upgrade computer operating systems and operator consoles of the Common Range Integrated Instrumentation System on military service test ranges. The effort is to resolve computer operating system obsolescence, improve system security and incorporate "lessons learned to enhance system operator workflow," according to Collins.

The contract is the continuation of earlier work by Rockwell Collins, to upgrade seven Air Force test ranges with the common range system—Eglin AFB, Fla.; Edwards AFB, Calif.; Patuxent River NAS, Md.; White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; Nellis AFB, Nev.; China Lake NAS, Calif.; and Point Mugu NAS, Calif. The common range system is designed to improve operational realism at the test ranges through the replacement of legacy Pentagon test range systems, including the Advanced Range Data System and Air-to-Air Range Infrastructure systems.…

Space Force / Space Command

‘Keep the pressure on the White House’: Florida still wants Space Force
On Tuesday afternoon at the Florida Chamber Military, Defense and Veterans Summit, the head of Space Florida discussed aerospace. That subject included the Space Force.

While there is a persistent narrative that Florida is no longer in the running, Frank DiBello thinks Florida must continue to be at the center of American space activity.

And the state must continue to fight for Space Force, odds notwithstanding. DiBello noted that, regarding Space Force, the Governor mandated recruitment of the headquarters. “It remains a high priority,” DiBello said….

Tyndall AFB

Tyndall Officials Move Ahead With Design Plans After Promise Of New Jets

After Hurricane Michael ripped through the panhandle last year it left much of the area battered and beaten. One of the most impacted counties is Bay, where Tyndall Air Force Base is located. The base suffered nearly $5 billion in damage. But officials at the base used the disaster as a chance to rebuild for the future. Their hope was that the Air Force would bring in F35 fighter jets and that plan has now paid off.

Officials at Tyndall Air Force Base started working toward recovery right away. Most of the early stages involved demolishing or repairing damaged buildings. Executive Director of the base’s reconstruction program, Brigadier General Patrice Melancon, says there’s still more to be done.

"So we do have some demolition that is still is ongoing, and still needs to be done," says Melancon. "We’ve moved forward we’re partnering with the Core of Engineers for the military construction work and have actually got design firms on board to start doing design work on those military construction projects…."
Officials at Tyndall AFB, Fla., on Aug. 5 sent Congress a list of projects the Air Force will tackle to rebuild the Panhandle base destroyed by Hurricane Michael last fall, the 325th Fighter Wing’s commander said Aug. 14.

Rebuilding about half of the buildings that were damaged is estimated to cost about $3 billion over five to seven years, the wing’s commander Col. Brian Laidlaw said at a Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship hearing in the Florida Panhandle. Air Force Magazine reported in April that new military construction would cost about $2.5 billion, about half the cost of the total restoration.

Tyndall plans to spend about $650 million more on recovery and repair contracts by the end of September, Laidlaw said. He expects the base will execute more than $1 billion in contracts for supplies, repairs, utilities, and other base services in all of fiscal 2019, not including military construction projects.…

**A Year After Hurricane Michael, Housing Still A Struggle For Tyndall Families**

WUSF News | Posted August 14, 2019 | by Stephanie Colombini

Tyndall Air Force in the Panhandle is making progress in a massive effort to rebuild after it was devastated by Hurricane Michael last fall. But the need for housing and sufficient funds to complete the repairs are still critical issues.

Civil engineer Lt. Col. Michael Askegren said five out of the six missions that normally operate at Tyndall are back up-and-running. Those include Air Force wings, weapons testing and engineering departments.

While fixing the base is a priority to Tyndall officials, so is taking care of the airmen working there, said Askegren. He said housing is one of the biggest problems service members and their families are dealing with. Most airmen are living in either permanent dorms that survived the storm or some of the new temporary dorms built earlier this year to house service members working on the base. In the first few months after the storm, people were living in tents, but Askegren assured no one is currently living in “Tent City.”
Testing will determine if firefighting foam meets military specifications

Panama City News Herald | Posted August 10, 2019 | by Collin Breaux

A private nonprofit research and development organization will ensure firefighting foam used by the military is up to current standards.

Battelle will conduct laboratory and field tests at the Air Force Civil Engineering Center on Tyndall Air Force Base.

Firefighting foam used by the military contained PFAS, chemicals that have “since been linked to health issues like cancer,” a news release stated. PFAS use has since been phased out. Available foams could be modified to meet military standards, according to the release.

Rep. Neal Dunn petitions for F-22 training to remain at Tyndall AFB

MyPanhandle.com | Posted August 15, 2019 | by Risdon Bonnell

Representative Neal Dunn is petitioning for Tyndall Air Force Base to remain the training facility for F-22 fighters going forward.

In a letter addressed to Acting Secretary of the Air Force Matthew Donovan, Congressman Dunn expressed his concern for the F-22 training unit currently stationed at Eglin Air Force Base. Currently, some members of the unit are commuting four hours round trip as the “Schoolhouse” with simulators and faculty remain at Tyndall, while the aircraft are flying out of Eglin. According to Rep. Dunn, Tyndall is capable of servicing the mission and training full time at Tyndall would alleviate a burden on service members.

You can read the full letter below.


NS Mayport
Navy plans to test water from wells in Mayport area for contaminants

The U.S. Navy is concerned about possible contaminants that may have seeped into the ground and ended up in private drinking water wells around Naval Station Mayport.

As a proactive measure, the Navy plans to sample water from private drinking wells outside the base near Mayport Road and Wonderwood Drive. It intends to test for the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), an ingredient used in the manufacture of Aqueous Film Forming Foam, which is a firefighting foam used at the base. Studies have shown the chemical could cause cancer or other illnesses.

The Navy wants to test the private wells in the highlighted area of Mayport seen in the photo for two PFAS -- perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)....

NAS Key West

Key West keeps government task force, Mario Diaz-Balart responds

Key West will remain a strategic location for the federal government. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart issued a statement after the announcement.

At the beginning of the year, it didn’t look like the Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S) was going to remain in Key West. Among top concerns was the operation had outgrown the facility at Naval Air Station Key West. It was too small to contend with future needs. However, where it would be moving was unknown.

At the time, U.S. Rep. Michael Waltz led a delegation to keep the task force in the state of Florida. Today, Admiral Craig Faller from U.S. SOUTHCOM announced it’s not moving out of Key West, after all....
DoD Budget

More than 50 U.S. Mayors Have Signed Letter Urging Fiscal 2020 DCIP Funding

Association of Defense Communities | Posted August 12, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/more-than-50-u-s-mayors-have-signed-letter-urging-fiscal-2020-dcip-funding/

More than 50 U.S. city mayors have signed a joint letter to top Senate Appropriations Committee lawmakers in support of funding the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) in upcoming fiscal 2020 defense appropriations.

The draft, currently in circulation for additional signatures, will be delivered to Appropriations Committee Chairman Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ark.) and Defense Subcommittee Ranking Member Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), urging the key lawmakers to commit the critical DCIP funding as authorized in the fiscal 2019 NDAA.

If funded, community infrastructure projects for transportation, schools, hospitals, police, fire, emergency response, water, wastewater, telecommunications, electric, gas, or other utility infrastructure would be eligible for consideration.

Defense Industry

Competition to Build 5G Networks, Hypersonics Focus for Pentagon Research Chief

USNI News | Posted August 14, 2019 | by John Grady

The Department of Defense has made significant progress in the past 15 months in offensive and defensive hypersonic capabilities to counter developments from China and Russia, its chief engineer said Tuesday. Now, the Pentagon is aiming to make the same kind of progress in developing 5G networks and microelectronics.

“I want to be the offense” when it comes to hypersonics, a technology in which the United State pioneered the underlying
research 15 years before, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Michael Griffin said at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C. “we chose not to weaponize it.”

While the U.S. chose initially not to weaponize hypersonics, Beijing and Moscow did “and have developed these systems [that] are quite capable….”

**Cyber**

**Pentagon could offer up its bases as 5G test beds**

C4ISRNet | Posted August 14, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta

The Pentagon might offer its infrastructure as test areas for American 5G technology development, in an attempt to help jump-start domestic capabilities in fifth-generation network technology currently dominated by China.

Speaking at the Hudson Institute on Tuesday, Department of Defense tech chief Mike Griffin reiterated that hypersonics had been replaced by 5G as his No. 1 priority. But he also acknowledged that the Pentagon will never be the driving force in 5G technology, saying: “We are aware that commercial initiatives in telecommunications far outstrip anything that we can do and would want to do at DoD.”

“If we can make available our infrastructure for experimenting and prototyping in environments, [where] different competitors can work in different areas and be assured their proprietary information is protected, if we can provide venues where local, regional, state permitting is not required for operating because they are operating on a DoD base — all of those things can really speed progress in 5G development,” Griffin said. “The development will not be led by DoD. We will be looking to be good customers. If we can help enable that at all, I would want to do that….”

**Other Items of Interest**

**Office of Economic Development Announces Federal Funding Opportunity**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted August 11, 2019 | by ADC author
The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) is accepting proposals for grant assistance to develop compatible use strategies and/or plans to promote civilian development compatible with continued operational utility of a DOD installation, range, special use air space, military operations area, and/or military training routes from: states, counties, and municipalities; other political subdivisions of a state; special purpose units of a state or local government; other instrumentalities of a state or local government; and tribal nations. In addressing encroachment, grantees may at the same time develop initiatives to enhance the security and resiliency of a military installation.

Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to: ‘‘Compatible Use Plans’’ to comprehensively understand concerns and opportunities, and to develop a responsive strategy and action plan; preparation of land use ordinances; analysis and dissemination of information; timely consultation and cooperation among DOD, state and local governments, and other stakeholders; coordinated interagency and intergovernmental assistance; technical and financial studies; clearinghouses or websites to exchange information among federal, state, and local efforts; resolution of regulatory issues impeding the support of compatibility measures; drafting of state legislation; feasibility studies; integration of the Department’s Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse procedures with local/state reviews; development of follow-on open space/easement opportunities for the Department’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program; and other innovative approaches.

Please see the Federal Funding Opportunity (hyperlink below) for full information on how to apply.


**Florida Chamber highlights military’s importance in state**

Clay Today | Posted August 14, 2019 | by A.G Gancarski

The Florida Chamber kicked off its two-day “Military, Defense and Veterans” summit on Tuesday.

Chamber President Mark Wilson addressed the “State of Play: Preparing for Disruption and Tomorrow’s Opportunities and Ensuring Competitiveness, Prosperity and Resiliency.”

His speech addressed where Florida’s defense industry is, and where it’s going. The merger of the military and the marketplace…. 
DOD Conducts First PFAS Task Force Meeting; Pledges Measures to Protect Public Health

Association of Defense Communities | Posted August 12, 2019 | by ADC author

The Defense Department kicked off its first PFAS Task Force meeting last week to address the contaminants that have been detected in groundwater for many military installations and their surrounding communities, DOD reported.

The task force, ordered in late July by recently confirmed Defense Secretary Mark Esper, will address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals that DOD has acknowledged as detectable on 401 active and former base realignment and closure (BRAC) installations.

“Our most important resource is our people. We have a responsibility to take care of our people, their families and the communities where we serve,” said Assistant Defense Secretary for Sustainment Robert McMahon, according to the report.…

New VA Hiring Network Seeks Military Spouses for Employment Opportunities, Federal Career Development

Association of Defense Communities | Posted August 14, 2019 | by ADC author

The Veterans Administration (VA) has launched a new Military Spouse Network to create a pipeline of military spouse employees with the goal of hiring military spouses, but also retaining them through change of station moves and developing them throughout their career, according to Military.com.

The network, announced in a VA press release, is a joint effort between the VA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Heroes initiative to lead and support military spouse employment throughout the federal government and to reduce military spouse unemployment.

The initiative, effective late last month, is part of VA Secretary Robert Wilkie’s priority to improve VA’s customer and employee experience as well as DOD’s priority of retaining service members and supporting military families, according to the release.…

Military Spouse MyCAA Grant - New Career Program Scholarship
The Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) Scholarship is a workforce development program that provides up to $4,000 of tuition assistance to eligible military spouses.

Spouses of service members on active duty in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2 and O-1 to O-2 who have successfully completed high school and have the ability to request tuition assistance while their military sponsor is on Title 10 military orders are eligible. Spouses married to members of the National Guard and reserves in these same pay grades are eligible.

The My Career Advancement Account Scholarship pays tuition costs for education and training courses and examinations leading to an associate degree (excluding associate degrees in general studies, liberal arts and interdisciplinary studies that do not have a concentration). The scholarship also covers the costs for obtaining a license, certificate or certification at an accredited college, university or technical school in the United States or approved testing organization that expands employment or portable career opportunities for military spouses.

Military Spouses Increasingly Targeted in Online Quick-Money Scams

Association of Defense Communities | Posted August 15, 2019 | by ADC author

Military spouses and veterans seeking extra income are being warned to beware of overly high-paying job online job offers and other suspect income-generating schemes, Stars and Stripes reported.

Online scammers are increasingly imitating recognizable national brands like Walmart, Target and Best Buy to offer jobs with high pay or remote work with flexible hours, according to the report.

In particular, many scammers are frequently targeting military spouses aiming to defraud new victims under “mystery shopper” schemes, a scam the Federal Trade Commission recently highlighted.

New Pentagon program empowers military spouses for family’s transition to civilian life
The Pentagon is rolling out a new program that provides military spouses resources to prepare them and their family for the time when their husband or wife transitions out of the military.

The Military Spouse Transition Program, or MySTeP, is an initiative that launched in early August through the Pentagon’s Military Community and Family Policy office and provides military spouses information to help prepare them for the inevitability of their family leaving the military.

As part of the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities program on Military OneSource, MySTeP is comprised of three steps that focus on the different phases of being a military spouse: “Stepping In” is for new spouses, “Stepping Through” for ones who are familiar with military life, and “Stepping Beyond” for spouses about to transition back to civilian life with their husband or wife.

**Air Force Researchers Call for National Electromagnetic Attack Preparation**

Everyday Americans aren’t worried enough about the threat of a massive electromagnetic attack, according to a new, 130-page Air University report on electromagnetic spectrum vulnerabilities.

During the Cold War, the public was aware of the threat of nuclear attack and took it seriously, participants in the Electromagnetic Task Force’s 2019 study said. They concluded the US should mount a similar national campaign encouraging individuals, the military, and industry to adopt electromagnetic protection and resilience plans, just as citizens built bomb shelters during the Cold War.

An electromagnetic pulse attack is essentially a surge of energy, caused by a nuclear detonation or a solar storm, that could overload electronics and cause them to fail. While national leaders and industry are more aware of the potential impacts, the Air University study said, an effort akin to the “Smokey Bear” wildfire-prevention initiative could better alert the public.
National Airborne Day is coming this week. Here’s how these paratroopers plan to celebrate

Army Times | Posted August 15, 2019 | by Brian Mackley

On Aug. 16, 1940, soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division conducted the first official U.S. military parachute jump at Fort Benning, Georgia, according to Army history.

Airborne soldiers will be celebrating the 79th anniversary of that jump on National Airborne Day, which is Friday. Celebrations are planned for Friday at Fort Benning, and then on Saturday at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Former President George W. Bush proclaimed Aug. 16 to be National Airborne Day in 2001, and the U.S. Senate backed that up in Senate Resolution 235 in 2009.…
FDSTF Update – August 23

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be September 19, 2019 in Orange Park, FL and will include an orientation of Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   888-585-9008    Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Strategic Plan Update** – All Task Force members should have received the draft of the 2019 updates to the Strategic Plan as part of the August Task Force meeting book. If for some reason you didn’t receive that or need another copy please let me know. I need to have all your inputs back by next Friday, August 30th so I can consolidate them and distribute an updated draft to everyone for review at our September meeting.

4. **Final Week to Submit Applications for Task Force 2020-2021 Grant Program** – The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) is continuing to accept grant funding applications for fiscal year 2020 – 2021. The application period closes next Friday, August 30, 2019. You may access the grant application at: [https://www.tfaforms.com/4753345](https://www.tfaforms.com/4753345) or from the FDSTF website at: [https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf/](https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf/). If you have questions or require further assistance, please contact: Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, Florida Defense Support Task Force at (850) 878-4566 or msanders@enterpriseflorida.com.

5. **Governor DeSantis Announces Florida Defense Support Task Force Grants** – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that $725,000 has been awarded through the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) Grant Program to six projects to protect military installations across the state. Details and the hyperlink to the Governor’s full press release are below in the News Clips.


7. **OEA rebrands Joint Land Use Study to Compatible Use Plan (CUP)** – Over the past several decades Joint Land Use Studies have assisted in preserving and protecting the lethality and readiness of our nation's military. During that time OEA has identified that the compatibility challenges that our military and communities face go beyond the use of land. Joint Land Use Studies can also address encroachment challenges such as spectrum interference, unmanned aerial systems, and cyber vulnerabilities. In recognition of the broader challenges faced by our military and communities the Joint Land Use Study is being
rebranded. Compatible Use Plans will continue to be the primary tool to promote compatible use in order to sustain the military missions.

8. Attachments:
   - Attachment 1: Updated Tasker List from June Governor’s Base Commanders Meeting

News Clips of Interest:

FDSTF

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Florida Defense Support Task Force Grant Awards

Governor Ron DeSantis | Posted August 23, 2019 | by Public Affairs Office of the Governor of Florida


Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that $725,000 has been awarded through the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) Grant Program to six projects to protect military installations across the state.

This year, awards were given to the Clay County Development Authority, Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast in Brevard County and the Military Child Education Coalition in Duval, Hillsborough, and Okaloosa Counties. Florida’s military and defense industry contributes more than $84.9 billion in economic impact and supports more than 801,747 jobs, which is the second largest economic sector in the state.

“The awarding of $725,000 in Florida Defense Support Task Force grants demonstrates Florida’s commitment to protect, preserve and enhance Florida’s military installations,” said Governor DeSantis. “As the most military-friendly state, Florida is dedicated to the thousands of military and civilian families who live and work in our defense communities.”

“Under Governor DeSantis’ leadership, Enterprise Florida and the Florida Defense Support Task Force remain committed to strengthening and protecting our military installations and
helping those communities that support our military men and women in uniform,” said Jamal Sowell, Florida Secretary of Commerce and Enterprise Florida President & CEO. “This investment will provide Florida’s military bases with the resources to be resilient and continue Florida’s reputation as the most military-friendly state in the nation…”

**Space Force / Space Command**

**Space Command to launch Aug. 29**

Defense News | Posted August 20, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta

The Pentagon will stand up a new combatant command before the end of the month, with the official launch of U.S. Space Command set for Aug. 29.

Speaking at a meeting of the National Space Council on Tuesday, Gen. Joe Dunford, the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, announced the date for the standup of the new organization, the first combatant command to be fully stood up since Africa Command was created in 2009.

Upon its standup, SPACECOM head Gen. Jay Raymond will inherit 87 units, covering “missile warning, satellite operations, space control and space support,” Dunford said. Raymond has previously said he expects to start with about 642 personnel pulled from U.S. Strategic Command….

**Congressman: Space Command’s initial home will be Colorado**

AP via the Air Force Times | Posted August 21, 2019 | by The Associated Press

A Colorado congressman says the initial headquarters for the Pentagon’s new Space Command will be in his home state.

Republican Rep. Doug Lamborn said Wednesday the command will officially start operations at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs next month. Lamborn says he hopes the Pentagon will choose Peterson for the command’s permanent headquarters.
President Donald Trump formally launched Space Command in December. It's designed to improve the organization of the military’s vast space operations amid growing concerns that China and Russia are working on ways to disrupt or destroy U.S. satellites.

**Who will control intel satellites during a battle in space?**

C4ISR Net | Posted August 21, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta

For years, experts have warned that the jurisdictional firewalls between the intelligence community and the Pentagon over space assets were holding the United States back from harnessing its full capabilities on orbit. Now, a new detente has been reached between the two sides, but whether this marks a new status quo or just another layer of bureaucracy remains to be seen.

“The intelligence community and Department of Defense have agreed to align U.S. Space Command and the [National Reconnaissance Office] into a new unified defense concept of operations at the National Space Defense Center,” Joseph Maguire, acting director of national intelligence, said at a meeting of the National Space Council on Aug. 20. “As part of U.S. Space Command, the National Space Defense Center is a joint DoD-intelligence community organization and will become the center of gravity for defending our vital interests in space."

Notably, Maguire said that should a conflict extend into space, the National Reconnaissance Office will “take direction from the commander of U.S. Space Command and execute defensive operations based on a jointly developed playbook and informed by a series of exercises and wargames.”

**NS Mayport**

**Enrollment drop affecting resource teachers at Jacksonville elementary school**

Action News Jax | Posted August 19, 2019 | by Ryan Nelson

Duval County Public Schools said declining enrollment means less state funding, which is resulting in resource teachers spending less time with their students at Joseph Finegan Elementary School in Mayport.
The school posted to its Facebook page Monday, announcing that physical education, art and music teachers would teach their classes every other week.

Parents say Finegan Elementary is largely made up of military families who may find themselves moving often.

**Navy open houses to discuss water well investigations near Jacksonville bases**

The Florida Times-Union | Posted August 19, 2019 | by Dan Scanlan


The U.S. Navy is having two open houses this month to discuss drinking water investigations near Naval Station Mayport and its Whitehouse Field on Jacksonville’s Westside and concerns about possible contamination from firefighting foam chemicals.

The open houses follow Environmental Protection Agency health advisories issued in 2016 regarding potential adverse health effects of perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid in drinking water. The Navy said the most common historical use of these chemicals was in firefighting foam used on Navy installations to put out fires from incidents like aircraft accidents.

The Mayport open house is 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 27 at Mayport Middle School at 2600 Mayport Road in Atlantic Beach. The open house to discuss the Whitehouse airfield is 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 28 at Whitehouse Elementary School at 11160 General Ave. These open houses will include informational displays, with representatives from the Navy, EPA, Atlantic Beach Public Utilities and Florida Department of Health.

**Other Items of Interest**

**CNO Adm. Michael Gilday Takes Command**

USNI News | Posted August 22, 2019 | by Sam LaGrone


The next head of the U.S. Navy promised to continue the service’s drive to reposition itself as a high-end fighting force with a “sense of urgency,” he said during a brief speech at his change of command ceremony on Thursday.
“My focus in the coming years is to move forward with a sense of urgency and sustaining our readiness and modernizing our force and taking care of our most important weapons system or sailors and their families,” said newly-minted Adm. Michael Gilday. “We will question our assumptions. We will think differently about the competition that we are now in. We will be the navy the nation needs now and we will build a Navy the nation needs to fight and win in the future.”

He relieved outgoing-CNO Adm. John Richardson in a modest ceremony at the Navy Yard.

**Spouse Employment, Childcare Highlighted in New Navy Family Framework**

USNI News | Posted August 21, 2019 | by Ben Werner


To retain sailors, the Navy Family Framework version 2.0 addresses stressors facing active duty service members, their spouses and children.

Whereas the original framework, released in November 2017, detailed ways to encourage spouses to better integrate into Navy life, the new version recognizes the changing nature of Navy families by highlighting ways to assist Navy spouses in continuing with careers.

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Robert Burke has frequently spoken of the need for the Navy to recognize the needs of service members’ families. When Burke was still the chief of naval personnel, he testified before the House Armed Services subcommittee on military personnel in May about ways force is changing. Burke cited work-life balance, professional development of spouses and access to childcare as critical pieces to retaining a highly trained active-duty force….
1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be September 19, 2019 in Orange Park, FL and include an orientation of Camp Blanding Joint Training Center for Task Force members.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
a. 888-585-9008  
   Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Space Command Officially Stood Up** – Yesterday, the Department of Defense officially stood up the new U.S. Space Command. The command’s initial headquarters is at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, but no one has yet announced a decision on the location of the permanent headquarters. Wednesday, speaking to the press at the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors meeting, Governor Ron DeSantis reminded everyone that the final decision on the location of the permanent headquarters rests with President Trump.

4. **Hurricane DORIAN** – With almost all of the state focused for much of the week on preparing for the arrival of Hurricane DORIAN it has been a slow news week aside from the launch of USPACECOM and approaching destructive weather events. All of you across the state are in the thoughts and prayers of our FDSTF staff as this storm approaches. Please enjoy the Labor Day weekend as much as is possible given the current weather emergency, but above all, stay safe everyone and we’ll see you in September.

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Opinion: Wilson: Gulf drilling plan must protect Florida beaches**

Herald Tribune | Posted August 27, 2019 | by Mark Wilson  
One thing most Floridians can agree on is that Florida is special. We enjoy beautiful weather, one of the nation’s best education systems, incredible beaches, a military infrastructure vital to our way of life, a $1 trillion and growing annual economy, and a shared spirit of optimism about our future.

However, it is going to take a strong collective effort on all our parts to truly secure Florida’s future. That’s because in 2022, the current moratorium on drilling for oil virtually anywhere in the Gulf of Mexico expires. If Congress fails to generate bipartisan support, and the current moratorium expires, oil platforms could be sitting just nine miles off Florida’s coastline, where Florida waters end and federal waters begin.

There will be no protections in place unless, before 2022, a majority of the members of the U.S. House of Representatives and a supermajority of 60 bipartisan members of the U.S. Senate reach agreement on some form of extension that the president would agree to sign into law.

**Space Force / Space Command**

**SPACECOM is a go: Newest combatant command signed into existence**

Defense News | Posted August 29, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta


The Pentagon has a new combatant command. With a twirl of the pen, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper signed into creation U.S. Space Command, the 11th war-fighting command for the Defense Department.

“This is a landmark day, one that recognizes the centrality of space to America’s national security and defense,” President Donald Trump said during the event, held in the Rose Garden of the White House. “It’s all about space,” Trump said, adding that for anyone looking to challenge the U.S. in orbit, “it’s going to be a whole different ballgame.”

Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond is the new head of SPACECOM; Army Lt. Gen. James Dickinson has been nominated to become the deputy commander. Upon Trump’s signature, 287 individuals, pulled largely from U.S. Strategic Command, became the first members of the new command.

**Trump launches Space Command**
President Donald Trump announced Thursday the official establishment of the US military's Space Command.

"Those who wish to harm the United States, to seek to challenge us on the ultimate high ground of space, it's going to be a whole different ballgame," Trump said at a White House ceremony marking the command's establishment.

Space Command will become the 11th combatant command, joining the ranks of US Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East, and US Special Operations Command, which oversees Special Operations Forces.

**Space Force to Florida? It’s Donald Trump’s call, Ron DeSantis says**

Gov. Ron DeSantis expressed confidence Wednesday that President Donald Trump would base Space Force in the Sunshine State. DeSantis, addressing reporters in Jacksonville, thinks his ally in the White House could override forces within the Air Force that would prefer it in Colorado.

DeSantis also doesn’t see the Air Force as “supportive” of Space Force, and Colorado offers another advantage there. “If you keep it underneath in Colorado where you have all the Air Force brass, you really keep it in a box. Whereas, if you put it out here, this thing could really blossom and become something bigger,” DeSantis said.

“My pitch to the President was I want you to pick Florida, but I’m not even saying you should do that right now, What I would like is a commitment that it’s going to be your decision.” “Absolutely,” Trump said – according to DeSantis.

**War in Space Will Probably Be Really Boring**

Ever since President Trump first announced his intentions to establish a new branch of the American Armed Forces dedicated specifically to space and orbital defense, imaginations have run wild with what this new era of conflict miles above our heads might look like.
The thing is, our ideas of space warfare and the reality of conflict in space are pretty far off from one another... at least for now. America's near-peer opponents in China and Russia have both already stood accused by the international community of launching weapons systems into orbit, but these aren't Decepticons equipped with doomsday lasers and vessels full of jet-pack laden Space Marines.

Warfare in space doesn't take nearly that much effort or panache. In fact, in some cases, an act of war would require little more than a nudge. In practice, there's very little difference between the sorts of tools being developed to capture and destroy space junk and weapons being designed to capture and destroy satellites....

### Tyndall AFB

**Here’s How USAF Will Spend $1B in Disaster Aid**

Air Force Magazine | Posted August 27, 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen

http://www.airforcemag.com/Features/Pages/2019/August%202019/Heres-How-USAF-Will-Spend-1B-in-Disaster-Aid.aspx

The Air Force plans to spend $1 billion in supplemental disaster-aid funding on 15 military construction efforts at three bases, according to a list of the projects obtained by Air Force Magazine. Congress approved the funding in June, but required the Air Force to explain how the money would be spent.

Seven projects are slated for Tyndall AFB, Fla., which was hit by Category 5 Hurricane Michael in October 2018. Four will take place at Offutt AFB, Neb., following severe flooding that covered about one-third of the base in March. Another four are planned for JB Langley-Eustis, Va., so it can host the F-22 formal training unit previously located at Tyndall.

Four projects will rebuild facilities to accommodate the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Tyndall: a maintenance hangar, a parking apron, a maintenance squadron complex, and munitions storage facilities. The Air Force plans to replace the F-22 mission at Tyndall with the F-35 starting in 2023. Another Tyndall effort aims to further base-wide site development and utilities repair. Restoring the child development center is also a top priority....

### DoD Budget

**Lawmakers Expect a Stopgap Spending Measure to Avoid an October Shutdown**

Defense One | Posted August 28, 2019 | by Eric Katz
Despite a budget deal signed into law by President Trump this summer, agencies probably won’t receive new appropriations by the start of the 2020 fiscal year. With current funding set to lapse on Oct. 1, lawmakers appear resigned to pass a continuing resolution to give themselves more time to iron out the details of line-by-line appropriations bills.

The two-year budget deal hammered out primarily between House Democrats and the White House in late July set top-line spending levels, but Congress still must approve a package of 12 funding measures—or pass a CR—to avoid another government shutdown before current appropriations expire.

The House has passed most of the required annual spending bills for fiscal 2020, but lawmakers still must reconcile them with the Senate, which has yet to approve any appropriations bills for the upcoming fiscal year. The upper chamber delayed work on the spending bills until top-line funding levels were established and the deal was signed by Trump. The Senate Appropriations Committee is set to begin considering the legislation upon returning from recess next month.…

Other Items of Interest

Florida military bases prep for 130 mph winds as Hurricane Dorian bears down

The latest weather updates are projecting Hurricane Dorian to hit Florida as a Category 4 storm as early as Saturday night, battering the state’s eastern coast with winds reaching upwards of 130 miles per hour.

Military installations in Dorian’s path are moving quickly to respond, taking as many precautionary measures as possible to ensure the safety of base personnel and equipment.

On Wednesday, the storm grazed Puerto Rico, a near miss that allowed residents still weary from the devastation caused by 2017’s Hurricane Maria to exhale.…
Hurricane Season 2019 is Here. Is the Air Force Ready?

The Air Force is taking steps to learn from last year’s devastation from Hurricane Michael as it heads into peak hurricane season.

Hurricane preparation has long been a fixture of life on the Eastern Seaboard, the Gulf Coast, and throughout the Pacific. But in the aftermath of the Category 5 Michael, which decimated Tyndall AFB, Fla., last October, the service is revamping its approach.

Among the changes is a new continuity of operations policy, which includes “an installation-level common operational picture that will give installation commanders near-real-time situational awareness on the status of their installation during emergencies,” Air Force spokesman Rob Leese said in an email. These procedures ensure bases continue to meet mission requirements, even if some facilities become unusable….

Esper sees progress to fill top Pentagon vacancies

New U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Wednesday that Congress and the White House are working to fill senior vacancies at the Pentagon. Five nominees will face Senate hearings in the coming weeks, while eight are undergoing White House vetting, Esper told reporters at an on-camera briefing beside Gen. Joe Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. “We’re making steady progress with Senate confirmations,” Esper said.

Last month, the Senate locked in the Pentagon’s top two leaders for the first time in 2019: Esper, the former Army secretary, and Army Gen. Mark Milley, to succeed Dunford. It also confirmed former comptroller David Norquist as deputy secretary of defense and Vice Adm. Michael Gilday as the next chief of naval operations.

Among the remaining vacant senior positions, the Senate is expected to take up the nomination of Gen. John Hyten to replace Gen. Paul Selva, who retired as vice chairman of
the Joint Chiefs late last month. The Senate Armed Services Committee advanced Hyten last month, despite a subordinate’s allegations that he sexually assaulted her, which he disputed….
1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be September 19, 2019 in Orange Park, FL and will include an orientation of Camp Blanding Joint Training Center for Task Force members.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   888-585-9008  Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Bruce Grant Retiring** – Bruce is retiring at the end of September to spend more, well-deserved time with his family. He has been with Enterprise Florida in a variety of capacities since 2012 and has been the Vice President for Military & Defense Programs since 2016. A 1974 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, Bruce retired from the US Army as a colonel in 2001 following 27 years of service in the infantry.

4. **$17M for Tyndall AFB Reconstruction Cut** – On Wednesday Secretary of Defense Mark Esper announced that $3.6B of money earmarked for military construction projects in the US and overseas is being reprogrammed to pay for construction of the border wall with Mexico. Among the affected projects is $17M for the construction of a new fire station at Tyndall AFB to replace facilities damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Michael. DoD characterized all of the affected MILCON projects as being postponed or delayed rather than cancelled and promised to work with Congress to restore funding but given Democratic Party opposition to the border will it will be a difficult fight to restore any funding in the U.S. House of Representatives. See below in the *News Clips* for more details.

5. **US Space Command Subordinate Units** – From early on it was clear that the Headquarters of the new US Space Command would only be one, relatively small, element of a much larger force and as the organization develops and matures Florida would be an ideal location for many of these elements. This week Gen. John Raymond announced the first two of those new units, the Combined Force Space Component Command (CFSCC) and the Joint Task Force Space Defense (JTF-SD). Also, Brig. Gen. Patrick Cobb, special assistant to the National Guard Chief for space, said that if a Space Force is approved there will be not only an active duty component but also a National Guard Space component. Details are below in the *News Clips*.

6. **Hurricane Dorian Response** – If you live in North Florida you may have noticed some atypical military aircraft activity this week. That’s because while aircraft based on parts of the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts evacuated ahead of the hurricane, not all of them went to places one might usually expect. In addition to aircraft from Florida’s east coast heading north, some aircraft based in North Carolina and Virginia deployed to NAS Pensacola to escape from Hurricane Dorian, so we were treated to more than usual of the Sound of Freedom this week as flights of F/A-18s maneuvered over Tallahassee and North Florida. Details are below in the *News Clips*.
7. **Camp Blanding Joint Training Center Orientation** – For all members of the Task Force whom will be attending the orientation of Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Michelle needs your full name, title and the last four of your SSN for flight manifest for the helicopter tour of the base. Please provide all that to Michelle soonest.

8. **Attachments:**
   - FDSTF Meeting #77, Camp Blanding JTC & Orange Park, FL Itinerary

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Space Force / Space Command**

**Raymond’s First SPACECOM Move: Two New Subcommands and Their Leaders**

Breaking Defense | Posted August 30, 2019 | by Theresa Hitchens


Space Command (SPACECOM) head Gen. John Raymond today announced two new subcomponent commands and their leaders: one for day to day operations including with allies; the other to “conduct space superiority operations.”

Raymond yesterday told reporters at the Pentagon the two new subcommands were being stood up — giving us a whole new set of acronyms to be learned. He did not, however, provide the names of the new leadership or the exact breakdown of their functions.

The Combined Force Space Component Command (CFSCC), commanded by Air Force Maj. Gen. Stephen Whiting, will “plan, integrate, conduct, and assess global space operations” for both US commanders and those of allies and partners, according to a SPACECOM press release.
The Joint Task Force Space Defense (JTF-SD), commanded by Army Brig. Gen. Tom James, will “conduct space superiority operations in unified action with mission partners to deter aggression, defend space capability, and when directed, defeat adversaries throughout the continuum of conflict,” the release said.

EXCLUSIVE: Pentagon will create Space National Guard if Space Force launches

Federal News Network | Posted September 2, 2019 | by Scott Maucione

The Space Force will get its own National Guard branch if Congress decides to create the new military service in its 2020 defense policy bill.

The Defense Department will establish the Space National Guard in tandem with the Space Force and will have basic headquarters and staffing set up by the beginning of next year if Congress gives it the green light, Brig. Gen. Patrick Cobb, special assistant to the National Guard Chief for space, told Federal News Network in an exclusive interview.

“In the second year of existence we will start bringing National Guard units over to the Space National Guard,” Cobb said. “We will bring the Air National Guard units over first and then a year after that the Army National Guard unit that we have here in Colorado. The Air Force Reserve would do the same thing and Army Reserve....”

NAS Pensacola

Military aircraft flee to Panhandle ahead of Dorian

Thedestinlog.com | Posted September 4, 2019 | by GateHouse Media Florida staff report

Skies above Northwest Florida will be filled with more military aircraft than usual beginning Wednesday and possibly continuing through the end of the week, as they are repositioned from installations along the East Coast in advance of Hurricane Dorian, according to a release from NAS Pensacola.

More than 60 aircraft, attached to Naval Air Station (NAS) Norfolk, Virginia; NAS Oceana, Virginia; NAS Jacksonville, North Carolina; and Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina, will arrive at Naval Air Station Pensacola beginning Wednesday as part of hurricane preparedness at those installations.
The aircraft coming to NAS Pensacola will include F-18 Super Hornet fighter jets, E-2 Hawkeye early warning and command and control airplanes, C-2 Greyhound cargo aircraft and MH-53 Sea Dragon aerial mine countermeasures helicopters.

**Tyndall AFB**

**Tyndall to lose funding for fire and rescue station**

Northwest Florida Daily News | Posted September 4, 2019 | by Jim Thompson

Florida’s Panhandle was largely spared, but not entirely unaffected, by a U.S. Department of Defense shift of $3.6 million in military construction funding to a number of wall construction and replacement projects along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Among the projects set to lose funding as a result of the shift is a fire and crash rescue station planned for Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, budgeted at $17 million. Tyndall is the only military installation in Florida to be affected by the shifting of funds to the border wall project, according to a list released late Wednesday afternoon by the Department of Defense.

No military construction projects within Florida’s 1st Congressional District — comprising Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton and part of Holmes County — will be affected by the shifted funds, U.S. Rep. Matt Gaetz, who represents the district, confirmed Wednesday.

**Trump cuts $17 million project at Florida Air Force base to pay for border wall**

Miami Herald | Posted September 4, 2019 | by Alex Daugherty

When President Donald Trump visited Tyndall Air Force Base in May, he promised it would be rebuilt “better than ever” after Hurricane Michael caused catastrophic damage.

Four months later, the Department of Defense announced that a $17 million project to build a fire-rescue station at the base near Panama City will be put on hold to pay for portions of a wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, one of Trump’s signature campaign promises.

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper announced Wednesday that $3.6 billion appropriated for military construction projects will be put on hold to pay for 175 miles of a border wall after the president failed to get funding from Congress.
Pentagon readies response, evacuates military personnel ahead of Hurricane Dorian

The Pentagon is preparing to help respond to Hurricane Dorian, with more than 5,500 National Guard troops moved to staging areas in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas ahead of the Category 2 storm, top Department of Defense (DOD) officials said Tuesday.

"Even though the storm’s category has changed, it’s still a life-threatening storm, with high winds expected to affect Florida and the Carolinas over the next few days," DOD spokesman Jonathan Hoffman told reporters at the Pentagon. "Even without a landfall, there may be some significant impacts, which we’re preparing for."

About 80 percent, or more than 4,000, of the Nation Guardsmen are in Florida, while the remaining troops are in Georgia and South Carolina, according to U.S. Northern Command head Gen. Terrence O'Shaughnessy.

DOD Ramps Up Hurricane Dorian Relief Efforts

As Hurricane Dorian sat offshore from Florida's southeast coast, the Defense Department had already deployed some assets to the area. Air Force Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, commander of U.S. Northern Command, provided an update for a Pentagon news conference this afternoon via video-teleconference.

More than 5,000 National Guard troops and 2,700 active duty personnel are either deployed or are positioned to respond within 24 hours in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other partners, he said.

DOD has provided 14 incident support bases to FEMA and DOD is using 20 bases to support its own military response and support to FEMA, he said. Some of those incident support bases
are at the same location, he noted, so all told, 26 bases are supporting the response. All of these bases are staging areas for personnel, supplies and equipment that can be brought quickly to bear as needed.…

NAS Jacksonville

Helicopters return to NAS Jacksonville after Hurricane Dorian

First Coast News | Posted September 6, 2019 | by First Coast News

Three MH-60R helicopter squadrons that evacuated Jacksonville due to Hurricane Dorian have arrived back at Naval Air Jacksonville, the U.S. Navy said.

Naval Air Force Atlantic ordered that aircraft at the naval base leave the area ahead of the storm because of the potential for high winds and heavy rains.

The helicopters flew to Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama until the hurricane passed through the First Coast. They arrived back safely at Naval Air Jacksonville on Thursday afternoon.

Defense Industry

3 defense firms win $100M+ in contracts with work in Central Florida

Orlando Business Journal | Posted September 4, 2019 | by Alexander Soderstrom

Three contractors with ties to Central Florida have won more than $100 million in defense contracts, including a $25 million contract to build gunnery training systems for Saudi Arabia.

Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT) scored a $25 million contract with U.S. Army Contracting Command to provide the Saudi government with Advanced Gunnery Training Systems, the Department of Defense announced Aug. 29. Work for the order will be performed in Orlando, where Lockheed operates two facilities, and Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. The project is expected to be completed by Oct. 31, 2022.
The Advanced Gunnery Training System is a simulator developed by Lockheed to train crews in precision gunnery. The contract is part of the foreign military sales program, through which the U.S. sells arms to select foreign countries. Saudi Arabia is the top buyer of U.S. weapons, purchasing $9 billion in arms between 2013-2017, according to CNBC.

**Other Items of Interest**

**Senate sets date for joint Air Force, Army secretary nomination hearing**

Defense News | Posted September 5, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta


U.S. President Donald Trump’s nominees to lead the Army and Air Force are expected to have a joint confirmation hearing next week.

The Senate Armed Services Committee has scheduled a Sept. 12 hearing for Ryan McCarthy, to lead the Army, and Barbara Barrett, to lead the Air Force. Notably, the hearing was scheduled without either nomination being formally submitted to the Senate by the White House — a move that the committee previously used to try to move nominees through the process for the Defense Department as quickly as possible.

The committee did so with Secretary of Defense Mark Esper’s nomination earlier this summer, scheduling a hearing in advance but only receiving the formal nomination the night before it was to occur. It will have to receive Barrett and McCarthy’s nominations for the hearing to go forward....
FDSTF Update – September 13

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be September 19, 2019 in Orange Park, FL and include an orientation of Camp Blanding Joint Training Center for Task Force members.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

   **888-585-9008**  
   **Conference Room: 262-492-927**

3. **Small Victory in Gulf Range Protection Campaign** – On Wednesday the US House of Representatives passed HR 205 (sponsored by Florida Rep. Francis Rooney) which, if passed by the Senate and signed into law by the President, would permanently prohibit drilling for oil in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. However, those last two conditions are highly unlikely as there is considerable resistance to the House version of the bill in the Senate and the White House. The good news is that the US Senate is going to consider a bill sponsored by Florida Senator Rubio and supported by Florida Senator Scott which would prohibit oil exploration in the Eastern Gulf for another 10 years allowing for time to work out a permanent deal. While HR 205 doesn’t seem likely to make it into law, there is evidence of support in both houses of Congress for some type of protection for the Gulf. Details appear below in the NEWS CLIPS of Interest.

4. **Tyndall AFB Rebuild Continues to Take Shape** – Also on Wednesday, Tyndall AFB held its third in a series of Industry Days to discuss plans for rebuilding the base. Much of this Industry Day focused on the logistics of how to bed down and provide for a large construction work force in a city in which most of the residential, dining and other infrastructure has been severely damaged or destroyed. There’s more on this below in the NEWS CLIPS of Interest.

5. **PFOA/PFOS Contamination in the news at more Florida Bases** – This week the Environmental Working Group released a report obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request detailing PFOA/PFOS contamination at 90 additional Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve bases. Three of these are Army National Guard installations in Florida including Camp Blanding. I have attached this new list of installations to this Update and highlighted the Florida bases to make them easier to find. Also, there was a separate article this week about Brevard County residents’ concerns over PFOA/PFOS contamination from Patrick AFB. As a reminder, part of the agenda for next Thursday’s Task Force meeting is a presentation from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on what we know, what we don’t know and what Florida is doing about PFOA/PFOS contamination. Both of these articles are below in the NEWS CLIPS of Interest.

6. **Nomination Period for Great American Defense Communities Coming to a Close** – There is still time, but not much, to nominate your community as a Great American Defense Community. The Association of Defense Communities has set the deadline to submit
nominations for 2020 Great American Defense Communities Awards as September 18th, next Wednesday. Last Year Bay County, Florida was among the five winning communities. To check eligibility criteria and find application procedures follow the link below:

https://www.defensecommunities.org/2020gadc-nominations/#1537482951696-986b2a89-67c7

7. **FDSTF Supports US Coast Guard Efforts to Resist Encroachment** – During our August conference call the Task Force decided to send a letter of support to the Miami Beach City Commission stressing the importance of protecting US Coast Guard Base Miami Beach from any possible encroachment risks that might arise if parts of Miami Beach near the base were to be rezoned to allow residential construction near the base (that area is currently zoned as a light industrial area). Last week the South Florida Defense Alliance and the FDSTF agreed that the letter was ready to go, and the timing was right to send that letter so it went out over the weekend. I have attached a copy of that letter to this Update for everyone’s situational awareness.

8. **9/11 Commemorations** – Wednesday was a busy and momentous day this week but I’m sure it was also a day when we all remembered that Freedom is not free. I was in the Fort Walton Beach / Eglin AFB area on Wednesday and was especially moved when I saw an extremely large US flag extending from the trees alongside the road, hanging at an obvious angle and flying over the highway. As I approached closer, I saw it came from a fire station that had parked their hook-and-ladder truck out front, extended the ladder and hung a US flag from it. I know none of us will ever forget that day and I pray none of us ever neglect to teach those whom didn’t live through it. I’ve attached both the US Congress’s resolution and Governor DeSantis’ resolutions below.

9. **Attachments:**
   - List of US Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve bases with PFOA/PFOS contamination
   - Letter from FDSTF to Miami Beach City Commission re. potential encroachment on USCG Base Miami Beach
   - Public Law 107-89, 107th Congress, Joint Resolution: Patriot Day
   - Governor Ron DeSantis’ 2019 Patriot Day Proclamation
   - Agenda for FDSTF Meeting #77, September 19, 2019, Orange Park, FL
House OKs permanent oil moratorium in part of Gulf

A bill establishing a permanent moratorium on oil and gas exploration in a wide swath of the Gulf of Mexico, including a massive military test range, passed the U.S. House on Wednesday and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

Under current law, a moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the affected part of the Gulf is set to expire June 30, 2022.

Wednesday’s vote was applauded by Rep. Matt Gaetz, who represents Northwest Florida in Congress. Gaetz has been a staunch advocate for the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range, a 120,000-square-mile section of the Gulf that supports a wide range of military training missions and is overseen by Eglin Air Force Base’s 96th Test Wing.

House votes to ban drilling off Florida’s Gulf Coast

The House of Representatives passed a bill to permanently ban offshore drilling off Florida’s Gulf Coast on Wednesday, a move Florida lawmakers said will help the state’s tourism industry and military installations.

The bill, Protecting and Securing Florida’s Coastline Act, passed on a vote of 248-180, with 21 Republicans joining 227 Democrats in favor. Four Democrats and one independent, along with 175 Republicans, voted against the bill.

Rep. Francis Rooney, Florida’s most pro-environment Republican member of Congress, sponsored the legislation and 12 other Florida lawmakers from both parties signed on. “I think it’s an important first step,” Rooney said in an interview with the Miami Herald. “We’re all
going to have to all work together to convince President Trump that this is so important for Florida, that he’s got to support us on this.”

Rooney’s bill now heads to the U.S. Senate, where Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio has a bill that would also ban offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, but only through 2027. Florida Republican Sen. Rick Scott has signed onto Rubio’s bill….

**Guest Columnist: Moratorium on drilling in Gulf of Mexico safeguards way of life in Florida | Rooney**


On Wednesday, the House of Representatives took a big step forward in protecting Florida’s coastal environment and its economy. By a vote of 248 to 180, the House passed HR 205, the bill I introduced to make permanent the moratorium on drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico (EGOM), east of the Military Mission Line. The current moratorium was enacted by Republican President George W. Bush, with the bipartisan support of both United States senators from Florida, Mel Martinez and Bill Nelson.

Drilling in the Eastern Gulf would negatively affect our environment, tourism, and military readiness. I want to ensure that all areas east of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico are permanently protected from offshore oil drilling. Making the moratorium, which expires in 2022, permanent is critical for Florida and for our military preparedness.

The Eastern Gulf is home to the Gulf Test Range, a 120,000 square mile range that stretches from the Florida Panhandle to Key West. This unimpeded training and testing area is of critical importance to our military now and will become even more important in the future, as hypersonic and drone testing increase. Our military has no better location to carry out these exercises and there is no compelling reason to place drilling interests ahead of military necessities….

**Space Force / Space Command**

**Secret Pentagon Space Program Driven By Fear Of China**

Forbes | Posted September 12, 2019 | by Loren Thompson
https://www.forbes.com/sites/lorenthompson/2019/09/12 секрет pentagon space program driven by fear of china/2/#735ad5a41fd0
The Trump Administration recently held a highly classified meeting for cabinet-level officials to discuss the growing danger Russia and China pose to U.S. space systems. The participants were told that because of heavy U.S. reliance on orbital assets, Moscow and Beijing were acquiring “counterspace” capabilities to deny America’s military victory in future wars, and severely impair the U.S. economy. Most of the danger was traced to China.

It was a shocking litany of challenges about which some of the participants previously had not been aware. But at the end of the meeting the main briefer, General John Hyten of U.S. Strategic Command, cautioned his audience that they could not go back to their agencies and discuss what they had heard. The information was too sensitive.

Similar circumstances surround efforts to brief Congress on the growing threat in space. Select legislators are briefed on the full extent of the danger, but the briefings consist largely of “special access” intelligence that they can’t share even with trusted staffers. As a result, much of Congress and nearly all of the American public is oblivious to just how worrisome orbital challenges are becoming, or what the military is doing about them….

**NAS Whiting Field**

**Home builder donating land to buffer Whiting**

The Destin Log | Posted September 10, 2019 | by Ramon Rios

A local home builder is continuing to work with the Santa Rosa County Commission to donate land around NAS Whiting Field to help protect the base from future encroachment.

Edwin Henry, owner of UIL Family Limited Partnership, first donated 240 acres near Whiting Field to Santa Rosa County last year and just recently donated another 100 acres.

“It looks like a win for everyone,” said Commissioner Don Salter.

Henry is not finished donating land to Santa Rosa County either. In 2020, he plans to donate another 200 acres near NAS Whiting Field, another 100 acres in 2021 and a final donation of 110 acres in 2022, for a total of 750 acres….

**Santa Rosa County approves rezoning request on developer's word that he won't develop it**

Pensacola News Journal | Posted September 9, 2019 | by Annie Blanks
A prominent Northwest Florida landowner and developer says he is donating more than 700 acres of land in northern Milton to Santa Rosa County so it can act as an undeveloped buffer for Naval Air Station Whiting Field.

But the donation has drawn criticism from some in the county because County Commissioners approved rezoning the land from rural residential agriculture to single family residential so Edwin Henry could receive a bigger tax write-off on the donation — and the board approved the rezoning on Henry’s word that he wouldn’t develop the property.

The land in question is a 726-acre plot of undeveloped forest on the outskirts of Whiting Field in the northern part of the county, near the Clear Creek subdivision. It was previously zoned for agricultural purposes, allowing for just one home per acre and was meant for activities associated with farming and livestock raising.

Tyndall AFB

**Tyndall Officials Discuss Rebuild Logistics at Third 'Industry Day' Event**

WFSU | Posted September 12, 2019 | by Valerie Crowder
https://news.wfsu.org/post/tyndall-officials-discuss-rebuild-logistics-third-industry-day-event

Tyndall Air Force officials are working out how they will execute a years-long series of construction projects to rebuild more than half of the military base.

“This is a construction program on steroids, and so we need to think differently about it,” said Gen. Patrice Melancon, executive director of Tyndall’s Reconstruction Program Management Office.

At Tyndall’s third Industry Day event since Hurricane Michael, officials updated business and community leaders on the progress of reconstruction at the base. They also discussed logistics, including details on where an estimated 2,000 construction workers needed for the rebuild will eat and sleep.

**Tyndall Elementary will become Tyndall Academy and be a K-8 school**

MyPanHandle.com | Posted September 11, 2019 | by Madalyn Bierster
It’s been a roller coaster ride for Tyndall Air Force Base.

With almost total destruction following Hurricane Michael, the military installations mission was on hold.

Now, with billions coming from the federal government for a rebuild, young students will see a benefit at Tyndall Elementary as well….

**FL National Guard / Camp Blanding**

**Contaminated Drinking Water Found at 90 More Army, Guard Bases**

Military.com | Posted September 12, 2019 | by Patricia Kime

The drinking water at 90 Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard posts is contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS chemicals, linked to birth defects and certain cancers, according to a new report from the service.

The additions bring the number of Army installations contaminated with chemicals contained in firefighting foam, stain-resistant fabrics, nonstick cookware and other products from 18 to 108, according to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), a nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

According to the report, highest levels of PFAS were found at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, followed by the National Guard's Joint Training Base in Los Alamitos, California, and Belmont Armory in Michigan….

**Army PFAS List Reveals 90 Additional Posts Have Detectable Levels in Drinking Water**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 11, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/53266/

A new Pentagon list of Army installations has been added to the growing number of military bases where PFAS chemicals have been detected in ground water as recently as this year, Military Times reports.
Ninety active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard bases are on the new list, which the Environmental Working Group (EWG) acquired by a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), according to the report.

The list comes as a new Pentagon task force ordered by Defense Secretary Mark Esper is examining the problem of PFAS contamination on military bases, as On Base previously reported.

202nd RED HORSE veteran proudly assumes command

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service | Posted September 8, 2019 | by Staff Sgt. Carlynne DeVine, 125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 202nd RED HORSE welcomed their new commander during an official ceremony at Camp Blanding Sept. 8, 2019. Lt. Col. Brian A. Vitetta, former director of operations for the 202nd, has now taken full command of this squadron.

“To be able to serve alongside such a great group of Airmen is an honor,” said Vitetta.

The 202nd RED HORSE, which stands for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, is an elite group within the Florida Air National Guard. This self-sufficient mobile unit comes with its own equipment and supplies, capable of rapid response and independent operations in remote areas for any state or federal mission. Their response efforts incorporate such things as airfield recovery and lighting, asphalt paving, bare base setup and base camp design, debris removal, material testing, power generation, and even water purification.

Patrick AFB

Brevard anxious as Congress weighs fire foam chemical risks

Florida Today | Posted September 11, 2019 | by Jim Waymer

As Congress mulls what to do about a group of cancer-causing chemicals most associated with fire-fighting foams, local activists wait and worry. They wait for word of who will clean up widespread groundwater contamination from the chemicals near Patrick Air Force Base and whether government will tighten limits for the compounds wherever they might be.
They worry nothing will get done.

In the latest salvo in an emerging health concern now gaining political traction, Congressional hearings this week put representatives from 3M, DuPont and other chemical companies on the hot seat, after documents revealed some in the industry knew decades ago of health risks posed by the family of long-lived chemicals, called PFAS — short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.…. 

**BOEM and Army Corps of Engineers Sign Agreements with Brevard County and Patrick Air Force Base to Refurbish Florida Shorelines**

Department of the Interior | Posted September 10, 2019 | by DOI Public Affairs

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, Brevard County, and the U.S. Air Force 45th Space Wing to replenish portions of the shoreline in Brevard County, Florida. BOEM and its partners signed two separate agreements for the use of up to 1.9 million cubic yards of sand from federal waters to construct three Brevard County project segments located at Mid-Reach, South-Reach, and Patrick Air Force Base.

“\[The Trump Administration is committed to protecting our coastlines through habitat restoration and conservation efforts, notably coastal erosion from tropical storms and hurricanes,\]” said Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. “I applaud the collective efforts from the federal, state, and local partners involved who facilitated the agreements and delivery of almost 2 million cubic yards of sand for the Brevard County coastline. These efforts will be critical in restoring these iconic beaches.”

Sand from the Canaveral Shoals sand borrow area on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) will be used to stabilize the shoreline. For the Brevard County Mid-Reach and South-Reach segments, BOEM authorizes the use of up to 1.3 million cubic yards of sand, which would restore 7.8 miles of Mid-Reach shoreline and 4 miles on the South-Reach. For the Patrick AFB segment, BOEM authorizes up to 600,000 cubic yards of sand to renew 3.8 miles of shoreline. The shoreline to be redeveloped stretches from Patrick Air Force Base southward to Spessard Holland Park, totaling 15.6 miles.…. 

**US Southern Command**

**JIATF South: The Strength of Relationships**
Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South) conducts detection and monitoring operations of illicit trafficking in the air and maritime domains throughout the U.S. Southern Command’s (SOUTHCOM) area of operations. U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Pat DeQuattro, JIATF South Director, spoke with Diálogo during a visit to their installations at Naval Air Station Key West, Florida. The officer highlighted the importance of interagency cooperation to deter transregional organized crime.

**Diálogo**: “What does JIATF South bring to the regional effort to counter security threats?”

**U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Pat DeQuattro, JIATF South Director**: “JIATF South is built upon the strength of our relationships. We currently have 20 countries that are stakeholders in JIATF South (from Central and South America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Canada, and several European countries like the United Kingdom, France, Spain, and the Netherlands). We bring a trusted and established relationship that works together to address the global threat networks. We also work with 16 U.S. agencies to counter the threats. Our interagency efforts promote security in our Western Hemisphere because we are targeting threat networks responsible for violence, criminal activity, corruption, and the breakdown of the rule of law….”

**DoD Budget**

**Senate Appropriators Allocate $75 Million for DCIP in Defense Spending Measure**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 12, 2019 | by ADC author

The Senate Appropriations Committee provided a major boost to the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) on Thursday by allocating $75 million in its fiscal 2020 Defense spending bill for funding critical off-base infrastructure projects.

The pilot program, which was originally authorized in the fiscal 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, would receive the Appropriations Committee’s proposed funding through DOD’s Office or Economic Adjustment (OEA). The Defense spending bill now moves to the full Senate for approval in the coming weeks.

The program would provide critical funding for off-base community infrastructure projects that support mission readiness and resilience, including transportation, schools, hospitals,
police, fire, emergency response, water, wastewater, telecommunications, electric, gas, or other utility infrastructure that is owned by a state or local government. 

**Senate Appropriations Committee Advances $694B Defense Spending Bill**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 12, 2019 | by ADC author

The Senate Appropriations Committee advanced to the full Senate its fiscal 2020 $694.9 billion defense spending bill along party lines Thursday after lawmakers differed strongly over the use of Pentagon funds for southern border barrier construction, The Hill reported.

The final committee vote came in at 16-15 after tabling an amendment by the panel’s top Democrat Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) that sought to end administration use of DOD funds for southern border construction, according to the report.

The full committee’s final markup would provide DOD with an almost 3% increase over FY 2019 funding, with many of the spending increases highlighted in a committee press release after the vote.

**Defense lawmakers set aggressive schedule for NDAA**

Defense News | Posted September 8, 2019 | by Joe Gould and Leo Shane III

When Congress returns to work Monday, authorizers will aim for quick passage of the National Defense Authorization Act, even though a host of differences in the separate House and Senate versions of the bill have yet to be resolved formally.

While lawmakers have been on a five-week summer recess, staff for each chamber’s armed services committees were working to resolve non-controversial issues on the massive annual defense policy measure, clearing the way for conferees to focus on more problematic policy differences when they return this week.

And even with complicated work ahead and only 13 working days in September, aides in both chambers confirmed that leaders hope to draft a compromise conference report by Sept. 19,
finalize signatures to the bill by Sept. 23 and set floor votes in each chamber before the end of September…. 

**House Considering Continuing Resolution to Avoid Partial Government Shutdown**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 9, 2019 | by ADC author

Lawmakers are considering a short-term continuing resolution to avoid a partial government shutdown on Oct. 1, despite a bipartisan spending agreement in July that was intended to establish military and nondefense spending for fiscal 2020, Defense News reported Friday.

House Majority Leader Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) sent a letter to colleagues Thursday informing them that in the next two weeks Democratic leaders would introduce “a clean continuing resolution to fund the government past Sept. 30,” according to the report.

Hoyer wrote the budget maneuver is needed so that Senate lawmakers can finalize several major appropriations bills….

**Defense Industry**

**Lockheed Martin secures $14.9M addition to Orlando defense contract**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted September 11, 2019 | by Alexander Soderstrom

A multimillion-dollar addition to a Lockheed Martin contract will bring work to one of the company’s Orlando facilities.

Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT) was awarded a roughly $15 million task order for an existing $3.8 million contract, according to the Department of Defense. A task order is a call for additional supplies or services for an existing government contract.

The contract, which began last September, calls for the upgrade of testers and accessory kits for the U.S. Air Force. All the work will be performed in Orlando and is expected to be finished by Sept. 8, 2022….
Cyber

**Recruiting Cyber Workforce Easier Than Retaining Them**

DoD Public Affairs | Posted September 9, 2019 | by David Vergun


The military is doing a great job recruiting cyber talent into military and civilian service, but retention is more difficult, said the deputy assistant secretary of defense for cyber policy said at the Billington Cybersecurity Summit in Washington. "We have people lined up out the door that are ready to come onboard and do the mission, whether it's cyber operations or traditional cybersecurity," Burke E. "Ed" Wilson said at last week's event.

Wilson said Congress gave the military some unique authorities that have helped in hiring qualified civilians. "This has allowed us to hire with more agility based on the talent," he said. "That's been a big win, and we've seen very good results over the last 18 months."

But the challenge is retention. "Clearly, we don't do well on salary in the military, but we've been able to handle that with bonuses," Wilson said, adding that the strategy is working well, except in some niche areas….

**Other Items of Interest**

**Hurricane preparation changing at local Air Force bases**

NW Florida Daily News | Posted September 8, 2019 | by Jim Thompson


Hurricane Dorian bypassed Northwest Florida’s military bases, but Hurricane Michael, the Category 5 storm that leveled Tyndall Air Force Base in October, has remained front and center as those bases, and the rest of the Air Force, have taken a new look at preparing for hurricanes and other severe weather.

“Shortly after Hurricane Michael, Secretary Wilson (former Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson), directed the deputy commander of Air Combat Command to conduct a full-spectrum assessment of how the Air Force is postured to mitigate the risks of severe weather events,” Rob Leese, press desk officer with the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office, explained in an email.
Earlier this year, Air Combat Command sent out more than 100 recommendations for improving responses to hurricanes and other weather-related challenges, Leese said. The recommendations cover everything from weather forecasting to command and control, the process of assigning human and material resources to addressing problems like severe weather….

**This former Ranger was just nominated to be the next Secretary of the Army**

Task & Purpose | Posted September 9, 2019 | by Haley Britzky
https://taskandpurpose.com/ryan-mccarthy-secretary?

In early 2001, Ryan McCarthy was on his way out of the Army. The Army Ranger had been in the infantry since September 1997 and his service obligation had ended. He had the option to get out, and was planning on taking it.

But that, along with everything else, changed on September 11th. His unit was called to Afghanistan, and he decided to stay. Though his former battle buddy Dan Ferris, a retired Army lieutenant colonel who served alongside him in the 75th Ranger Regiment, said it wasn't even a question.

"Ryan was like, 'There's no way in heck that I'm leaving. I'm staying and I'm going with you guys.' He was just completely dedicated to getting out there and defending our country with all of us," Ferris told Task & Purpose….

**Defense Department says "forever chemical" cleanup costs will dwarf earlier estimates**

The Hill | Posted September 12, 2019 | by Rebecca Beitsch

Military leaders said Thursday that “forever chemical” contamination costs are likely to surpass their original $2 billion estimate as Congress works to push the Department of Defense (DOD) to clean up contaminated water across the country.

The class of chemicals abbreviated as PFAS is used in a variety of products ranging from nonstick cookware to raincoats. It’s also used in the firefighting foam that has been heavily
relied on by the military. As PFAS leaches into the water supply it’s dubbed a “forever chemical” due to its persistent presence in the environment and the human body.

The House and Senate are preparing for a conference committee on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) this month, and both versions of the bill push for greater military response to clean up PFAS that has spread from military installations to nearby communities.

**Most Army Families Say They'd Move Off-Base If They Could to Escape Poor Housing**

Military.com | Posted September 9, 2019 | by Richard Sisk


A large majority (64%) of Army military families would move off base if they could afford it to escape poor housing conditions, a lack of oversight by commanders, and the petty harassment of private housing managers, according to a report published Sept. 5 by the office of the Army Inspector General.

At 48 of 49 installations surveyed by the IG, residents in privatized housing cited concerns with "environmental" issues, including mold, lead-based paint, asbestos, water quality, open sewage and radon gas, the report states.

Families who complained to property managers said they often faced retaliation, reprisals and petty harassment from the private management companies, according to the report.

**US Lawmaker Threatens to Give the Next Attack Plane to the Army**

Defense One | Posted September 11, 2019 | by Marcus Weisgerber


Frustrated by the U.S. Air Force’s slow fielding of propeller-driven attack planes to support ground troops, one lawmaker raised the possibility of putting the project under Army control.

“My frustration is almost palpable at why it is taking so long to get this platform out to where the warfighters need it,” Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla., said Wednesday at a Mitchell Institute event.
The House has already given U.S. Special Operations Command the authority — if not yet the appropriations — to buy such planes. But Waltz said the need is so great that perhaps the Army should also be given such authority.

**Commentary: How to bridge the divide between civilians and the military, first responders**

Military Times | Posted September 10, 2019 | by Kevin M. Schmiegel and Patrick A. Burke

For 18 years our nation has been at war. In the face of conflict and adversity at home and abroad, brave Americans have volunteered to serve not only in our armed forces but as first responders in thousands of communities across the country. Between them, more than 4.4 million men and women have taken an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and pledged to protect the freedoms and securities we enjoy as Americans.

Since 9/11, however, observers have acknowledged a widening gap of “understanding” between the 2.1 million Americans who serve in our all-volunteer military force and the rest of the population. While our nation’s longest war continues and hundreds of thousands of service members still and will continue to deploy each year, a majority of military families feel increasingly isolated from their communities and disconnected from their civilian counterparts.

Americans are also less personally connected to military service than ever before. According to the Department of Defense, the number of young adults with parents who have served in the military has dropped from 40 percent in 1995 to 15 percent today, and less than 1 percent of the U.S. population currently serves in the armed forces, compared with more than 12 percent during World War II.
FDSTF Update – September 20

1. **September Meeting** – Yesterday the Task Force held our September meeting in Orange Park, FL. The Florida National Guard provided the Task Force members an orientation of Camp Blanding Joint Training Center for Task Force members the afternoon before on Wednesday with a very valuable helicopter tour of the perimeter around the base showing us land that has been protected from encroachment threats and other land that still needs to be protected.

2. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be via conference call / WebEx on October 17, 2019.

3. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   888-585-9008    Conference Room: 262-492-927

4. **2019 Strategic Plan** – The staff has now received all the member inputs for the 2019 FDSTF Strategic Plan and the Task Force members discussed those during the meeting yesterday. In the next week the staff will send out the final copy to the Task Force members and post the updated Strategic Plan to the website shortly afterwards.

5. **Florida Defense Factbook** – The study on the economic impact the defense sector makes to Florida’s economy is well underway and on track to be published this Fall. While the final numbers are not yet in, the preliminary news is good as it is clear that the defense sector’s contribution to Florida’s economy is even greater than it was two years ago when the FDSTF last conducted this study.

6. **Military / Veteran Related Bills Filed** – The Florida legislature just completed its first Committee Week of the 2020 Legislative Session and four bills that impact the military and military veterans were filed in the Senate. To review or track bills as they progress through the legislature, for House Bills (HB), go to [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov). For Senate Bills (SB), go to [www.flSenate.gov](http://www.flSenate.gov). For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session. Attached files shows current status (4 veteran friendly bills).

   - **SB 96: Educational Opportunities for Veterans**, (Cruz) Educational Opportunities for Veterans; Defining the term “disabled veteran”; providing that disabled veterans receiving certain federal educational assistance benefits are eligible to receive an award for the remaining cost of tuition and fees at state universities and Florida College System institutions, etc., Effective Date: 7/1/2020, Last Action: 8/16/2019 Senate - Referred to Military and Veterans Affairs and Space; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations
   
   - **SB 98: Medical Marijuana Identification Cards for Service-disabled Veterans**, (Cruz & CO-INTRODUCTERS Book, Farmer), Medical Marijuana Identification Cards for Service-disabled Veterans; Prohibiting the Department of Health from charging a fee for
the issuance, replacement, or renewal of an identification card for the medical use of marijuana for a service-disabled veteran or his or her caregiver if a specified form is included with the identification card application, etc., Effective Date: Upon becoming a law, Last Action: 8/16/2019 Senate - Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations

- **SB 104: Services for Veterans and Their Families**, (Harrell & CO-INTRODUCER Wright), Services for Veterans and Their Families; Requiring the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to establish the Florida Veterans’ Care Coordination Program to provide for veterans and their families behavioral health care referral and care coordination services; requiring the department to contract with a certain nonprofit entity to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants to provide such services; providing for the statewide delivery of specified services by program teams, etc., Effective Date: 7/1/2020, Last Action: 8/16/2019 Senate - Referred to Military and Veterans Affairs and Space; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations

- **SB 294: Crimes Against Veterans**, (Wright & CO-INTRODUCERS Baxley), Crimes Against Veterans; Citing this act as the "Florida Veterans Protection Act"; providing an enhanced sentence for any person who commits aggravated white collar crimes against a certain number of veterans by obtaining or attempting to obtain a specified amount of money; providing criminal penalties, etc., Effective Date: 10/1/2020, Last Action: 9/16/2019 Senate - Filed

7. **POW/MIA Remembrance Day** – We often remind others that Freedom isn’t Free. Usually we tend to think of those whom gave that last, full measure in the service of our country, but there are others we also must not forget. There are thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who remain unaccounted for from our nation’s wars. Today we pause to remember them in a special way. I’ve attached the Governor’s POW/MIA Day proclamation to this E-mail.

8. **Attachments:**
   - SB 96: Educational Opportunities for Veterans
   - SB 98: Medical Marijuana Identification Cards for Service-disabled Veterans
   - SB 104: Services for Veterans and Their Families
   - SB 294: Crimes Against Veterans
   - Governor DeSantis’s 2019 POW/MIA Day Proclamation
News Clips of Interest:

**Space Force / Space Command**

**SecDef Esper: The Military's Next Big Fight May Start in Space**

Military.com | Posted September 18, 2019 | by Richard Sisk

The U.S. military needs to move quickly to stand up U.S. Space Force as a separate military branch, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Wednesday. "My personal view is that the first shots of the future likely will be either in the cyber domain or the space domain," he said in an address to the Air Force Association's 2019 Air Space & Cyber Conference here. "The next big fight might very well start in space."

Three weeks ago, President Donald Trump and the Pentagon formally set up U.S. Space Command under Air Force Gen. John Raymond as the newest combatant command to "ensure that our space capabilities are integrated," Esper said.

But that’s not enough to meet the emerging threats in space from China and Russia, he said. "We must take the leap ahead and create an independent Space Force as our newest armed service," Esper said to applause from an audience of airmen….

**Space Force price tag clouds decision to formally launch, despite White House push**

Defense News | Posted September 19, 2019 | by Joe Gould

A key legal change the Trump administration is seeking would enshrine a U.S. Space Force as a separate branch of the military next year — but it could cost billions more upfront than what the Senate had planned.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., an ally of the president, indicated Tuesday he was leaning toward the move after Vice President Mike Pence personally lobbied him to include the new force under Title 10, the section of United States code that organizes the U.S. military.
“The president is very strong on wanting to have it and wanting to do it immediately and wanting to do it, obviously, before the election — and we’re going to try and get that done,” Inhofe said about legislation to create a new Space Force.

**Documents reveal how the Space Force would launch in 90 days**

Defense News | Posted September 16, 2019 | by Valerie Insinna

What will the U.S. Space Force uniform look like? Will it have an official song? And what military personnel and organizations will transition into the new service? Those questions will be answered by a small staff of about 200 people — and yes, the Army and Navy will have a seat at the table.

According to Air Force planning documents obtained by Defense News, an “initial Space Force staff” will be ready to stand up within 90 days of the new branch’s formal establishment by law. The group will take over all planning work currently done by the Air Force, and it will hash out the finer details of the branch’s structure.

While the vast majority of the staff — about 151 people — will come from the Air Force, the other services will also transfer personnel: 24 from the Army, 14 from the Navy and Marine Corps, and nine from the Joint Staff, the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the intelligence community, the documents said.

**NAS Whiting Field**

**Changes in Whiting Field helicopter training get green light**

Panama City News Herald | Posted September 19, 2019 | by Jim Thompson

No environmental impact statement will be required as the U.S. Navy moves to modernize its helicopter and tilt-rotor aircraft training at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, according to a Thursday news release from Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va.

The Navy recently completed an environmental assessment evaluating the potential environmental effects from the planned replacement of the current fleet of TH-57 Sea Ranger training helicopters with the Advanced Helicopter Training System at NAS Whiting Field. The Navy plans to bring 130 new helicopters to Whiting Field, the initial training stop for all Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard helicopter pilots.
The exact new helicopter coming to Whiting Field is not known. Bell Helicopters, Airbus and Leonardo Helicopters met an April 2 deadline for submitting bids for replacement helicopters. The Navy could award a contract for the 130 helicopters by late this year, and could begin taking delivery a few months later, replacing NAS Whiting Field’s entire Sea Ranger fleet by 2023.

**Corry Station**

**New, top-secret classrooms at Corry Station help Navy meet growing cyber threats**

Pensacola News Journal | Posted September 17, 2019 | by Melissa Nelson Gabriel

Military members trained in a new top-secret complex at Corry Station will be critical in combating crises like the one currently playing out in Saudi Arabia, Navy leaders said Monday.

Hundreds of cybersecurity and information warfare specialists from all branches of the military will learn inside the 37,000-square-foot temporary building at Naval Air Station Pensacola's Corry Station. The space is a temporary solution to solve the base's overcrowding issues until a 90,000-square-foot permanent classroom building is built.

Corry Station needed the extra training space as soon as possible because of the high demand for military members with cyber warfare skills, said Mic O'Connell, training support director for the base. Corry Station is expected to increase the average number of students on base each day from 1,900 today to 3,000 in 2021.

**Eglin AFB**

**State considers land purchases to expand Nokuse Plantation**

The Destin Log | Posted September 19, 2019 | by Tom McLaughlin

The state of Florida is considering two land purchases that would “fill in gaps” within Walton County’s Nokuse Plantation conservation area and further the dream of its founder, M.C.
Davis, to establish a long leaf pine forest extending “as far as the eye can see.” Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet will consider proposals at their Tuesday meeting to purchase conservation easements in Walton and Putnam counties.

In Walton County, two deals are being considered that would add just under 2,600 acres to what is known as the Seven Runs Creek Final Phase Florida Forever project. The total price for the state to obtain the two parcels is approximately $2.7 million, according to the Cabinet agenda. The first easement, of 2,436 acres, would be turned over to Nokuse Education Inc. and the second, of 2,133 acres, would be managed by the Stella Davis 2015 Plantation Trust. Stella Davis was the wife of M.C. Davis.

An important feature of the conservation easements is their service in tying the Nokuse Plantation to the Eglin Air Force Base reservation and Blackwater River State Park to the west and Choctawhatchee Wildlife Management Area to the east to create a contiguous forest area, Aresco said. Likewise, the conservation easements “will enhance the Eglin AFB mission by providing undeveloped buffer land under Special Use Airspace for level aircraft training,” he said.

**Patrick AFB**

**South Patrick Shores approved for federal cleanup program**

Florida Today | Posted September 13, 2019 | by Jim Waymer

In a landmark milestone decades in the making, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has decided to include an old 32-acre military dump site in South Patrick Shores in the agency's main environmental cleanup program, paving the way for federal funding to remove military waste buried just south of the base.

The decision comes after years of public fears that buried chemicals and other military waste just beyond Patrick Air Force Base's borders have been contributing to local outbreaks of cancers, ALS and other deadly diseases.

"This has been a struggle for this community for so long, and now there is finally some resolution for getting this all cleaned up," said Sandra Sullivan, a local environmental activist who has been pushing the Corps to include the area in its main cleanup program.

**DoD Budget**
House Passes Stopgap Government Spending Measure; Senate to Vote Next Week

The Democrat-led House passed a stopgap continuing resolution (CR) Thursday afternoon that would continue government funding until Nov. 21 and avoid a looming partial government shutdown on Oct. 1, CQ reported.

The measure passed 301-123 with just three Democrats voting against and 76 Republicans supporting the measure, according to the report. A Senate vote on the measure is expected next week.

Current FY 2019 funding expires Sept. 30, and if the measure passes the Senate next week along with White House approval, it would postpone final decisions on fiscal 2020 spending to just prior to the Thanksgiving congressional break.

Fiscal 2020 NDAA Conference Committee Begins Reconciliation Negotiations

Conference committee lawmakers met Thursday for the first time to officially begin reconciliation negotiations on the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), The Hill reported.

The meeting brought together dozens of conferees, the lawmakers appointed by congressional leadership to hash out the differences between the House and Senate-passed defense bills.

The leaders of the Armed Services committees would not indicate where they will land on several thorny debates looming over them, according to the report.

House rejects GOP motion on replacing Pentagon funding used on border wall

The Hill | Posted September 17, 2019 | by Rebecca Kheel
https://thehill.com/policy/defense/461853-house-rejects-republican-motion-on-replacing-pentagon-funding-used-on-
The House on Tuesday rejected a Republican motion on replacing military construction funding President Trump is dipping into for his border wall as the chamber moved to officially start negotiations with the Senate on the annual defense policy bill.

The House voted 198-219, largely along party lines, against a Republican “motion to instruct” negotiators to support backfilling $3.6 billion in military construction funds. The vote followed the House agreeing by unanimous consent to start negotiations with the Senate on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The minority party typically offers motions to instruct in an attempt to message….

**Defense Industry**

**Two companies secure defense contracts worth $26M+ with local work**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted September 18, 2019 | by Alexander Soderstrom


An aerospace giant and a small business both have won multimillion-dollar defense contracts in Central Florida.

Northrop Grumman’s Military Aircraft Systems division in Melbourne won a $16.2 million modification to an existing Naval Air Systems contract, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. About 75% of the work will be performed in Melbourne. The contract calls for the installation of informational and radio systems for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft. The work will be done on behalf of the government of Japan and is expected to be completed in December 2021.

Meanwhile, Winter Park-based ZelTech Training Solutions LLC — a related entity of Hampton, Virginia-based ZelTech Technologies LLC — won a $10 million contract to provide the U.S. Army with three pyrotechnic cartridge launchers, along with a variety of training equipment and support. ZelTech, which has its corporate headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, provides informational, technological and training support for the U.S. military….

**The Air Force wants satellites that grow fast, die young**

Defense News | Posted September 19, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta
As the U.S. Air Force considers moving to a Century Series-style process for building its next fighter jet, with new designs constantly being produced, the service’s Space and Missile Systems Center has a process already underway for building satellites.

Lt. Gen. John Thompson, the commander at SMC, said his goal is to get satellites from conception to orbit in three to four years, as opposed to what he sees as a more standard six-year timeframe. And to get to that point, he said, those new systems need to be designed to have shorter lifespans.

“Our goal going into the future is to get more on a three to four-year cycle for our satellites, not just in production, but also in terms of their amount of usable time on orbit,” Thompson said during the Air Force Association’s annual conference Wednesday.

Other Items of Interest

Pentagon PFAS Task Force Reveals Plan for Contamination Site Cleanup

The Pentagon’s PFAS contamination task force ordered in July by Defense Secretary Mark Esper released operating principles Tuesday stipulating the panel will meet at least monthly, report progress to Esper, and face a January deadline to submit their final findings and recommendations, according to a Military Times report.

The task force is assigned to address the cancer-linked chemicals found in military base water and is meant to “ensure a coordinated, aggressive and holistic approach on DOD-wide efforts to proactively address PFAS,” according to the document.

The task force’s mission, according to Military Times, includes five main goals:

- The health implications of PFAS exposure, and education for military health care workers.
- Standards for clean-up and the performance thereof.
The search for a substitute for the PFAS-packed firefighting foam used in aircraft and vehicle incidents.

- Collaborating with other related agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, which so far has set the federal standards for identifying contamination and handling it.
- Keeping Congress and the public updated on the task force’s efforts.

**List of Bases Contaminated with PFAS Chemicals Expected to Grow, Pentagon Says**

Military.com | Posted September 13, 2019 | by Patricia Kime


The number of active and former U.S. military installations found to be contaminated with chemical compounds found in firefighting foam is expected to rise as a Defense Department task force investigates the scope of the problem, the group's chairman said Thursday.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment Bob McMahon told reporters during a media roundtable that he "expects to see growth [in the number of bases contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS] as we begin to get a better understanding and better characterization of where we are."

"This is going to only improve over time. ... I will tell you up front, we know there's probably holes in the data," he said.

**SecDef enlists governors’ help on military spouse employment issue**

Military Times | Posted September 20, 2019 | by Karen Jowers


Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has asked for Council of Governors’ help in easing the burden of thousands of military spouses when they’re trying to transfer occupational licenses from state to state.

The Council’s agenda supports the National Defense Strategy’s three lines of effort, Esper noted: building a more lethal force, strengthening our alliances and partnerships, and
reforming the department for greater performance and affordability. And he’d like the governors to expand their support in other ways, he wrote in a Sept. 18 letter.

“I have added a fourth line of effort as a personal challenge - taking care of service members and their families,” Esper wrote. He asked for assistance in supporting them as much as possible, especially on issues that are the primary responsibility of states, such as license portability for military spouses….

**Trump Names Robert O’Brien His 4th National Security Advisor**

Defense One | Posted September 18, 2019 | by Katie Bo Williams  

President Trump has named Robert O’Brien, the current top U.S. hostage negotiator, to be his fourth national security advisor.

“I am pleased to announce that I will name Robert C. O’Brien, currently serving as the very successful Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs at the State Department, as our new National Security Advisor,” Trump wrote in a tweet Wednesday morning. “I have worked long & hard with Robert. He will do a great job!”

Trump fired John Bolton, his previous national security advisor, in a tweet last week, following months of reports that he had fallen out with his more hawkish advisor. His first national security advisor, Michael Flynn, resigned over revelations that he had misled the vice president about his communications with the Russian ambassador….

**U.S. Air Force Celebrates 72 Years of Armed Forces Service to the Nation**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 17, 2019 | by ADC author  

The U.S. Air Force celebrates 72 years in service on Wed., Sept. 18, closing in on nearly three-quarters of a century in defense of the nation and its founding ideals.

The origins of the Air Force began when President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947 on July 26, officially establishing the Air Force, and on Sept. 18, 1947, appointed the first Air Force Secretary W. Stuart Symington to cement the creation of the new service, according to a Robins Air Force, Ga., feature article.
The Act proclaimed the purpose of organizing the U.S. Armed Forces was “To provide a comprehensive program for the future security of the United States; to provide three military departments: the Army, the Navy and the Air Force; to provide for their coordination and unified direction under civilian control and to provide for the effective strategic direction and operation of the Armed Forces under unified control.”
1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be via conference call / WebEx on October 17, 2019.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   888-585-9008  Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Brigadier General Diehl reappointed to Task Force** – This week the Speaker of the House reappointed Brigadier General Chip Diehl to the Florida Defense Support Task Force (see attached file). Please welcome Gen. Diehl back for another four-year term.

4. **Permission Given to Distribute and Present the Gulf Range Protection Briefing** – The Task Force just received permission to move forward with our education and awareness campaign on the importance to National Security of the Gulf of Mexico Test and Training Range. The staff is now working on the next steps for distributing and presenting this information. You can find the approved version of the briefing at the link below.


5. **SECDEF Letter to Governors** – On September 18th Secretary of Defense Esper sent a letter to the Council of Governors emphasizing the importance of improving license reciprocity for spouses of military personnel (see attached file). As we’ve been reporting through both FDSTF and FDA channels, spousal employment opportunities (along with the quality of local education systems for children of military families) has become a major factor in military personnel retention. Florida leads the nation in license reciprocity for military spouses and this week the Task Force staff drafted a letter for Governor DeSantis’s signature responding to the SECDEF, describing Florida’s efforts, and offering our assistance to any state that requests it. That letter is currently moving through the Governor’s staff. Once signed and forwarded to the SECDEF I’ll provide a copy here.

6. **2020 Legislative Update** – Senator Lee and Representative Ponder recently filed complementary bills designed to offer educational credit for military service. Representative Ponder filed HB 0171 on September 16th and Senator Lee filed SB 0372 on September 25th. Both bills are titled “Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel” and require “…the Board of Governors and State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, to create a uniform process for the awarding of postsecondary credit to certain servicemembers and veterans of the United States Armed Forces; requiring certain postsecondary institutions to award credit for specified courses taken and occupations held by individuals during military service beginning on a specified
date; requiring postsecondary institutions to waive the transcript fee for active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, certain veterans, and their spouses and dependents, etc.” The links to the two bills are below. There has been no change in status of the other, military-related bills previously introduced and reported last week.

http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/372

7. Florida’s Programs to Mitigate Encroachment to Military Installations – The staff recently completed the 2019 revision of the Encroachment Mitigation Plan and posted it on the FDA and Task Force web sites. It provides a summary of the many ways Florida protects its military installations from incompatible development. It can be found at:


8. Military Base Protection/Non-Conservation Lands – In accordance with Florida Statute 288.980, DEO recently sent letters to all the Base Commanders in the state asking them to identify encroachment threats from non-conservation lands so that the state can consider acquiring them. With recent changes to the statute, both SOUTHCOM and NSA Orlando are included in the list of bases and DEO has also for the first time contacted the US Coast Guard installations in this survey. Base Commanders have until September 30th to provide this information to Sherry Spiers at DEO. Currently, there is no funding provided from the Legislature to acquire these lands.

9. Strategic Plan Review – I received a lot of inputs on the review of the Strategic Plan prior to, during and since the September meeting and Bruce and I have incorporated all of those into a Final Draft. I sent that Final Draft out to Task Force members yesterday for one final check to verify that the staff is accurately capturing your concerns. We expect to publish the updated plan in about one week.

10. Florida Defense Factbook – The study on the economic impact the defense sector makes to Florida’s economy is well underway and on track to be published this Fall. While the final numbers are not yet in, the preliminary news is good as it is clear that the defense sector’s contribution to Florida’s economy is even greater than it was two years ago when the last study was conducted.

11. U.S. Air Force Improving Disaster Response Process – Incorporating lessons learned from the Air Force response to Hurricane Michael, the USAF announced that it is creating stand-by Task Forces ready to respond from Washington D.C. to go to bases struck by major disasters. These Task Forces will have experts designated in advance and on stand-by for weeks or months at a time ready to deploy when a disaster strikes a base. The intent of this
program is so that the next time a hurricane hits a Florida Air Force base help should be coming quicker and with better focus than before. See below in the News Clips for details.

12. Military Family Issues Front and Center – There have recently been a series of announcements and briefings by the Department of Defense and the various military services about several quality of life issues facing military personnel, their families and veterans. In the News Clips of Interest, I posted three articles relating to a major study the military has done on suicide rates among the active duty force, the National Guard and active duty family members. There’s another new study (also in the News Clips of Interest) on the street confirming that employers often believe military veterans are deficient in interpersonal skills. The emphasis the military places on developing personal leadership skills is evidence that this belief is in error, nevertheless, the misperception is there, and we must work in our communities to correct this.

13. Attachments:
   ■ Brigadier General Diehl Appointment Letter to FDSTF
   ■ SECDEF Letter to Council of Governors

News Clips of Interest:

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

Bunch Says Bigger Testing, Training Spaces Needed for Hypersonic Weapons

Air Force Magazine | Posted September 24, 2019 | by John A. Tirpak

As the Air Force closes in on flight tests of its hypersonic Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon and the Hypersonic Conventional Strike Weapon, the service has to figure out ways to expand its traditional test and training ranges to accommodate the missiles’ high speeds, Air Force Materiel Command chief Gen. Arnold Bunch said in a recent interview.
“As we look at testing advanced systems, on the ranges we have, I can’t get the standoff [needed] in some cases,” Bunch told Air Force Magazine at AFA’s 2019 Air, Space & Cyber Conference. “The systems are so much more advanced now, and we’re moving at such speeds that it really shrinks the time you’ve got to get what you need to get done.”

Hypersonic systems can move at Mach 5 or faster, meaning a ground speed of nearly 4,000 mph. At such speeds, even the largest contiguous training ranges in the US could be crossed in a matter of minutes.

**NAS Whiting Field**

**Leonardo to open support center near Whiting Field if selected for Navy’s Advanced Helicopter Training System**

Vertical Magazine | Posted September 25, 2019 | by Leonardo Press Release

Leonardo announced on Sept. 25 that the company will build a comprehensive customer support center adjacent to Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field in northwest Florida’s Santa Rosa County if selected for the U.S. Navy’s Advanced Helicopter Training System TH-73. Leonardo is offering the Navy its purpose-built, American-made TH-119 IFR single engine helicopter to replace the Navy’s aging fleet of TH-57 training helicopters. The Navy is expected to make its selection for the 130-helicopter tender by the end of 2019.

Leonardo’s planned support center will create at least 40-50 jobs adding to northwest Florida’s robust aviation industry. Expanding customer support to enhance quality and proximity is a key part of Leonardo’s Industrial Plan.

“Leonardo continuously makes investments that bring the company closer to its customers.”

**Tyndall AFB**

**Tyndall AFB welcomes new 601st AOC commander**

mypanhandle.com | Posted September 26, 2019 | by Taylor Rambo

With an exchange of the flag, the 601st Air Operations Center has a new commander.
Colonel Gregory A. Krane is taking command from Colonel Michael Valle, who is relocating to Saint Augustine.

This change of command had a special meaning, as the two commanders have known each other for over 22 years in the Air Force.

NS Mayport

Coast Guard crew from Jacksonville intercepts narco sub carrying $165 million in cocaine

FOX 13 News | Posted September 24, 2019 | by FOX 13 News staff

A Coast Guard crew, based out of Jacksonville, announced they made a big drug bust.

Earlier this month, the Cutter Valiant was patrolling the eastern Pacific Ocean when it came across a 40-foot submarine. With the help of the Colombian Navy, officials got onboard. Inside, they found about 12,000 pounds of cocaine, which is worth more than $165 million.

The drug-laden, 40-foot self-propelled semi-submersible was originally detected by maritime police aircraft, who continued to monitor it. The crew launched two small boats and the teams, which included members of the Coast Guard. They interdicted the submarine early Tuesday morning.

Patrick AFB

SOUTH PATRICK SHORES GETS SUPERFUND DESIGNATION NEARLY 30 YEARS LATER

WMFE | Posted September 24, 2019 | by Abe Aboraya
https://www.wmfe.org/south-patrick-shores-gets-superfund-designation-nearly-30-years-later/136693

A 32-acre stretch of South Patrick Shores in Brevard County could now be eligible for federal Superfund money to clean up contamination from nearby Patrick Air Force base.
Designating South Patrick Shores as a Formerly Used Defense Sites has been a nearly 30-year fight for locals who have long tied a myriad of health problems with the area. The area is now residential housing, but used to be housing for Airmen on base.

Congressman Bill Posey lobbied the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency for the designation.

**Team Orlando**

**Navy’s research pact could boost collaboration with Orlando tech industry**

Orlando Sentinel | Posted September 23, 2019 | by Marco Santana


Central Florida’s profile within the U.S. Navy’s research efforts will soon start to grow.

The Navy announced early this month that its offices at the Central Florida Research Park will become one of five regional hubs in the U.S. for NavalX, which allows the military branch to more easily coordinate with private companies on projects to support its sailors.

NavalX’s Tech Bridge program also connects the Navy with academic leaders in these regions, which also include bases in Crane, Ind., San Diego, Keyport, Wash., and Newport, R.I.

“If a local company is doing something that we know about that has applications on the other coast, we might be able to connect them,” said Capt. Tim Hill, commanding officer of the U.S. Navy’s Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division in Orlando. “At the same time, there might be capabilities in other parts of the country that we don’t have here…..”

**US Southern Command**

**Ensuring Friendship, Cooperation and a Shared Doctrine: U.S Southern Command Checks in With Central, South American Partners**

Sea Power Magazine | Posted September 26, 2019 | by Daisy R. Khalifa, Special Correspondent
A delegation from U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) embarked on a three-nation, 10-day tour in South America at the end of August, traveling along Brazil’s coast for multi-nation military exercises, then cutting across the continent to observe military training in Paraguay followed by a diplomatic mission to Lima, Peru.

On its second multination trip this year to South America, the Miami-based SOUTHCOM staff, headed by its commander of 11 months, Adm. Craig Faller, has under Faller’s concerted guidance virtually landed running since his swearing-in in last November, overseeing a tireless travel itinerary to visit every nation and dependency in the central and southern reaches of the Western hemisphere while seeing to the implementation of programs, attending events and monitoring the well-being of the command’s extended embassy and military staffs.

Even as Faller and his team are focused on commitments set forth in its May 2019 strategic plan, “Enduring Promise for the Americas,” SOUTHCOM’s achievements to date include a remarkable checklist of already-cemented programs, including medical and rescue operations, military training and civic and community development….

**DoD Budget**

**Senate Joins House in Passing Bill to Prevent Shutdown**

FedWeek | Posted September 25, 2019

The Senate has joined the House in voting to extend spending authority for federal agencies through November 21, heading off the threat of a partial government shutdown with the expiration of the current fiscal year on Monday (September 30).

After President Trump’s expected signature, the measure will buy more time for Congress to act on appropriations bills for the new fiscal year—bills that still must be enacted, individually or as one or more packages, even though an earlier measure increased overall spending levels for both fiscal years 2020 and 2021. The House has passed 10 of the 12 regular bills and the Senate Appropriations Committee has started moving counterparts, although none have reached floor voting.
The “continuing resolution” (H.Res. 564) would generally continue current funding levels and also would temporarily reauthorize some programs that had also been set to lapse September 30.

**House-Senate Conference Committee Unlikely to Reconcile FY 2020 NDAA Before Mid-October**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 24, 2019 | by ADC author

Lawmakers are not likely to finalize a conference report for the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) this week, CQ reported Tuesday.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman James Inhofe (R-Okla.) acknowledged the delay to the mandatory defense policy legislation, meaning the earliest lawmakers will finalize the bill would be mid-October, according to the report.

“It was my intention to do it this week,” Inhofe said. “But as slow as things are going, I don’t think that’s going to happen….”

**Pentagon Prepared to Manage Impacts of a Shorter-Term Continuing Resolution**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 22, 2019 | by ADC author

The stopgap continuing resolution (CR) expected to be approved by Congress before the fiscal year ends Sept. 30 will affect some defense contract awards, but DOD will be able to manage the impacts as long as full-year appropriations bills are passed in the coming weeks, National Defense Magazine reported.

“There are programs that will be affected and some of those include our ability to move forward with contracts that should be issued and … some of the modernization efforts we’re putting forward,” said Jonathon Huffman, assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, during a Pentagon briefing late last week.

In August Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, a two-year fiscal deal that increased defense spending caps for FY 2020 and FY 2021 and set toplines of $738 billion and $740.5 billion.
However, Congress has yet to pass a defense appropriations bill or other major appropriations bills for fiscal year 2020, which begins Oct. 1. The House and the Senate in the coming days are expected to vote on a continuing resolution, or CR, to avoid a government shutdown. The CR would run through Nov. 21, by which point Congress would need to pass another funding measure to keep the government open.

**Defense Industry**

**US Navy’s Drone Tanker Prototype Takes First Flight**

Defense One | Posted September 20, 2019 | by Marcus Weisgerber


A prototype aerial tanker — an unmanned one – took flight for the first time on Thursday, a key step toward an autonomous aircraft that can refuel fighter jets flying from aircraft carriers.

Boeing’s MQ-25 Stingray is slated to take its first flight at sea no earlier than 2022, and is scheduled to begin operations in 2024 — faster, if the U.S. Navy can find a way.

“We keep looking for opportunities to accelerate,” Capt. Chad Reed, the Navy’s unmanned carrier aviation program manager, said on a Friday conference call with reporters.

**U.S. Navy modifies Raytheon contract in Largo by $52.9 million**

Tampa Bay Business Journal | Posted September 25, 2019 | by Crystal Owens


Raytheon Co., one of the Tampa Bay area’s largest defense contractors, is being awarded by the U.S. Navy a $52.9 million cost-plus-fixed-fee and cost-plus-incentive-fee modification to a previously awarded contract.

The modification is for a $15.3 million contract that will be performed in Largo; it was awarded to Raytheon in May.

The Cooperative Engagement Capability program provides a sensor network with integrated fire control capability that improves strike force air and missile defense capabilities by coordinating data from search sensors on units into a single, real-time picture.
‘But who’s in charge’ is the question for feds in cybersecurity

In an event that brought two Cabinet secretaries and around 50 top federal and state officials together for three days of discussion on cybersecurity and critical infrastructure, one question remained: Who has the lead on information security issues in the United States?

It was an issue pondered aloud by Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wisc., the chairman of the Senate’s Homeland Security committee. Johnson said Sept. 19 he had recently sat through a classified 5G briefing with cabinet officials and had a similar inquiry then.

“The No. 1 question I [had] is ‘who’s in charge? Who is actually doing the problem definition when it comes to our challenge with 5G?,”’ Johnson said at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s second annual national cybersecurity summit at National Harbor. “And nobody would really answer the question....”

Other Items of Interest

Hyten confirmed as new Joint Chiefs vice chairman despite sexual assault accusations

Air Force Gen. John Hyten was confirmed as the next vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs on Thursday, capping months of controversy surrounding his promotion to the second-highest military post.

Hyten, the current head of U.S. Strategic Command and a 38-year officer who has served in numerous military leadership roles, was originally nominated by the White House for the post in April.
But allegations of sexual assault from a former aide delayed a final vote on his promotion for months, and drew final opposition from several senators on Thursday. The final 75-22 vote included opposition from nine women Democratic senators, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, the only Republican to oppose him....

**McCarthy officially becomes Army secretary**

Defense News | Posted September 26, 2019 | by Jen Judson

A man who has served not once, but twice, as the acting secretary of the Army, is now officially confirmed for the highest civilian post in the service.

Ryan McCarthy previously served as the under secretary of the Army, but became the acting secretary when Mark Esper was nominated to become the defense secretary this summer. McCarthy had also served as acting secretary until Esper was confirmed in late 2017.

As under secretary, he helped to spearhead disruptive reform across the service along with then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Secretary Mark Esper and Vice Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville....

**Pentagon official in charge of F-35 operating costs and privatized military housing resigns**

Task & Purpose | Posted September 26, 2019 | by Jeff Schogo

As the Pentagon waits for Congress to confirm the new Army and Air Force secretaries and the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, another defense official is leaving the building.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment Robert McMahon, whose purview includes operating costs for the uber-expensive F-35 and addressing problems in privatized military housing, has submitted his resignation effective as of Nov. 22, said Defense Department spokeswoman Heather Babb.

"Mr. McMahon appreciates the opportunity to have served the department both as a civilian and in uniform," Babb told Task & Purpose....
**AFIMSC Refines Disaster Response Plans for Future Storms**

Air Force Magazine | Posted September 27, 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen


The Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, a key part of the service's disaster response effort following hurricanes and other crises, is making tweaks to help USAF bases move forward faster.

Created in 2015, the center's job includes connecting those affected by crises to others within the service that can address everything from family assistance to immediate cleanup to long-term construction. It launched the Tyndall AFB, Fla., Program Management Office in the aftermath of last year's Hurricane Michael to oversee the rebuild effort and has grown closer to the major organizations that make up the Air Force since its inception.

“When [Hurricane] Dorian came this time, we have a crisis action team that stands up at IMSC, and we have [detachment] commanders … in each of the 10 [major commands],” AFIMSC Commander Maj. Gen. Tom Wilcox told Air Force Magazine on Sept. 17. “Those Det. commanders are now part of those MAJCOM crisis action teams, and they sit in there 100 percent to have that interface and be able to bring everything back….”

**Two House Democrats hoping to add chemical contaminant reform in annual defense bill**

Stars and Stripes | Posted September 24, 2019 | by Neil Fotre


Two House lawmakers on Tuesday called for reform on toxic fluorinated chemicals to help prevent further contamination at military bases throughout the country.

“This is a national health crisis,” Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., said during a news conference with Rep. Dan Kildee, D-Mich., to announce their plan to combat the chemicals, commonly known as PFAS. “Today nearly all Americans, including newborn babies, have PFAS in their blood, and up to 110 million people may be drinking PFAS-tainted water.”

More than 100 Army installations were discovered to have drinking water contaminated with PFAS, according to a recent report from the Army conducted by the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit organization. The highest levels were found in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., National Guard’s Joint Training Base in Los Alamitos, Calif., and Belmont Armory, Mich….
Perspectives: DOD Pressing Communities and School Districts Near Installations to Provide Quality Education

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 22, 2019 | by ADC author

Communities across the nation hosting military installations should take heed that their long-term economic well-being due to the local infusion of DOD funds could be at risk if your public schools are faltering, a new Dallas Morning News column warns.

Military members with school-age children are increasingly concerned with school quality around military installations, and poor quality is a major factor in their decision to continue serving. Military leaders are listening and taking action, and that could have serious implications for the economic health of local communities, according to the column.

Each year billions in DOD funds reach state economies through the operation of military installations and defense weapons contracts, and the Office of Economic Adjustment’s (OEA) most recent study on state-by-state DOD spending revealed that in just one year $407 billion reached all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The annual infusion of DOD funds among the top states is significant, according to the report. Top recipients include: California, $49.0 billion; Virginia, $46.2 billion; Texas, $37.7 billion; Maryland, $21.1 billion; Florida, $19.2 billion; Washington, $15.2 billion; Connecticut, $15 billion; Georgia, $13.2 billion; Pennsylvania, $12.1 billion; Alabama, $10.9 billion….

Do veterans lack social-emotional skills? A major study finds that many civilian employers believe they do.

Military Times | Posted September 26, 2019 | by Diana Stancy Correll

Just based off their resumes and cover letters, veterans’ military service is working against them when they apply for jobs in certain fields, a new study says.

The study — conducted by Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business and released Sept. 24 — found employers believe veterans are less suited for jobs that involve social-emotional skills and interacting with people than their non-veteran counterparts.
Veteran service organizations like American Legion, however, take issue with the study, saying it promotes the stereotype of veterans as brooding malcontents.

**Active duty suicides are on the rise, as the Pentagon works on new messaging and strategy**

Military Times | Posted September 26, 2019 | by Meghann Myers

The rate of active duty service members who take their own lives has been rising an average of 6 percent year-over-year the past five years, the Pentagon announced Thursday.

The number of suicides jumped from 285 to 325 between 2017 and 2018, according to the 2018 Annual Suicide Report, for a rate of about 22 suicides per 100,000 service members to about 25. Officials did not draw any conclusions about why the numbers continue to rise despite efforts to train commands and troops on preventing suicide and seeking behavioral health care.

“Although the suicide rate among most of our military populations is comparable to broader civilian rates, this is hardly comforting, and our numbers are not moving in the right direction,” Elizabeth Van Winkle, the Defense Department’s executive director of force resiliency, told reporters in an off-camera briefing.

**The National Guard’s suicide rate has surpassed the other military components**

Military Times | Posted September 26, 2019 | by Meghann Myers

The National Guard’s suicide rate has climbed higher than the active duty and Reserve’s, according to an annual Pentagon study released Thursday. In response, officials are looking for new ways to help troops feel comfortable coming forward about their issues and getting help they need.

The most recent figure is about 30.6 deaths per 100,000 service members, according to the Defense Department Annual Suicide Report for calendar year 2018, well above the Reserve’s 22.9 per 100,000 and the active component’s 24.8.
While all three components are staring down growing suicide rates, the National Guard faces a unique problem, officials told Military Times, because they don’t have the day-to-day interaction that active troops have with their leadership, and members are often in-between military and civilian health care, so it’s not always clear which providers they should seek out if they’re having trouble.

**Here’s what first-ever data shows about military family suicides**

Military Times | Posted September 26, 2019 | by Karen Jowers

The prevalence of suicide among military family members is about the same or less than in the civilian population, according to a report from the Defense Department.

It’s the first time data on military family member suicides has ever been released by the Defense Department. This report includes one year of data: 2017, so there’s no basis of comparison for trends within the community.

Data from 2017 is also the most recent available, because the information is partly dependent on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
FDSTF Update – October 4

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be via conference call on October 17th.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   **888-585-9008**  **Conference Room: 262-492-927**

3. **WebEx** –

   **Meeting number (access code): 739 490 779 | Meeting password: Oct@17**

4. **Letter Supporting Avon Park AFR** – This week Chairman Broxson signed the Task Force letter to the Polk County Commission supporting Avon Park AFR’s efforts to resist encroachment and the staff sent the letter to county officials. I am attaching a copy of that letter to this update.

5. **Legislative Committee Week Upcoming Schedule** – The Florida Senate and House of Representatives will soon be back in Tallahassee to resume committee meetings and the FDSTF staff will be speaking to the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space on Wednesday, October 16th. The remaining legislative committee weeks this year are:
   - Monday, October 14 – Friday, October 18, 2019
   - Monday, October 21 – Friday, October 25, 2019
   - Monday, November 4 – Friday, November 8, 2019
   - Tuesday, November 12 – Friday, November 15, 2019
   - Monday, December 9 – Friday, December 13, 2019

6. **List of Top 100 Most Heavily Contaminated PFAS Sites at DOD Bases** – The Environmental Working Group released the list of the 100 military bases most heavily contaminated by PFAS/PFOA. Of that group, nine are in Florida with Patrick AFB coming in as the third most contaminated base in the country followed by NAS Jacksonville at fifth and Tyndall AFB at 14th. See the full article and the link to the complete list below in the News Clips of Interest.

7. **More Defense Related Business Coming to Florida** – This week the Department of Defense awarded three contracts to Northrup Grumman and Lockheed Martin for work on various aircraft and missile systems. Much of the work will be done in Florida. See below in the News Clips of Interest for details.

8. **Center of Decision-Making Power for DOD in Washington Shifting** – According to an article that appeared in U.S. News & World Report, the center of influence for decision making in Washington related to military matters has been gradually shifting toward
uniformed military leaders with civilian leaders holding less sway over the final decision than in the past. See below in the News Clips of Interest for the full analysis.

9. Attachments:
   - Letter to Polk County Commission re. encroachment on Avon Park AFR

News Clips of Interest:

**BRAC**

**Intended Consequences: The Story Behind the Space Coast’s New Headquarters | Lockheed Martin**

Space Coast Business | Posted October 3, 2019

The real story behind the new headquarters, that are being located on the Space Coast like Lockheed Martin ’s Fleet Ballistics Missile headquarters’, is one that began quite a while ago. Like the awe of seeing a huge wave break on the beach, we usually do not realize that wave may have traveled hundreds, if not thousands, of miles to make that dramatic splash. This story actually began during a sixty-one-day period in 2005.

In that fateful year, Florida was facing the possibility of losing up to five military installations, and Brevard County was especially vulnerable. Three years earlier, United States Secretary of Defense, Donald H. Rumsfeld, announced that 20-25% of all U.S. Military Bases would be closed in an effort to increase the efficiency of our military.

Known as BRAC, or a Base Realignment and Closure, this process had only been conducted four times throughout the United States’ history. However, this round was to equal the total of all the last four BRAC rounds combined....
Space Force / Space Command

Combined Force Space Component Command

US Air Force | Posted August 30, 2019
https://www.vandenberg.af.mil/About-Us/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/1946935/combined-force-space-component-command/

As directed by the Commander of U.S. Space Command (USSPACECOM), two subordinate commands were established to support the warfighting efforts of the command - the Joint Task Force Space Defense (JTF-SD), and the Combined Force Space Component Command (CFSCC).

The CFSCC is commanded by Maj. Gen. Stephen Whiting with a mission to plan, integrate, conduct, and assess global space operations in order to deliver combat relevant space capabilities to Combatant Commanders, Coalition partners, the Joint Force, and the Nation. CFSCC plans and executes space operations through four (4) distinct and geographically dispersed operations centers, including: Combined Space Operations Center (CSpOC) at Vandenberg AFB, CA; Missile Warning Center (MWC) at Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, CO; Joint Overhead Persistent Infrared Center (JOPC) at Buckley AFB, CO; and Joint Navigation Warfare Center (JNWC) located at Kirtland AFB, NM. Additionally, CFSCC executes tactical control over a number of Air Force, Army, and Navy space units.

CFSCC is co-located with the 14th Air Force and the Combined Space Operations Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California….

NSA Panama City

NSWC Panama City supports Mine Countermeasure Mission Package demo aboard Vessel of Opportunity

NSWC PCD Public Affairs | Posted October 2, 2019 | by Ashley Conner
As the lead engineering activity for Mine Countermeasure (MCM) Mission Packages (MP), the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division (NSWC PCD) provided equipment, personnel, and expertise to demonstrate the modular capability of the MCM MP aboard the United States Naval Ship Hershel “Woody” Williams (T-ESB 4) earlier this month.

The demo included embarkation of the Mine Countermeasures Unmanned Surface Vehicle (MCM USV) with Unmanned Influence Sweep System, the Knifefish Mock-up Unit (KMU), mass models for the Airborne Laser Mine Detection and Airborne Mine Neutralization Systems, the Mission Package Portable Control System and other supporting equipment and containers.

“In partnership with the Program Executive Office (PEO) Unmanned and Small Combatants, Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Mission Modules Program Office (PMS 420) and PEO Ships, Strategic and Theater Sealift Program Office (PMS 385), we were able to successfully launch and recover both the MCM USV and the KMU while anchored in the Chesapeake Bay,” said Dr. Erin Cotton, NSWC PCD deputy project manager for the MCM MP Test and Evaluation group.

**NS Mayport**

**$49.8M Contract Award to Support Littoral Combat Ship Program**

Navy Recognition | Posted October 3, 2019


As NS Mayport is going to receive 14 LCSs to the base, construction of an improved logistics facility is expected to support personnel and crew assigned to these ships. The facility will support the LCS program, which includes the LCS Operational Trainer Facility (LTF).

The contract provides for the construction of a new four-story building and renovations to an existing building. Together, the two buildings will house the ashore component of administrative functions for deployed and in-port LCSs, as well as a portion of the training component.

The project also includes adjacent road improvements that will connect the logistics facility directly to a new parking garage that is being designed and constructed under a separate contract. The work started Oct.1 and expected to be completed by August 2021.

**NAS Jacksonville**
Change of command NAS Jacksonville sees Capt. Brian Weiss become base commander

Capt. Brian D. Weiss took over as commander of Naval Air Station Jacksonville on Thursday from Capt. Michael P. Connor who is retiring after 26 years in the Navy.

The ceremony featured Rear Adm. Gary Mayes, commander of Navy Region Southeast, as its guest speaker.

Capt. Jeff Hill assumed Weiss’ position as the NAS Jax executive officer. The air station’s personnel includes 15 squadrons and thousands of civilian employees and sailors.…

MacDill AFB

MacDill’s key Air Force unit gets a new name

MacDill Air Force Base’s 6th Air Mobility Wing will be known as an Air Refueling Wing starting Tuesday as the unit celebrates its 100th anniversary.

The wing’s 310 Airlift squadron recently left the base, making it primarily a refueling wing. This marks the latest redesignation in the wing’s 100-year history.

It was originally established as the 3rd Observation Group by the U.S. Army Air Service on Sept. 30, 1919. It’s been active in every major U.S. conflict since World War I and was one of the Air Force’s original combat groups.…

US Special Operations Command

SOCOM ramps up efforts to develop ‘cutting-edge data techniques,’ opens new data engineering lab
U.S. Special Operations Command is ramping up its efforts to develop “cutting-edge data techniques” like artificial intelligence to boost readiness and minimize costs.

As part of that initiative, the command unveiled its new Data Engineering Lab located at the SOFWERX facility in Tampa, Florida, on Wednesday. SOFWERX was established under a partnership intermediary agreement with SOCOM and DEFENSEWERX, formerly known as the Doolittle Institute, to help address war fighter problems for the command.

The lab was designed to cultivate AI, machine learning, and robotic process automation — all to boost the performance and strength of special operations forces, SOCOM spokeswoman Army Maj. Jennifer Bocanegra told the Military Times....

**Patrick AFB**

**Key documents exposed military's role in dump site near Patrick Air Force Base**

Florida Today | Posted September 27, 2019 | by Jim Waymer

As people were getting sick and desperate, the military was adamant: They never owned, leased or used an old dump site just south of Patrick Air Force Base.

Now, 28 years later, the Department of Defense has reversed its long-standing position and admits its forces are responsible for whatever military waste might be buried there. This about-face is because military researchers recently unearthed some 70-odd-year-old documents seemingly out of nowhere.

The letters and memos were buried among 150 boxes in several national archives. Their discovery has proved to be the key in getting Washington to take responsibility and ultimately, depending on what's unearthed, clean up a long-buried — many fear toxic — military mess just south of Patrick Air Force Base.
Corps officials say they failed to find these key documents in the early 1990s when public concern led to federal hearings but were able this time around because of an elite research team in St. Louis with expertise the military lacked during the first investigation.

**US Southern Command**

**Cocaine is piling up in a quiet corner of Central America as drug production rises in Colombia**

Business Insider | Posted September 27, 2019 | by Sukanti Bhave

Despite limited interdiction capabilities, authorities in Belize have made a number of recent drug busts, underscoring that the Central American country is grappling with a surge in cocaine moving north from Colombia.

In early September, police in Belize confiscated 1,210 parcels of cocaine from an aircraft that took off from Venezuela and landed off the Coastal Highway near the village of La Democracia, the Gleaner reported. After a shootout, six people were arrested: four from Honduras, one from Mexico, and one from Ecuador.

This was but one in a string of recent drug busts. In March, police found 23 kilograms of cocaine on a beach at Northern Ambergris Caye, an area known for its drug-related violence, reported News 5. Commissioner of Police Chester Williams said he believed the cocaine was part of a larger shipment.

The country's anti-narcotics capabilities are lacking. Belize has no air defense or surveillance radar systems, making it difficult to track drug flights. Its coast guard has been dependent on the US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), which has provided major assistance by financing 70% of its fleet and training most of its officers.

**DoD Budget**

**Continuing Resolution Signed into Law; Appropriations Staffers to Work Allocations Deal Over Two-Week Recess**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted September 29, 2019 | by ADC author
The stopgap continuing resolution was signed into law Friday, according to a senior administration official, providing Congress fiscal 2019 funding until Nov. 21 to finish annual appropriations bills, CQ reported Friday.

Meanwhile, House and Senate appropriations staff will try to resolve common subcommittee allocations over the two-week congressional, according to CQ.

Once congressional staff reach agreement, it would clear the way to begin “pre-conferencing” the 12 fiscal 2020 spending bills, a process that could begin even if the Senate has not passed any of its appropriations bills, according to the report.


Members of the Florida delegation called on the leaders of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House Armed Services Committees to support the Light Attack program by ensuring any provisions included in the final National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020 to allow the program to reach the next milestone necessary to transition to the battlefield. On September 18, 2019, the Senate voted, 87-7, to conference the Senate and House passed NDAA bills, and appointed conferees.


The text of the letter, which was sent at the end of last week, includes the following:

“As you work to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2020, we ask that you support the Light Attack program by ensuring any provisions included in the final report allow the program to reach the next milestone necessary to transition to the battlefield…”

**Defense Industry**

**Northrop Grumman lands $1.4B defense contract with work in Central Florida**
Northrop Grumman recently secured one of the largest defense contracts awarded in Central Florida this year.

Falls Church, Virginia-based Northrop Grumman Corp. (NYSE: NOC) won a $1.4 billion modification to a U.S. Navy contract, according to the Department of Defense. The contract was awarded to Northrop Grumman’s Melbourne operations to produce and deliver nine E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft to Japan.

Nearly 30% of the work will be performed in St. Augustine, with another 11% in Melbourne. It originally was awarded as a $99 million contract in 2018.

**Northrop Grumman to upgrade U.S. Air Force’s JSTARS surveillance planes**

Defence Blog | Posted September 28, 2019

U.S. weapons maker Northrop Grumman Corp has been awarded a $495 million contract for the modernization and sustainment of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) aircraft, according to a recent Department of Defense news release.

The contract, from Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, provides for modernization and sustainment of 16 mission and one trainer aircraft.

The contract will support the current JSTARS Program Office and Air Combat Command projections of improvements to increase or maintain E-8C performance, capability, reliability, and maintainability. Work will be provided at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia; and Melbourne, Florida, and is expected to be completed by Sept. 26, 2024.

**Lockheed, L3Harris win $500M+ military contracts with work in Central Florida**

More defense work is coming to Florida's Space Coast.
Lockheed Martin snagged a $495 million defense contract for its space division in Titusville, and 23% of the work will be performed in Cape Canaveral. Titusville and Orlando will see a small slice of the contract work as well, with each location getting a respective 4.8% and 1.3% of the work.

The contract is for the production of Trident II missiles. Work is expected to be completed by 2024. The contract is one of Central Florida's largest this year. It follows a number of big contracts awarded locally in recent days, including a $1.4 billion contract awarded to Northrop Grumman Corp. (NYSE: NOC).

**Other Items of Interest**

**Milley Sworn in as 20th Joint Chiefs Chairman at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va.**

Army Gen. Mark Milley was sworn in Monday as the 20th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, becoming DOD’s highest-ranking military officer after outgoing Chairman Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford administered the solemn oath of the office, The Hill reported.

The ceremony, attended by top White House and Pentagon leadership, was held in a rainy ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va.

Milley, who previously served as Army chief of staff, has been described as a blunt-talking intellectual whose political acumen helped him rise to be the No. 1 general in the country, according to the report….

**Thornberry’s Exit Latest GOP Retirement on House Armed Services Committee**

As Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) became the sixth House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Republican to announce retirement at the end of this Congress, it has created openings for younger members but also leaves a significant gap in experience on the panel, according to a Roll Call report.
Thornberry, who served two Armed Services chairman terms before becoming ranking member in the 2018 midterms, has been a consistent Pentagon supporter and a hawk on many defense fronts, including increased military spending.

Thornberry’s retirement announcement is expected to prompt a race for succession with Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) poised to become the most senior GOP member, according to the report. The next most senior prospects are Rep. Michael Turner (R-Ohio) and Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), the report said.

The Joint Chiefs’ Power Surge

Civilians at the Pentagon who specialize in military decision-making warned earlier this spring about the optics of a plan to deploy 1,500 U.S. troops to the Middle East following intelligence assessments that Iran posed new, dangerous threats to Americans and their allies in the region. Despite subsequent assurances from the Pentagon that the surge would serve only to protect U.S. forces in the Middle East – and did not represent some sort of buildup ahead of a preemptive attack against the Islamic Republic – members of the civilian policy staff in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, known as OSD, expressed deep concern that the high-profile deployment of uniformed troops at a particularly volatile time posed an unnecessary risk of escalation.

But the civilians' concerns were overruled by the military's logic: The deployment of more troops served as a necessary bulwark against the increasingly unpredictable threats to American lives. The final decision, which then-acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan approved, served as yet another example of uniformed military advice winning out.

What had previously been two cohorts of defense professionals – military and civilian – designed to approach problems differently but ultimately to work together has become an imbalance of power, many current and former officials say. Uniformed members of the military serving on the Joint Staff under its outgoing chairman, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, have in recent years sought and won more influence over the decisions that govern how their troops fight and die in foreign war zones.

Is this military spouse federal hiring authority working? Feds — and spouses — want to know
How many military spouses are actually getting hired by federal agencies under a special hiring authority that’s been in effect for more than a decade?

The Office of Personnel Management is in the process of finding out, after sending a memo to the human resources directors of all federal agencies on Sept. 27. The agencies must submit detailed information by Dec. 31 to OPM about how many spouses have been hired in fiscal year 2019.

The hiring authority gives agencies the ability to appoint military spouses to jobs without using the traditional competitive examining procedures. The authority was originally provided through an executive order in the Bush administration in 2008, but data hasn’t been available from federal agencies on how many spouses have been hired through this non-competitive, faster process….

The 100 U.S. Military Sites With the Worst PFAS Contamination

Many of the nation’s highest levels of groundwater contamination with PFAS – highly toxic fluorinated chemicals linked to increased risk of cancer and other diseases – have been found at military sites, according to federal data obtained and analyzed by EWG.

Of the PFAS-contaminated military sites disclosed by the Pentagon to date, including civilian airports hosting National Guard units, 64 had PFAS levels in groundwater exceeding 100,000 parts per trillion, or ppt.

At 13 sites – in California, Florida, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia – PFAS contamination levels in at least one groundwater source topped 1 million ppt….
FDSTF Update – October 11

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be via conference call at 9:00 am next Thursday, October 17th.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   
   888-585-9008  
   Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **WebEx** –
   
   Meeting number (access code): 739 490 779  |  Meeting password: Oct@17

4. **FDSTF Strategic Plan 2019-2020** – The Task Force staff published the 2019 update of the FDSTF Strategic Plan this week. Many thanks to every Task Force and Florida Defense Alliance member who contributed inputs and recommendations to the plan. You can find the final version of our plan at:


5. **Gaining Military Missions for Florida** – Florida is very interested in gaining additional military missions in the near future. These potential missions would bring additional military resources to the Sunshine State. Some of these include: MQ 25 Stingray – A carrier-based Navy drone refueler, National Guard F-35’s possibly to Jacksonville and Reserve F-35’s possibly to Homestead. These decisions are pending in the Pentagon in the very near future.

6. **Eglin Air Force Base's Natural Resources wins the 2019 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation** – The 2019 winner of the Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation award is Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The Natural Resources Conservation, Large Installation award recognizes efforts to promote the conservation of natural resources, including the identification, protection, and restoration of biological resources and habitats; the sound long-term management and use of the land and its resources; support of the military readiness mission; and the promotion of a conservation ethic. You can find the full details of Eglin’s award and the accomplishments on which it was based at:


7. **Legislative Update** – One new Military and Veteran bill was filed this week. Senator Broxson filed SB 488 - Fees/Blue Angels License Plate which would create the proper fee to
allow Florida drivers to purchase the Blue Angels license plate which was approved and signed into law last year as part of SB 620. You can find the text of the bill at: http://www.fl senate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/488

8. **US Department of the Interior Proposes Additional Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico** – This week the Department of the Interior proposed auctions for concessions to explore and drill for oil and natural gas in all parts of the Gulf of Mexico not protected by existing Congressional moratoriums. The proposed auction of approximately 78 million acres in March 2020 would therefore not affect the areas of the Gulf of Mexico Test and Training Range that are restricted until 2022, but this action by DOI makes it clear that the Department continues to push for allowing oil exploration in every area in which it is legally able to do so. See the complete article in the *News Clips of Interest.*

**News Clips of Interest:**

**Oil Drilling / Gulf Range**

**Interior Proposes Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale for Gulf of Mexico**

US Dept. of Interior Press Release | Posted October 7, 2019

In support of the Administration’s America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, Department of the Interior’s Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Casey Hammond and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Acting Director Dr. Walter Cruickshank today announced that BOEM proposes to offer approximately 78 million acres for a region-wide lease sale scheduled for March 2020. The sale would include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico that are not subject to Congressional moratorium.

“Offshore energy development is about furthering America’s energy security, ensuring fair market value to the taxpayers, and producing domestic energy in an environmentally
responsible manner,” said Acting Assistant Secretary Casey Hammond. “We all benefit from a strong offshore energy program, which provides thousands of well-paying jobs, as well as affordable and reliable energy Americans need to heat homes, fuel our cars, and power our economy."

The Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), covering about 160 million acres, is estimated to contain about 48 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable natural gas.

Lease Sale 254 will include approximately 14,585 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf’s Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are: blocks subject to the congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundaries of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

**NAS Whiting Field**

**Whiting Field among Gold Award finalists**

Santa Rosa’s Press Gazette | Posted October 4, 2019 | by Special to GateHouse Media Florida

Naval Air Station Whiting Field’s Morale Welfare and Recreation Department attended the National Recreation Park Association’s annual conference in September in Baltimore, Maryland, as Gold Award finalists. The Gold Award went to Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan, but Whiting Field brought home a Gold Award finalist trophy.

NAS Whiting Field’s MWR was the only stateside military installation and the only Navy installation to be nominated as a Gold Award finalist.

The awards program honors communities throughout the world that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition.

**Tyndall AFB**

**At Tyndall, human resilience trumped nature’s wrath**
The graphic image from space of Hurricane Michael passing over this military airfield, its twin runways clearly visible in the center of the eye, should be the iconic symbol of what happened here a year ago.

The image caught from a weather satellite and superimposed on a computer map of Bay County demonstrated human technology at its apex, capturing the deadly cyclone as it scoured the terrain of eastern Bay County. It also caught the moment where nature’s wrath overcame human technology as the 130-mile-per-hour winds and torrential rain all but destroyed this 78-year-old Air Force base as its commander and a small hand-picked team cowered in an underground shelter.

Yet Col. Brian Laidlaw, commander of the 325th Fighter Wing both before and after the storm, disagrees….

**Tyndall AFB continues rebuild effort one year after Hurricane Michael**

In the early hours of Oct. 10, 2018, many communities in Northwest Florida prepared for a storm expected to make landfall as a Category 2 hurricane. Tyndall Air Force Base was also preparing for the storm named Hurricane Michael.

Base leaders evacuated nonessential personnel, stored equipment in protected areas as much as possible and a team of individuals battened down the hatches in a two-story cinder block emergency operations center building with almost no windows to ride out the storm on base.

Col. Brian Laidlaw, 325th Fighter Wing commander, was one of the individuals who stayed during the storm. The “ride-out team” was ready for a Category 2 hurricane.

However, the scene soon changed. “We realized very quickly that this would be the storm we had trained for,” Laidlaw said….
Congressman Dunn tours Tyndall Air Force Base, hoping to bring recovery plan to congress

Congressman Dunn tours Tyndall Air Force Base, hoping to bring recovery plan to congress

With the first anniversary of Hurricane Michael quickly approaching, local Congressmen when to Tyndall Air Force Base Monday to see the damage one year later.

Congressman Neal Dunn toured Tyndall Monday, and with him, he brought Congressman Doug Lamborn from Colorado.

Congressman Dunn says he invited Congressman Lamborn along because he believes Lamborn's instrumental in getting the funding needed from Congress to rebuild Tyndall because of his title as Ranking Member of the Readiness Subcommittee on the House Armed Services Committee. They said they hope to bring a plan back to Capitol Hill for how to move forward with Tyndall's recovery process.

U.S. Air Force conducts first operational testing of newest air-to-air missile

Fighter jet pilots from 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron and 433rd Weapons School participated in Combat Archer exercise for the first operational testing of the newest AIM-9X Sidewinder air-to-air missile.

According to a recent Air Force news release, Combat Archer, which is held at Tyndall AFB, Florida, is the Department of Defense’s largest air-to-air live-fire missile employment exercise and a portion of the 53rd Wing’s Weapons System Evaluation Program (WSEP).

“Historically, WSEP has always been focused on evaluating fielded weapons systems,” said Lt. Col. Vaimana Conner, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron commander. “However, in order to bring capabilities faster to the warfighter, WSEP has adapted to incorporate operational testing aircraft and weapons.”

325th AMXS proves resilient a year after Hurricane Michael
Houses torn to pieces, an entire base left in shambles and people left devastated by the destruction. One year ago, Hurricane Michael tore through northwest Florida directly impacting Tyndall Air Force Base.

“Hurricane Michael was a defining moment for our unit,” said Lt. Col. Adrienne Stahl, 325th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron commander. “We experienced professional hardship and personal tragedy, but it showed us what we are capable of overcoming together.”

After the Hurricane, F-22 Raptors and the 325th AMXS were relocated to Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. The goal was to get the F-22s flying again prior to Thanksgiving.

**Hurricane Michael: One year later**

By wind and water it came. Before leaving, it nearly took with it what had taken more than 70 years of history to build. In its wake, Hurricane Michael left behind a historic tragedy – although 12 months have passed, remains evident.

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, began with a Tyndall Air Force Base, several nearby towns and the people who live and work there, intact. By dusk, life had dramatically changed. The base and surrounding communities took a direct hit from the third-largest hurricane to strike the continental United States.

The storm damaged 95 percent of installation buildings and 100 percent of housing, many beyond repair. The streak of avoiding significant storms had snapped, just like the pine trees, which used to stand tall throughout Tyndall’s 29,000 acres of land.

**Cape Canaveral AFS**

**45th Space Wing Aims to Execute Launches on Demand**
Anticipating new space assets and the need to rapidly deploy space payloads, the Air Force is pressing to increase the frequency and speed with which it can launch satellites into orbit and then reset to prepare for more launches as quickly as possible.

The goal: 48 launches per year and the ability to launch on demand across the Eastern Range, which comprises the entire Atlantic Seaboard, said Brig. Gen. Douglas Schiess, commander of the 45th Space Wing at Patrick AFB, Fla., and director of the range.

As the officer responsible for all rocket launches from the Eastern Seaboard, Shiess is pressing to expand launch capacity and efficiency. After executing just seven launches in 2007, the low point for the Eastern Range, Patrick supported 24 launches in 2018 and could approach 30 this year….

Patrick AFB

Air Force unveils next-generation helicopters that will replace Pave Hawks at Patrick AFB

Florida Today | Posted October 7, 2019 | by Rick Neale

In summer 2005, HH-60G Pave Hawks with the Air Force Reserve's 920th Rescue Wing flew a daring mission along Afghanistan's Hindu Kush mountains to save Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell after his team was killed in a Taliban ambush.


Now, the replacement of the Pave Hawk has arrived….


Space Coast Daily | Posted October 7, 2019

The ceremony was held on Saturday, October 5.

Heintzelman’s previous assignment was the Deputy Commander for the 482nd Mission Support Group at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida.

Team Orlando

NCS Hires Former Army Research Lab Chief Scientist Neal Finkelstein

Military Simulation & Training Magazine | Posted September 30, 2019
https://militarysimulation.training/technology/ncs-hires-former-army-research-lab-chief/

The National Center for Simulation (NCS) announced that Dr. Neal Finkelstein, former Army Research Lab Simulation and Training Technology Center (STTC) chief scientist and 30-year Department of Defense veteran, is the new NCS chief operating officer. Finkelstein, best known in the modeling, simulation and training industry for his passion for building government, industry and academic partnerships, has retired and will officially begin at NCS on October 1.

As the chief scientist at STTC, located on University of Central Florida’s (UCF) campus, Finkelstein served as the principle senior technical advisor on technical, programmatic and organizational issues that cut across the organization. He provided evaluation and recommendations on a wide range of diverse day-to-day issues arising from research and development of training aids, devices, simulations and simulators….

DoD Budget

Administration-House Standoff Stalls All Hill Defense Progress; DOD Appropriations at Risk

Association of Defense Communities | Posted October 8, 2019 | by ADC author
As the administration and House are opposed, it has become more challenging for defense legislation to pass and the chances for a defense appropriations bill are rapidly fading, Breaking Defense reported Monday.

Regular order in Congress had already become challenging with the 2018 midterm results, but the ongoing Washington stalemate has impacted regular business, according to the report.

The administration’s shift of $3.6 billion from MilCon accounts for southern border barrier construction likely curtailed chances for a fiscal 2020 defense spending bill, the report said.

**Defense Industry**

**Santa Rosa vying for 10th aviation-related company**

NW Florida Daily News | Posted October 9, 2019 | by Duwayne Escobedo

An aerospace defense company owned by 20-plus retired U.S. Air Force veterans wants to relocate to the Santa Rosa County Industrial Park East located in East Milton. The Mobile, Alabama company is interested in the manufacturing facility located at 5552 Industrial Blvd., just 2 miles north of Interstate 10.

Shannon Ogletree, economic development director for Santa Rosa County, said more and more aviation-related companies are attracted to the area. “Things are looking up,” Ogletree said. “We’re generating a lot of interest.”

The 1.72-acre location includes two buildings for light manufacturing, one 11,194-square-foot building and another 17,050-square-foot building. Fabbro Marine Group, which owns the facility, once designed and built Cape Horn fishing boats there. However, a few years ago it moved to an even bigger building at the industrial park.

**Other Items of Interest**

**Senate Confirms Army Lt. Gen. Jason Evans to Oversee Army’s Installation Portfolio**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted October 10, 2019 | by ADC author
The Senate late last month confirmed Army Lt. Gen. Jason Evans as Dept. of the Army Headquarters Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS), G-9, according to a press release.

The DCS, G-9, position, previously the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM), reaffirms the Army’s commitment to retaining a three-star Pentagon staff officer to oversee the varied and complex installation portfolio. The change from assistant to DCS also aligns with its corresponding three-star rank, the release said.

Evans’ confirmation and the title change enhances the Army’s installation reform initiative that began March 1 when the Army re-aligned the Installation Management Command (IMCOM) as a major subordinate of the four-star level Army Materiel Command (AMC), according to the release.

**Majority of Army Spouses Report Stress, Other Personal and Family Concerns in New Survey**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted October 7, 2019 | by ADC author

A majority of Army spouses reported stress, overload or fatigue in the past year in a Rand Corp. study evaluating Army spouse challenges, their attitudes toward the Army and how available resources are used, Army Times reported Monday.

“When asked to indicate the issues they faced in the past year, Army spouses’ most frequently chosen issues were their own feelings of being stressed, overwhelmed, or tired, followed by their soldier’s feelings of being stressed, overwhelmed, or tired,” the report said.

Based on responses from more than 8,500 spouses, the survey identified nine Army spouse problem areas including military practices and culture; work-life balance; household management; financial or legal problems; health care system problems; relationship problems; child well-being; their own well-being and their soldier’s well-being, according to the report.

**Military spouses: Check out these hundreds of thousands of temporary job opportunities nationwide**

Military Times | Posted October 8, 2019 | by Karen Jowers
https://www.militarytimes.com/2019/10/08/military-spouses-check-out-these-hundreds-of-thousands-of-temporary-job-opportunities-
Hundreds of thousands of temporary workers are being hired for the 2020 census, and officials want military spouses to know about the opportunities.

The census, which has been conducted every 10 years since 1790, aims to count every person in the United States.

Applicants can apply for a variety of temporary jobs, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff and supervisory staff. The U.S. Census Bureau is in the process of opening 248 offices around the country. Applicants must be at least 18, have a valid Social Security number, be a U.S. citizen, have a valid email address, complete an application and answer assessment questions…. 
FDSTF Update – October 18

1. **October Conference Call** – Yesterday, the Task Force held its October meeting via a conference call with nine of the 13 Task Force members participating. Many thanks, especially to the legislators who carved time out of their Committee Week schedules to call in to the teleconference. Major items that the Task Force accomplished during the conference call included approving the staff’s recommended changes to the 2019-2020 budget, hearing an update on the State Lands program from the Department of Environmental Protection and receiving a presentation from the Defenders of Wildlife on the work on an ongoing Sentinel Landscape proposal for NW Florida.

2. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be on November 21st in Tampa and will be followed in the afternoon by an orientation of MacDill AFB for Task Force members. This meeting will also be preceded by a Florida Defense Alliance meeting on November 20th in Tampa.

3. **Meeting Call In Number** –
   - **888-585-9008**
   - **Conference Room: 262-492-927**

4. **FDSTF Staff appearance before Senate Committee on Military and Veterans’ Affairs and Space** – On Wednesday I appeared before the Florida Senate Committee on Military and Veterans’ Affairs and Space for the first time and briefed them on the changes in the Task Force and work of the Task Force since the legislature adjourned last spring as well as the major issues facing the Task Force during the coming year. That presentation was very well received by the Committee and I have attached a copy of it to this update.

5. **FDA Presentation to Florida Senate Committee on Military and Veterans’ Affairs and Space** – Next Tuesday, October 22nd, Kellie Jo Kilberg will be providing a Florida Defense Alliance presentation to the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans’ Affairs and Space. The Committee meeting will run from 2:00 to 3:30 pm.

6. **Changes in Florida Defense Alliance Leadership** – Mike Jones is stepping down as chairman of FDA Mission Sustainment Working Group due to other commitments. Rick Miller from the South Florida Defense Alliance has agreed to become the next chairman of the Working Group. Please welcome Rick to this new position.

7. **Attachments:**
   - October 16, 2019 FDSTF Briefing to the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans’ Affairs and Space
News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

Army 3-Star: Soldiers Won't Be Fighting in Space Anytime Soon

Military.com | Posted October 16, 2019 | by Gina Harkins

Soldiers aren't likely to don space suits and blast off into space to fight an enemy, the head of Army Space Command said this week.

But the domain is going to play a big role in the way the Army trains and fights in the future, Lt. Gen. James Dickinson, commanding general of Army Space and Missile Defense Command, told reporters at the annual Association of the U.S. Army meeting in Washington, D.C.

"We need to make sure we're going to be able to protect what we have in space," the three-star said. "But I don't think that lends itself necessarily to formations in space…."

Tyndall AFB

Jacobs Gets Tyndall Air Force Base Reconstruction Support Contract

Jacobs Engineering Group | Posted October 15, 2019

Jacobs (NYSE:JEC) was awarded a contract to develop the program requirements and standards that will transform Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) into a visionary Installation of the Future (IoTF). Jacobs is contracted as a subconsultant to KBR to support and advance the
redevelopment of Tyndall Air Force Base. The objectives of reconstruction are to restore the full operational capability of the installation to serve as the prototype for future IoT-Fs.

Tyndall AFB located 12 miles east of Panama City, Florida, sustained a direct hit from Category 5 Hurricane Michael, one of the strongest hurricanes to hit the U.S. in more than 25 years. The devastating storm inflicted immeasurable, lasting damage across the region and resulted in significant damage and destruction across the installation.

"We view the post-disaster environment not only as a catalyst to restoring operational capability for the base and its missions, but also to help create a prototypical and definitional future installation with a focus on resiliency and sustainability," said Jacobs Buildings, Infrastructure and Advanced Facilities Senior Vice President for U.S. Federal Solutions Pankaj Duggal….

Cape Canaveral AFS

Space Florida Awarded $90M Infrastructure Grant from U.S. Department of Transportation

Space Florida | Posted October 17, 2019

Space Florida is moving forward on a $90 million infrastructure improvement grant recently awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The grant will support three interrelated projects, including replacing the aging SR 405 bridge over the Indian River Lagoon, widening Space Commerce Way, and revitalizing a 3.7-mile stretch of NASA Parkway West. The project is expected to take approximately five years to complete.

With the award in place, Space Florida and its partners from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and NASA’s Kennedy Space Center can now move forward with the project. The grant, which is part of DOT’s Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program, will support growing aerospace industry and launch activities at the Cape Canaveral Spaceport. The current bridge will be replaced with two new high-span bridges, and the widening of the roadways will facilitate launch traffic, simplify transport of oversized launch hardware, and improve access for visitors.

“I applaud our partners at USDOT for recognizing the importance of this grant for Florida’s Space Coast,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “As our population continues to increase,
modernizing the Cape Canaveral Spaceport is critical to the long-term viability of future launches, our transportation infrastructure and state economy. With this federal investment, Florida will remain a global leader in the aerospace industry for years to come….

**US Southern Command**

**A big Army warfighting-focused exercise is planned for South America**

Army Times | Posted October 13, 2019 | by Todd South  

Some lucky Army units could lead a combat-focused military exercise in U.S. Southern Command in the coming years, if one Navy admiral has his way. Adm. Craig Faller spoke recently at a combined Association of the U.S. Army and Navy League event about his work heading SOUTHCOM.

While the admiral covered the range of threats and challenges his command faces, intrusions into theater by China, Russia and Iran along with criminal syndicates that can contribute to corruption problems, he also mentioned some future plans. One of those is a maritime focused task force, previously covered by Military Times, that will seek a U.S.-led, mostly Navy and Marine Corps effort with partner nations to work as a kind of crisis response team.

But the newer aspect involves plans for a larger Army exercise in the near future. What it will look like is still under consideration. It’s early in the planning stages and the exercise has not yet been funded….

**DoD Budget**

**Fiscal 2020 NDAA Remains Stalled Due to Unexpected Northern Syria Activity, Inhofe Says**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted October 17, 2019 | by ADC author  

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman James Inhofe (R-Okla.) said Tuesday that negotiations on the fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) have stalled due to the unfolding northern Syria situation, Defense News reported.
Inhofe, in a brief hallway interview, said negotiations to reconcile the Senate and House bills “kind of are stalling. Syria has messed up a little bit of that because people think that is a more imminent problem to deal with than the NDAA, and it doesn’t have to be finished until December,” according to the report.

The “Big Four” chairmen and ranking members of both House and Senate Armed Services Committees were to meet Wednesday to resume negotiations, while meetings between their staff directors continued over the recent two-week congressional recess, Inhofe said…. 

**Energy**

**DOD’s “Black-Start” Exercises Explore What Happens When Utilities Go Dark**

Air Force Magazine | Posted October 17, 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen


Pentagon officials are running a series of “black-start” exercises designed to test the military’s resilience in the face of a major power outage or other utilities failures, they told lawmakers at an Oct. 16 hearing on how their installations are preparing for future threats.

“We can do all the tabletop exercises in the world, but when you actually pull the plug, the question is, what actually goes on?” Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment Robert McMahon said at the hearing hosted by two House Armed Services subcommittees. “Perhaps the most important lesson that I’ve seen is a lack of appreciation and understanding by our senior leaders at the installation level, all the way up to my level, of what we thought was going to happen versus what actually occurred, and then being able to apply those lessons learned.”

John Henderson, the Air Force’s assistant secretary for installations, environment, and energy, said in written testimony the service has partnered with McMahon’s office and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory to create a comprehensive framework for “pull-the-plug” exercises. The framework helps set a baseline for what bases can do to maintain power and to look at vulnerabilities, requirements, and potential improvements….

**Other Items of Interest**

**Senate confirms Barbara Barrett to be Air Force secretary**
The Senate confirmed Barbara Barrett to be the 25th Secretary of the Air Force by a margin of 85 to 7.

The vote on Oct. 16 makes Barrett the third consecutive woman confirmed to lead the Air Force and its 685,000 airmen. Barrett replaces Heather Wilson who resigned in May. Undersecretary Matthew Donovan served as acting secretary in the interim.

“I can think of no position that offers more excitement, challenge and meaning than the Secretary of the Air Force,” Barrett said in a news release.

**USAF to Discuss Future Threats to Missions at November Summit**

Air Force Magazine | Posted October 16, 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen

Air Force cross-functional teams are pulling together holistic looks at the climate, cyber, and other threats facing USAF missions and will discuss them with senior leaders at a summit in mid-November, a top service official said Oct. 16.

The service is considering potential threats across the breadth of a mission, instead of taking a more typical base-by-base approach, John Henderson, the Air Force’s assistant secretary for installations, environment, and energy, said at a joint hearing of two House Armed Services subcommittees. “They’re doing full threat assessments, for one, up to a very highly classified level,” Henderson said. “There is a large group of people working in a cross-functional way to address this holistically with the Air Force and we expect to bring this to our senior leaders here in about three weeks.”

Cross-functional teams are looking at weapon system security, command cyber readiness, supply chain protections, power grid stability, and more, he added. The Air Force has also hired a professor to design a curriculum that teaches civil engineers about industrial base vulnerabilities and cybersecurity, so the Air Force can make sure it is safely installing and operating new systems.

**Employment Options, Tools Abound for Military Spouses**

Department of Defense | Posted October 15, 2019 | by C. Todd Lopez
Military spouses looking for employment have a lot of options and a lot of tools available to them.

During a briefing today at the Association of the U.S. Army 2019 Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, Lee Kelley, the Defense Department’s director of military community support programs in the Military Community and Family Policy Office, said military spouses can access career coaches through the Military OneSource website from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and all day on Saturdays.

Military OneSource career coaches work with military spouses all day, she noted. "It is hard to stump them with a career obstacle," she added……

Pentagon Unclear on Extent of Severe Weather, Cyber Threats to Military Bases

USNI News | Posted October 17, 2019 | by Ben Werner

The Department of Defense does not know the full cost or scope of threats posed by severe weather and cyberattacks to its bases around the globe, the Pentagon’s top property manager told lawmakers on Wednesday.

Recent weather-related damages to just four military bases alone will cost roughly $10 billion according to Department of Defense estimates, said Rep. James Langevin (D-R.I.), the chair of the House Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence, emerging threats and capabilities. A year ago, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Tyndall Air Force Base were swamped by a pair of hurricanes. Six months ago, Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska was flooded by overflowing rivers. Four months ago a pair of July earthquakes struck China Lake Naval Weapons Station, Calif.

“I must say I have been disappointed in the department’s response to our oversight. The initial accounting of at-risk bases we received did not include Camp Lejeune or Tyndall Air Force Base at all,” Langevin said during his opening remarks. “If those are the low-risk bases, one can only wonder what we are likely to see soon from the installations the department identified as being of particular concern. We need a clear accounting of the risks – with dollar figures attached – or else we will continue the cycle of throwing good money after bad, which is not only fiscally irresponsible but places our service members and readiness at risk……”
DOD Inspector General “Evaluating” Pentagon Use of PFAS Chemicals

The Pentagon’s inspector general is evaluating DOD’s use of PFAS chemicals that has seeped into water supplies of communities across the nation, including many near military installations, the Washington Post reported Tuesday.

The military’s watchdog agency will assess the use of the chemicals and may address what DOD knew about dangers posed by PFAS, how well DOD has communicated those risks and how soon it will phase out their use, according to the report.

The man-made contaminants, known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals, or PFAS, have for years been used in specialized firefighting foams on military bases, as On Base previously reported….

New DOD Prevention Campaign Targets Technology-Aided Domestic Violence Abuse

The Pentagon is raising awareness of technology-facilitated domestic abuse as part of this month’s Domestic Violence Prevention Month campaign, a DOD feature article reported last week.

The campaign’s tagline, Mobilize Help for Safer Relationships, aims to alert the military community that domestic abuse can happen across many communication platforms, according to the article. Technology-facilitated domestic abuse is increasingly common and a majority of civilian domestic violence agencies provided technology-specific advocacy and services for victims in 2018.

Abuse such as texting and use of social media to bully, harass, stalk or intimidate, also includes monitoring and stalking behaviors where a partner “keeps tabs” on the location, activities and social communications of another through apps, spyware or malware, the article said….
FDSTF Update – October 25

Task Force Members,

A good Friday afternoon to everyone.

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be on November 21st at 9:00 am in the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza, 4200 Jim Walter Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33607. The November meeting will be preceded by a Florida Defense Alliance meeting in the same location the day prior.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

   888-585-9008   Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **FDA Chair Briefing to Senate Committee** – Florida Defense Alliance Chair Kellie Jo Kilberg briefed the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space on Tuesday, October 22nd providing them an update on what the FDA does and ongoing issues. Her very well received briefing included a heavy emphasis on the importance of protecting our bases from encroachment and especially the contribution the Gulf of Mexico Test & Training Range makes to national defense and the threat to it from the impending 2022 expiration of the current oil exploration moratorium.

4. **Legislative Update** – The Florida legislature is completing their second week of Committee meetings for October and there are four new bills recently introduced that are of interest to military and military veterans. The following paragraphs describe these bills. To review or track bills as they progress through the legislature, for House Bills (HB), go to www.myfloridahouse.gov. For Senate Bills (SB), go to www.flsenate.gov. For both sites, insert the bill number at the top of the page if you would like current status throughout session.

   - **CS/HB 61: Adoption Benefits.** (Roth {and co-sponsor Polsky}) Florida currently provides monetary assistance to state employees who adopt children from the state welfare system. This bill would extend those same benefits to active duty and military personnel as well as veterans living in Florida. A modified version of this bill passed the House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee on October 24, and is currently in the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee. Following that it is scheduled to go to the Health & Human Services Committee. Effective Date: 7/1/2020, Last Action: 10/24/2019 House – Committee (Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee) substitute bill filed.

**SB 136: Adoption Benefits.** (Bean {and co-sponsor Harrell}) This is the Senate companion bill to CS/HB 61. It would likewise extend financial assistance for adopting children from the Florida welfare system to active duty and military personnel as well as veterans living in Florida. This bill passed the Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Subcommittee on October 15th and is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services before heading on to the Appropriations Committee. Effective Date: 7/1/2020, Last Action: 10/16/2019 Senate – Moved to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations

http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/136/BillText/Filed/PDF

**HM 443 - United States Space Command and United States Space Force.** (Sirois), A House Memorial urging the President of the United States to select Florida as the permanent home of the Headquarters of US Space Command and/or the Space Force, Effective Date: not specified, Last Action: 10/23/2019 House – Filed


**HB 409 - Health Care Licensing Requirements.** (Pigman), This bill would allow healthcare providers working for the VA to begin treating veterans immediately without needing to obtain Florida medical credentials provided they (1) have a valid license from another state, (2) are employed by the VA, and (3) certify that they will only treat veterans. Effective Date: 7/1/2020, Last Action: 10/18/2019 House – Filed


5. **Legislative Committee Week Upcoming Schedule** – The Florida Senate and House of Representatives are now about half-way through the pre-session committee week schedule. The remaining legislative committee weeks this year are:
   - Monday, November 4 – Friday, November 8, 2019
   - Tuesday, November 12 – Friday, November 15, 2019
   - Monday, December 9 – Friday, December 13, 2019
News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

‘Tectonic shift’ of Space Command has intelligence community feeling aftershocks

Federal News Network | Posted October 22, 2019 | by David Thornton

Redefining space as a warfighting domain made waves throughout the defense community as they began thinking about defending assets in space. Maj. Gen. John Shaw, deputy commander for Air Force Space Command, called the creation of Space Command a “tectonic shift.” Now the aftershocks of that shift are being felt in the intelligence community as analysts have to reconsider space’s role in intelligence gathering.

“When you think of space and intelligence together, you might be like me: I spent my career thinking about intelligence collection in space coming down to the Earth, intelligence from space,” Shaw said on Agency in Focus: Intelligence Community. “We need to think really, really hard now about intelligence for space. Where is that intelligence expertise that processes the capabilities? We have to understand what’s actually happening in the space environment.”

Shaw said the intelligence support the new command will require is a major priority for Gen. Jay Raymond, leader of Air Force Space Command. And it’s not just about the organizations that will provide the intelligence, but about the capabilities they can field. Those capabilities will need to be developed to protect and defend assets in space….

DoD working on Space Force rollout plan pending congressional approval

Space News | Posted October 22, 2019 | by Sandra Erwin

With defense committees on Capitol Hill consumed by Ukraine and Syria crises while spending bills slow to a crawl and the House moves forward with an impeachment inquiry, it is uncertain if or when Congress will pass the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. Much less clear is whether the NDAA will give DoD the green light to establish a Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces.
Establishing a Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces is a priority of President Trump and Vice President Pence and the White House wants to be prepared to roll out the new service as soon as Congress authorizes it, according to sources familiar with discussions at an Oct. 15 meeting at the White House.

White House officials have asked DoD to prepare a detailed public communications plan for the new branch, these sources said. DoD and Air Force officials have said they would be ready to stand up a Space Force within 90 days of its enactment. But the president would not want to wait that long for the public reveal of the Space Force.

**NAS Whiting Field**

**Wolfe Creek’s 1,272-acre donation benefits forest, base**


Another 1,272 acres within the Florida Forever Project Wolfe Creek Forest was bought by The Trust for Public Land and added to the Blackwater River State Forest.

The property expands recreational opportunities, helps restore longleaf pines and prevents land use conflicts with Whiting Field’s helicopter training mission and helps restore longleaf pines.

The Wolf Creek site encompasses a historic hardwood forest range along Big Coldwater Creek, a popular waterway for canoeing and kayaking.

**Tyndall AFB**

**Groundbreaking for flyover bridge at Tyndall AFB canceled**


groundbreaking ceremony for a flyover bridge on U.S. Highway 98 at Tyndall Air Force Base, originally set for Wednesday morning, has been postponed until next month, according to the base’s public affairs office.
The groundbreaking for the nearly $20 million project has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. Nov. 6 to accommodate the schedule of Gov. Ron DeSantis, who wanted to be on hand for the event, slated for Tyndall’s Flag Park.

According to an email from the Tyndall public affairs office, dozens of people are expected for the ceremonial signaling of the beginning of construction on the project just outside Tyndall AFB’s main gate.

NS Mayport

LCS Indianapolis slated for Saturday commissioning

AP | Posted October 25, 2019 | by Associated Press

The Navy says it will commission its new littoral combat ship Indianapolis at a northwestern Indiana port Saturday. The ceremony marking the vessel’s entry into the Navy’s active fleet is set to begin at 10 a.m. local time at Burns Harbor along Lake Michigan. It’s the fourth military vessel carrying the Indianapolis name.

The second Indianapolis was sunk by a Japanese submarine in July 1945 while returning from a Pacific island where it delivered key components for the Hiroshima atomic bomb. Only 317 of its nearly 1,200 crewmen survived the sinking and days in shark-infested waters.

The new ship was built at a Wisconsin shipyard and will be based near Jacksonville, Florida.

Patrick AFB

Corps to hold meeting about old South Patrick Shores military dump

Florida Today | Posted October 22, 2019 | by Jim Waymer

Concerned residents in South Patrick Shores will get a chance Thursday to ask federal officials about their property's eligibility for a cleanup program of formerly used defense sites.
ut to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials holding the meeting at Pelican Island Beach Club in Satellite Beach, Thursday's information session will be an opportunity to see how residents perceive the risks of what the military may have buried in their yards seven decades ago, and what those residents think should be done about it. The Corps information session will run from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Pelican Beach Club House, 1495 State Road A1A, in Satellite Beach.

Corps officials have said their investigation into military waste buried just south of Patrick Air Force Base will take about nine months. Then the federal agency would recommend whether further investigations and/or cleanup activities are warranted.

On Aug. 24, the Corps decided about 32 acres just south of the base is eligible for the agency's FUDS environmental cleanup program. The Corps will conduct a Preliminary Assessment of the Naval Air Station Banana River Off-Base Disposal Area Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) to evaluate if further investigations are warranted.

**DoD Budget**

**Next Stopgap Spending Bill May Stretch into Spring**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted October 23, 2019 | by ADC author

[https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/next-stopgap-spending-bill-may-stretch-into-spring/](https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/next-stopgap-spending-bill-may-stretch-into-spring/)

Lawmakers are discussing whether another short-term spending bill is necessary to avoid a government shutdown around Thanksgiving. While there is some movement on outstanding spending bills, House and Senate appropriations are still working off different top-level budget numbers for defense and nondefense spending.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) said Wednesday that “unless a miracle happens around here with the House and the Senate, we will have to come forth with another CR” and predicted the stopgap might cover operations into February or March, according to CQ.

The House has passed 10 of 12 spending bills, including the defense appropriations bill. The Senate has not yet passed any spending bills.

**Inhofe to offer ‘skinny’ defense policy bill as backup plan**

Defense News | Posted October 24, 2019 | by Joe Gould
Senate Armed Serviced Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe announced Thursday he would offer a “skinny” version of the 2020 defense policy bill this week as a backup plan, in case talks to reconcile the main bills become deadlocked.

Though House and Senate lawmakers initially hoped to quickly negotiate competing versions of the bill, Inhofe’s idea is to ensure there’s no year-end scramble to authorize special payments and bonuses for service members, construction projects and military acquisition program oversight that would otherwise expire at the end of the calendar year.

“My fellow conferees and I have made good progress on the fiscal year 2020 defense authorization bill, but we haven’t yet reached a final agreement. We’re not giving up. We’ve passed this bill for 58 years running because it is our constitutional duty, and we’re going to do it again this year,” Inhofe, R-Okla., said in a statement. “However, we’re running out of time….”

HASC’s Smith Says No To SASC Inhofe’s ‘Skinny’ NDAA

Rep. Adam Smith told Breaking Defense: “Some have suggested that we will be forced to abandon our negotiations this year and instead pass a ‘skinny bill.’ A bill that does not restrict wall funding would be challenging to bring to the House floor. It is the equivalent to failure – not just for the men and women in uniform who are counting on us to pass the NDAA, but also to the national defense of our country.”

In fact, according to a Democratic congressional source, Smith was in touch only yesterday with the White House and believes a bill satisfactory to both the GOP and Democrats can be hammered out. “I am confident we can reconcile our differences,” Smith said.

This all began when Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe announced today that he intends to “introduce a ‘skinny’ defense bill to ensure that Congress is able to extend necessary authorities, take care of our troops and their families, authorize military construction projects, and conduct oversight over military acquisition programs. A skinny bill is not a substitute for a full bill, but it might be a necessary next step if we don’t reach an agreement soon….”

Defense Industry
Lockheed Martin to lay off dozens of Central Florida workers before the holidays

Orlando Business Journal | Posted October 18, 2019 | by Ryan Lynch

https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2019/10/18/lockheed-martin-to-lay-off-dozens-of-central.html?ana=e_me_set1&j=84551311&t=Morning&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTTJRellXTXINamhtTkdGayIaslNQiOijZdO422Th2Tk9FcEVZv2lDWTBYSWfcL2xwTU85Y1JXMTV5zzZybfWFyRn8BNXZsSHdcL3NzYjN5K2tVSWhnc0FwRmlEWFgwcF15Q3JwQUU5cHIOOGMxRmFcL0jiYTljT1kzaDNFV2VMWnFWMEo5skNNZjIlqMVvvQkVKWWwwVFizYlpueFnhlMmM2xhMncwdCtBRjUSSmRyMGpBPT0ifQ%3D%3D

Lockheed Martin Corp. will lay off dozens of workers in Central Florida just before Christmas due to the loss of a contract.

The Bethesda, Maryland-based defense company (NYSE: LMT) will cut 79 employees from its Rotary & Missions Systems division at 4401 Fortune Place in West Melbourne, according to an Oct. 16 letter notifying the state. The layoffs, which will begin on a rolling basis starting Dec. 16, are due to the loss of a Persistent Surveillance Systems – Tethered (PSS-T) contract.

"This was not a decision the business made lightly – while we had been optimistic of securing the PSS-T re-compete contract, the U.S. Army customer has decided to go in a different direction, therefore significantly reducing the amount of work at the Melbourne facility," Lockheed Martin said in a prepared statement. "We are working with all impacted employees to help them identify other opportunities with Lockheed Martin...."

Northrop Grumman Awarded Triton UAS Contract

Clearance Jobs | Posted October 21, 2019 | by Lindy Kyzer


Raytheon Co., Dulles, Virginia, has been awarded a $128,450,262 firm-fixed price, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract for Mobile Sensors operations and maintenance.

This contract provides for non-personal services for operations and maintenance services that will ensure the availability of the Cobra King and Gray Star’s radar facility to collect on 100% of the tasked data collection opportunities that pass through its field of view with the necessary support provided 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Work will be performed at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, and locations overseas and is expected to be completed by Oct. 31, 2021. This award is the result of a competitive
acquisition and one offer received. Fiscal 2020 operations and maintenance funds in the amount of $22,722,616 are being obligated at the time of award. The Acquisition Management and Integration Center, Detachment 2, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida, is the contracting activity (FA7022-17-D-0001).

As Secret Pentagon Spending Rises, Defense Firms Cash in

Defense One | Posted October 23, 2019 | by Marcus Weisgerber

The share of Pentagon spending hidden from public view is rising, as are defense contractors’ revenues from it.

The U.S. Defense Department’s overall budget request increased nearly 5 percent from 2019 to 2020, but classified spending rose 6 percent, according to the consulting firm Avascent. It accounts for about $76 billion, or almost 11%, of the $718 billion requested for the current fiscal year.

Military officials say they can’t talk about classified aircraft, space, and missile projects, lest they cede advantage to America’s enemies. (Critics, including House Armed Services Committee Chair Adam Smith, D-Wash., say excessive hidden spending hinders oversight, leads to waste, and undermines public trust….)

Cyber

How the Air Force upgraded cyber testing for weapons systems

Federal Computer Week | Posted October 23, 2019 | by Lauren C. Williams

The Air Force is leaning on agile and DevOps methodologies to help boost cybersecurity while testing new weapons systems.

Brig. Gen. Scott Cain, commander of Air Force Materiel Command's 96th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, told FCW that "agile development, having developers there alongside the testers" was one of the test center's initiatives, along with increasing partnerships across the Air Force and with its software factories such as Kessel Run. Doing so in conjunction with using common industry techniques allow the service to "rapidly add capability and get it in the field," he said.
That model is being pushed furthest with the 96th Test Wing in the Air Force Test Center's cyber testing group, Cain said. The center's portfolio largely consists of new capabilities focused on modernizing the Air Operations Centers, but networking aircraft to be efficient with multi-domain command and control will churn out key developments over the next six to 18 months, Cain said.

**Other Items of Interest**

**The Air Force has a new secretary; Barbara Barrett sworn in**

Air Force Times | Posted October 19, 2019 | by Stephen Losey

Barbara Barrett was sworn in as the 25th secretary of the Air Force on Friday, two days after the Senate voted to confirm her 85-7.

Barrett, the fourth woman to serve as the Air Force’s top civilian leader, posted a video of her taking her oath of office at the Pentagon on her official Twitter account.

“I’m conscious of the extraordinary privilege of working with the men & women of the @usairforce,” she said in the tweet with her video. “We’ve got a lot to do & I’m ready to get to work! ...”

**'National security issue': High unemployment of military spouses undermines recruitment**

Washington Times | Posted October 22, 2019 | Mike Glenn

The difficulties military spouses face finding good-paying jobs are fast becoming not just a matter of individual concern but also a national security issue, one that is undermining the military’s ability to recruit and retain personnel. That warning comes from a panel at the Brookings Institution on Monday that featured some high-level expertise: Holly Petraeus, the wife of former CIA director and retired four-star Army Gen. David H. Petraeus.

Mike Haynie, executive director of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University, said too many policy analysts fail to appreciate the scope of the problem
or the way high unemployment rates among military spouses put stress on families and on the military services.

According to a recent study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the unemployment rate among military spouses was 16% — more than four times the rate for the U.S. economy as a whole. Military spouses also earn almost 27% less in wage and salary income than their nonmilitary peers.

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Additional Law Firms to Participate in the Governor’s Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW)

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis | Posted October 22, 2019 | by Governor’s Office Press Release

Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the participation of additional law firms in the Governor’s Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW). GI LAW began accepting pro bono legal services requests from active duty service members in May 2019, and to date, seven statewide law firms have provided free legal representation to over 60 service members.

“Through GI LAW, some of our state’s top law firms continue to provide free legal representation to our active duty service members,” said Governor DeSantis. “Having provided pro bono legal service to over 60 military members, my administration remains committed to supporting our brave men and women in uniform. I thank the law firms currently participating and encourage other interested firms to take part in this unique opportunity to help our military personnel.”

Governor DeSantis announced GI LAW at Eglin Air Force Base in April with the participation of five of Florida’s leading law firms: Greenberg Traurig, Holland & Knight, Shutts & Bowen, Akerman LLP and Gunster. Today, the Governor is pleased to announce the participation of three additional firms: Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Nelson Mullins and Cole, Scott & Kissane.

DOD Improves Construction Standards After Natural Disasters

US Department of Defense | Posted October 17, 2019 | by C. Todd Lopez
In October 2018, the Category 5 Hurricane Michael caused billions of dollars in damage to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. This summer, earthquakes in California wrought extensive damage to Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

But lessons learned from those incidents are being incorporated into the standards for future construction projects at military installations to increase resilience. Robert H. McMahon, assistant secretary of defense for sustainment spoke before a joint hearing of two House Armed Services Committee subcommittees yesterday.

"We take the lessons we learn from each of these installations — whether it is the construction, whether it's the roofing, what we are doing on one floor versus another — and roll that in on an annual basis to continuously update what those standards are to ensure that, as we get to the next either rehab or new construction, that those standards are, in fact, reflected in the way that we build the facility," McMahon said....
FDSTF Update – November 5

Task Force Members,

A good Monday morning to everyone. This is your slightly postponed FDSTF Weekly Update from last week, I was travelling Thursday and Friday last week, so this is my first opportunity to send this. The Weekly Update will return to its normal publication schedule this Friday.

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be on November 21st at 9:00 am in the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza, 4200 Jim Walter Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33607. The November meeting will be preceded by a Florida Defense Alliance meeting in the same location the day prior.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

3. **888-585-9008**  
   **Conference Room:** 262-492-927

4. **Bruce Grant’s last day with EFI** – The day we’ve all known was coming for some time is finally upon us. This Thursday, November 7th, will be Bruce’s last day. We all wish Bruce the best for his future and many great years enjoying more time with his family. I’ve attached a copy of Bruce’s resignation letter to this Update.

5. **New Senior Vice President for Military and Defense** – Bruce’s successor as Vice President of Military and Defense will be Elizabeth Medina. Beth is a retired US Army colonel with over 35 years’ service in both the US military and the government of Florida. She has extensive experience working in the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and in US Army civil affairs units. Beth’s first day will be November 18th.

6. **Protection of Gulf Range** – Protecting the Gulf of Mexico Test and Training Range remains at the forefront of concern across Florida. Last week, the Sanibel and Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce discussed the issue at length during their monthly meeting and included a presentation from the non-profit organization, Oceana, which has been working with the FDSTF on this issue. FDSTF efforts to extend the moratorium on drilling in the Gulf also came up during this meeting. A good article about that meeting appears below in the *News Clips of Interest*.

7. **What would and wouldn’t be funded under a “Skinny” Defense Authorization Bill** – With the US Senate and House of Representatives still working on agreement on Defense appropriations bills, the possibility of either a continuing resolution or a “Skinny” Defense Authorization Bill is becoming more likely. Since a “Skinny” authorization bill is not a traditional solution it’s not intuitively clear what would and would not be funded. An excellent summary of what would and would not be covered in such a bill appears below in the *News Clips of Interest*.
News Clips of Interest:

Oil Drilling / Gulf Range

Battle to protect Florida coast from offshore drilling continues

Cape Coral Daily Breeze | Posted October 29, 2019 | by Tiffany Repecki

The fight to protect Florida's Gulf Coast from offshore oil and gas drilling is far from over.

That was the update delivered on Oct. 28 during a presentation at the Sanibel and Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce's monthly Business After Hours, held in partnership with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation and Oceana - an international advocacy organization focused on ocean conservation that is leading a national campaign to prevent the expansion of offshore oil drilling.

The event was held at The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club on Sanibel. "Florida is still at risk," Oceana Offshore Drilling Campaign Director Diane Hoskins said….

Eglin AFB

Okaloosa Gas receives award for project with EAFB

NW Florida Daily News | Posted Nov 2, 2019 | by Erin Franczak
Okaloosa Gas received a 2019 Federal Energy and Water Management award from the Department of Energy on Tuesday for a project on energy savings for the Eglin Air Force Base, according to a Facebook post from Okaloosa Gas.

The project focused on creating a mechanism that will allow the Eglin to produce electricity at a lower rate through a combined heat and power unit. Eddie Springle, vice president of marketing said it was similar to a generator system.

According to the post, the program is estimated to reduce the bases’s electrical consumption by 35%..

### Tyndall AFB

#### Tyndall AFB recovery is major focus of recent congressional hearing

Panama City News Herald | Posted October 29, 2019 | by Jim Thompson


Tyndall Air Force Base was mentioned frequently during a recent congressional subcommittee hearing at which Department of Defense leaders were grilled for two hours on how military installations are being prepared for future severe weather threats, as well as climate change issues and cybersecurity challenges.

Two subcommittees of the House Armed Services Committee met Oct. 16, five days after the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Michael roaring across the eastern Florida Panhandle, laying waste to Tyndall AFB.

Rebuilding the base to accommodate its future mission of hosting as many as three squadrons of F-35 stealth fighter jets by 2023 is projected to cost $4 billion..

### NS Mayport

#### USS Indianapolis, versatile Littoral Combat Ship homeported in Mayport commissioned into active service

Florida Times-Union | Posted October 27, 2019 | by Teresa Stepzinski

The USS Indianapolis, Littoral Combat Ship 17 — homeported at Naval Station Mayport — was commissioned by the U.S. Navy into active service Saturday at Burns Harbor, Ind.

The warship is the nation’s ninth Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ship, commonly known as LCS. The milestone means the ship — built by a Lockheed Martin-led team — is ready and authorized for deployment.

The vessel is part of a growing LCS squadron homeported at Naval Station Mayport. The Navy has said it is scheduled to have 14 LCS at Mayport by 2023. Six of those already are at the station. The most recent, the USS Billings, arrived in August....

**USS Indianapolis Sets Sail for Home Port in Florida**

Military.com | Posted October 30, 2019 | by Joseph S. Pete

After a week at the Port of Indiana-Burns Harbor and a historic U.S. Navy commissioning ceremony that may never take place again in largely landlocked Indiana, the USS Indianapolis Littoral Combat Ship set sail Tuesday morning for its home base in Florida.

The $450 million ship tasked for mine warfare, the fourth to bear the USS Indianapolis name, will travel up Lake Michigan, through the Straits of Mackinac, across the Great Lakes and through the St. Lawrence Seaway that opens into the Atlantic Ocean northeast of Quebec City in Canada. The warship and its crew of 70 sailors will then travel south down the coastline to the Naval Station Mayport near Jacksonville, Florida.

"Their families will be there to welcome them when they pull into the home port," said Ray Shearer, chairman off the USS Indianapolis Commissioning Committee, which spent years planning Saturday's ceremony....

**USS Detroit Departs on Maiden Deployment**

American Security Today | Posted November 2, 2019 | by Tammy Waitt
https://americansecuritytoday.com/uss-detroit-departs-on-maiden-deployment/
The Freedom-class littoral combat ship USS Detroit (LCS 7) departed its homeport of Mayport, Florida, for the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility on its maiden deployment Oct. 31.

Detroit will conduct operations in support of Joint Interagency Task Force South’s Campaign MARTILLO, a multinational effort launched in January 2012 targeting illicit trafficking routes in coastal waters along Central America.

Detroit’s operations will involve practical exercises and exchanges with partner nations, supporting U.S. 4th Fleet interoperability and reinforce the U.S. position as the regional partner of choice.

**NAS Jacksonville**

**Audit finds $126M in military aircraft parts in Jacksonville warehouse, Navy undersecretary says**

Action News Jax | Posted Nov 1, 2019

One-hundred twenty-six million dollars worth of military aircraft parts were found in a warehouse in Jacksonville.

The Navy's No. 2 civilian made that revelation and even revealed Navy aircraft couldn't fly because they didn't have the parts to keep them in the air.

Undersecretary Thomas Modly told military reporters that Navy aircraft couldn't fly because they didn't know these parts lived in a warehouse in Jacksonville.

**Cape Canaveral AFS**

**Air Force spaceplane returns to Earth after 780-day mission**

CBS News | Posted October 27, 2019 | by William Harwood

An unpiloted Air Force X-37B spaceplane, one of two winged orbiters used to carry out classified research, made a surprise landing at the Kennedy Space Center early Sunday to
close out a record 780-day mission. It was the fifth flight in the secretive Orbital Test Vehicle (OTV) program, pushing total time aloft to 2,865 days.

"This program continues to push the envelope as the (Air Force's) only reusable space vehicle," Randy Walden, director of the Air Force's Rapid Capabilities Office, said in a statement. "With a successful landing today, the X-37B completed its longest flight to date and successfully completed all mission objectives."

The unpiloted orbiters, built by Boeing, are based on the same lifting body design used for the space shuttle and they fly a similar re-entry trajectory to a runway touchdown. The X-37B features a small 4-foot by 7-foot payload bay and uses a deployable solar array for power….

**Five College Students Develop Nuke Detection System at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station**

Space Coast Daily | Posted October 30, 2019  

Five students from several American universities became X-Force fellows over the summer at the Air Force Technical Applications Center through a program sponsored by the National Security Innovation Network.

NSIN is a Department of Defense organization whose mission is to build a network of innovators to generate solutions to national security problems.

AFTAC is the DoD’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring headquarters and the nation’s technical surveillance center of excellence. Together, the two agencies are dedicated to innovative collaboration….

**Patrick AFB**

**Military Affairs Council tours only radiochemistry lab in USAF**

US Air Force / AFTAC Public Affairs | Posted October 29, 2019 | by Susan A. Romano  

For the first time since the Air Force Technical Applications Center moved into its new headquarters building in 2014, members of the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of
Commerce’s Military Affairs Council toured the U.S. Air Force Radiochemistry Lab on
AFTAC’s campus Oct. 16.

The Ciambrone Lab, posthumously named after former AFTAC vice
commander Col. Thomas Ciambrone, is the only one of its kind in the U.S.
Air Force. The scientists who work in the facility are responsible for
identifying radiologic or nuclear debris in support of the U.S. Nuclear
Debris Collection and Analysis Program.

The Military Affairs Council is an all-volunteer group of partners from the CBRCC who work
together to enhance the quality of life in the local community, with a special emphasis on
enlisted members who serve on Florida’s Space Coast.

**US Southern Command**

**It's True: U.S. Southern Command Has No Carriers to Fight Venezuela**

The National Interest | Posted October 29, 2019 | by David Axe
https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/its-true-us-southern-command-has-no-carriers-fight-venezuela-91796

A failed coup attempt targeting Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro on April 30 ended in
confusion and failure. Russian and Cuban advisors and a strong core of the Venezuelan
military continues to support Maduro amid economic collapse and widespread protests. U.S.
president Donald Trump in 2018 threatened military action against Maduro but didn’t make
good on the threat. Washington instead imposed sanctions in order to pressure Maduro to step
down.

But at least one lawmaker wants to escalate Washington’s involvement in
the Venezuelan tragedy. “Cuba, Russia send troops to prop Maduro up in
Venezuela … while we talk/sanction,” Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South
Carolina Republican, on May 3, 2019 tweeted. “Where is our aircraft
carrier?”

It’s true that U.S. Southern Command permanently controls none of the U.S. Navy’s 11
aircraft carrier and few other major forces. But there’s a good reason for that. U.S. Central
Intelligence Agency in 1973 backed Chilean general Augusto Pinochet in his military coup
against the socialist government of Salvador Allende….

**U.S. Embassy/U.S. Southcom donate to NEMO Machaca Emergency Operations Center**
National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) issued a statement today expressing its gratitude to the the United States Embassy in Belmopan and the U.S. Southern Command for providing the people and Government of Belize with a first-rate state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center and disaster relief warehouse facility for Toledo.

Toledo is now better equipped with an emergency radio, satellite television and communication system, computers, servers, drone, warehouse shelving system, a press room, kitchen and other functional spaces to respond to emergencies and disasters.

The district now has a platform or home base from where NEMO can plan, coordinate and launch relief operations for the affected population.

**DoD Budget**

**What’s in the emergency defense policy bill?**

With political gridlock stalling negotiations over the annual defense authorization bill, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday unveiled plans for his backup “skinny” version of the legislation to ensure critical military programs continue uninterrupted into next year.

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., said he remains hopeful a compromise can be found on the massive $738 billion defense policy measure in the coming weeks.

But he also argued that passing the basic military authorities contained within hundreds of additional pages of new programs and requirements — several of which have caused controversy within the House and Senate — is a critical responsibility of Congress and cannot be jeopardized by that infighting.

**‘Skinny’ defense bill omits key element: Military construction**

Roll Call | Posted November 1, 2019 | by John M. Donnelly
The Senate Armed Services Committee chairman earlier this week filed a stripped-down defense authorization bill that he said contained the U.S. military’s must-pass provisions — a backup plan in case House and Senate conferees cannot agree on a full authorization measure in the next few weeks.

But the so-called skinny bill is missing one essential element: a detailed list of authorized military construction projects.

“A skinny bill is simple,” Chairman James M. Inhofe, an Oklahoma Republican, said in an Oct. 29 floor speech introducing the measure. “It extends necessary authorities for military operations, takes care of the servicemembers and their families, and authorizes essential military construction and acquisition programs. That’s it….”

**Shutdown Date Sneaking Up on Washington**

The current continuing resolution under which the federal government is operating expires Nov. 22, and concern is growing that lawmakers and the White House will be unable to act to keep the government open.

“I’m increasingly worried that President Trump will want to shut down the government again because of impeachment,” Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said Tuesday, according to Politico.

The Senate is expected to pass this week a series of four spending bills – the annual defense appropriations bill is not included in the package – but a broader continuing resolution will probably be necessary to avoid another government shutdown….

**untitled article**

It seems increasingly less likely that a fiscal year 2020 defense policy bill – still stalled in conference negotiations – will include language addressing toxic PFAS chemicals.
House and Senate negotiators are looking at potentially controversial items to strip from the National Defense Authorization Act to ease its passage.

“We’re not going to grab something from some other committee’s jurisdiction and jam it into our bill,” House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) told CQ. “I will not hold up the defense bill over that PFAS provision, as much as I feel like it should be addressed….”

**Defense Industry**

**Air Force to begin sweeping study of space launch industry capabilities and future markets**

Space News | Posted October 27, 2019 | by Sandra Erwin

The Air Force has officially kicked off a new study of the U.S. launch industry in preparation for the next major procurement of national security launch services projected for 2025.

In a request for information (RFI) posted Oct. 25, the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center announced the start of a National Security Launch Architecture study to be led by Col. Russell Teehan, SMC’s portfolio architect.

The study is an effort to gain deeper insight into the launch industry’s capabilities and planned investments as the Air Force begins to lay out future requirements for the next phase of the National Security Space Launch (NSSL) program. The Air Force currently is evaluating proposals from launch providers for the NSSL Phase 2 Launch Service Procurement and will select two winners in 2020. The new study would influence how the Air Force sets up Phase 3 of the program, expected to begin in 2025….

**Other Items of Interest**

**Wittman Plans Play for Top HASC Spot**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted October 28, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/wittman-plans-play-for-top-hasc-spot/
Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.) announced he intends to run for the top Republican spot on the House Armed Services Committee after the 2020 election. The current ranking Republican, Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), is not running for re-election to the House.

Wittman announced his candidacy in an interview with Inside Defense.

Politico noted that the front runners for the position are Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio) and Mike Rogers (R-Ala.).

**The grades are in for America’s military strength**

Defense News | Posted October 30, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta and Joe Gould
https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2019/10/30/the-grades-are-in-for-americas-military-strength/

America’s investments in military readiness are paying off, particularly for the Army, but its armed forces would be stretched dangerously thin if they participate in more than one large war at the same time.

That is the conclusion of the Heritage Foundation’s “2020 Index of U.S. Military Strength,” the think tank’s annual review of the past year’s defense policy issues. The Index assesses the global operating environment and U.S. military strength. It ranks all topics on a five-tiered scale of “very weak,” “weak,” “marginal,” “strong” and “very strong.”

This year’s index is the rosiest of the six that the Heritage Foundation — seen as influential on the Trump administration and congressional Republicans — has issued. Defense News was given an exclusive interview with Dakota Wood, a senior research fellow at the think tank who edited the 500-page report. The full document was released Oct. 30 and can be read here….

https://www.heritage.org/military-strength

**Teacher, Military Spouse Uses Law to Improve Employment Options**

Department of Defense | Posted Month DD, 2019 | by C. Todd Lopez

After moving to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, with her Air Force officer husband, Brianna McKinnon learned just how hard it is to be a professional and a military spouse.
She also learned how working with state government can make a difference.

"I knew there would be difficulties," McKinnon said of her family's move. "I thought I was prepared to handle them, but I could not have anticipated the amount of issues there would be...."
FDSTF Update – November 8

Task Force Members,

A good Friday afternoon to everyone.

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be on November 21st at 9:00 am in the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza, 4200 Jim Walter Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33607. The November meeting will be preceded by a Florida Defense Alliance meeting in the same location the day prior.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

   888-585-9008     Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Florida Ranked High for Veterans in Independent Studies** – And speaking of Tampa, … WalletHub just named Tampa as the No. 1 most affordable city for veterans in the country. That’s based on affordability, access to Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and other factors. WalletHub also considered general living conditions and besides ranking Tampa as tops for veterans, also considered St. Petersburg ninth-best and Jacksonville came in at number 10. Not only that, but the website House Method ranked Orlando as the 5th most affordable city in the country for veterans to buy a home. Keep up the good work supporting our military and veterans, Florida, others are taking notice!


4. **New Sr. Vice President for Military and Defense** – Yesterday was Bruce Grant’s final day in the office here in Tallahassee but we’ll soon have a new Sr. Vice President for Military and Defense. Please give a warm welcome to Beth Medina. Colonel (Retired) Beth Medina is the new Vice President for Military and Defense Programs at Enterprise Florida, Inc. Beth combines her Army background with recent Florida state government experience. Her military career included numerous Civil Affairs assignments highlighted by her service as the Deputy Commander of the 350th Civil Affairs Command in Pensacola from 2014-2017. Beth’s most recent position was as the Project Manager and Risk Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation and she previously served in DEO in the Office of Disaster Recovery and the as the Strategic and Organizational Planning Manager. I’ve attached a copy of her bio to this update.

5. **Legislative Update** – With the legislature in Tallahassee holding committee meetings this week there have been some new bills filed and some that have moved through various committees. As Veterans’ Day approaches it seems there was an interest in looking at a number of veteran-focused bills as the topic de jour. Here are the most significant items of interest:
- **HB 205 - Unlawful Use of Uniforms, Medals, or Insignia** – (Avila, Sabatini) There is an existing law (FS 817.312) that prohibits unlawful use of uniforms, medals or insignia for personal financial gain or soliciting charity. HB 205 would expand the prohibition to also prohibit the use of military uniform, medals, or insignia or misrepresentation as a member or veteran of the military for professional or political benefit. [https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=66700&](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=66700&)

- **SB 7010 - OGSR/Servicemembers and the Spouses and Dependents of Servicemembers** – (Committee bill by Military and Veterans Affairs and Space) This bill would reduce the documentary burden on service members and their families of proving they have made reasonable efforts to protect their personal information regarding their identity and location in order to claim certain exemptions from certain specific public records searches. [http://www.fl senate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/7010/?Tab=BillText](http://www.fl senate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/7010/?Tab=BillText)

- **HB 543 - Medical Marijuana Identification Cards for Service-disabled Veterans** – (Hattersley) This is a companion bill to SB 0098. This bill would prohibit DOH from charging a fee for issuance, replacement, or renewal of medical marijuana identification cards for service-disabled veterans if the veteran or their caregiver submits a copy of the veteran’s form DD 14 with the application for the card. [https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=67420&SessionId=89](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=67420&SessionId=89)

6. **Finally Some Good News on PFAS/PFOA Contamination** – After hearing for quite a while about how many areas near our military bases are contaminated with toxic PFAS/PFOA and that these chemicals don’t break ever down in the environment, there’s finally some progress and hope. This week the US Air Force announced that they’ve conducted some experiments that have allowed them to actually destroy PFAS molecules using plasma, electricity and argon gas. If these experiments can be expanded to an industrial level and the process conducted economically this could lead to an eventual solution to the problem. I’ve placed a couple of articles describing these experiments below in the News Clips of Interest.

7. **Veteran’s Day** – This time each year we pause to honor all the veterans among us. Many of our veterans face hidden challenges as they work to contribute to our civilian economy once they leave active military service. There is an abundance of good programs designed to help veterans and to make use of their leadership and skills but unfortunately many of these programs fall short of their target when they are implemented at the one-on-one level. I’ve placed a few articles below in the News Clips of Interest highlighting results of recent studies on this phenomenon.
8. **US Marine Corps Birthday** – Happy 244th Birthday, Marines! While most of us focus on November 11th as a day to celebrate, let’s also remember that the day prior, November 10th is the birthday of the United States Marine Corps. While all the services celebrate their founding, as I’ve traveled around this globe, I’ve found that the Marines have a special way to celebrate their birthday and seem to do so with more gusto than the other branches. If you’ve never attended a Marine Corps Birthday Ball and one day have the chance, DO NOT pass up that opportunity. I’ve attached a copy of the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ Birthday Message to this update.

9. **Attachments:**
   - Elizabeth Medina biography
   - Governor Ron DeSantis 2019 Veterans’ Day Proclamation
   - General Berger’s 2019 Birthday Message to the USMC

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**NAS Pensacola**

**Secretary of the Navy Visits the Pensacola Force Development Team**


The Pensacola-area MyNavy HR force development team hosted the secretary of the Navy Nov. 5.

The Honorable Richard V. Spencer met with Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) senior leadership and information warfare (IW) training staff and students.
“I was impressed to see how NETC and the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) not only equip our Sailors with the specific skills they need to do their jobs, but how they are pursuing modernized training,” said Spencer. “The momentum behind incorporating innovative technology that more effectively aligns with the fleet’s requirements and how today’s Sailor learns best is refreshing….”

**Hurlburt Field**

**Search for missing Hurlburt Field special tactics airman enters fourth day**

Pensacola News Journal | Posted November 8, 2019 | by staff reports

Friday marked day four of search operations for a missing Hurlburt Field special tactics airman who fell into the Gulf during training exercises.

Around 11 a.m. Tuesday, an unidentified airman from the 24th Special Operations Wing fell into the Gulf of Mexico south of Hurlburt Field while performing a planned static-line jump from a C-130 aircraft.

Assets from the U.S. Coast Guard, Hurlburt Field Air Force Base, Eglin Air Force Base, Duke Field, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other agencies have been searching over a 700 square mile area between Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach….

**Eglin AFB**

**High-speed missile development on the fast track at Eglin**

Panama City News Herald | Posted November 7, 2019

The pace wasn’t quite five times the speed of sound, but it was close, as nine start-up companies pitched ideas Thursday for an Air Force program aimed at producing a missile capable of traveling at a mile per second or faster.

Such “hypersonic” weapons can quickly penetrate deep into enemy territory, giving little or no time to defend against them.
The pitches, from companies involved in everything from missile propulsion systems to communications technology to production of specialized materials, were part of the Air Force’s first-ever Hypersonics Pitch Day, an extremely fast-track approach to government contracting.

**Tyndall AFB**

**Governor Ron DeSantis Joins FDOT for Groundbreaking of the Tyndall Flyover**

Governor Ron DeSantis Press Release | Posted November 6, 2019 | by Governor’s Press Office


Today, Governor Ron DeSantis joined Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Kevin Thibault for a groundbreaking ceremony of the Tyndall Flyover, a new project at Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) that will improve access and security to the base. The project will elevate the travel lanes of U.S. 98 above the Tyndall Drive main entrance to the base, separating through-traffic on U.S. 98 from traffic to the entrance to Tyndall. Governor DeSantis and Secretary Thibault were joined by Colonel Brian Laidlaw, Commander of the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall AFB.

FDOT’s average annual daily traffic counts show approximately 36,000 drivers travel U.S. 98 through Tyndall AFB every day. This flyover will improve access to the base, enhance safety and improve response time for personnel living off base. This $19.9 million project is set to be completed in 2021.

“I was excited to join FDOT today to break ground on this important project for Northwest Florida and Tyndall Air Force Base,” said Governor DeSantis. “The raising of these travel lanes on U.S. 98 will significantly reduce traffic congestion for this busy intersection, improving safety and accessibility for residents, visitors and commuters to and from Tyndall. This project is a critical component of our long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts, and I look forward to seeing the improvements it will bring upon completion….”

**NS Mayport**

**Well tests haven’t found dangerous levels of firefighting chemical, Navy says**

Florida Times-Union | Posted November 5, 2019 | by Steve Patterson
The U.S. Navy has tested 131 well water samples from Jacksonville’s Mayport and Whitehouse areas without finding levels of a firefighting foam chemical above U.S. Environmental Protection Agency safety guidelines, the Navy said Tuesday.

Dozens of other samples are still waiting for analysis, but the results are good news for neighbors whose wells began being sampled in August.

Tests at private wells near Naval Station Mayport and Outlying Field Whitehouse are part of a national wave of investigations to check Navy bases for dangerous levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, chemicals that were included for years in foams that Navy crews used in firefighting drills.

**DoD Budget**

**Clock ticks down on defense policy bill**

Defense News | Posted November 4, 2019 | by Joe Gould

If Congress wants to pass the 2020 defense policy bill before the end of the year, lawmakers may have only three weeks to break a partisan deadlock between the House and Senate.

Though armed services lawmakers initially hoped to quickly reconcile competing versions of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, the process has stretched on for nearly two months, in part over Democratic opposition to President Donald Trump’s diversion of military funding for his border wall.

There were signs of a thaw when House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., met with officials at the White House to negotiate late last month and when, last Thursday, sent Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., a counter-offer to an offer Inhofe made him.

**Trump Won’t Rule Out Shutdown This Month**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted November 4, 2019 | by ADC author
The scramble is on to pass a new continuing resolution to keep the government open past Nov. 21. House and Senate appropriators are discussing an additional stopgap bill to run into mid-December, according to reports.

While some lawmakers have proposed a CR that stretches into February, House and Senate leaders worry that would push the process into the thick of a heated election cycle, tempting lawmakers to punt yet again.

The talks seem to hinge on how much to allocate to each bill and possibly putting aside – for now – the thorny issue of border wall funding, which will only get thornier as the 2020 election approaches….

### Appropriators Meeting for Bipartisan Spending Talks Next Week

Association of Defense Communities | Posted November 6, 2019 | by ADC author

House and Senate appropriators will sit down next week when House lawmakers return from their Veterans Day break.

“We’re going to talk about everything — any way to move the process,” Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) said, according to Politico. “We have to do the best we can as soon as we can.”

Shelby said lawmakers will likely extend current government spending levels – set to expire Nov. 21 – until just before or after Christmas. The White House has said President Trump would sign a continuing resolution if it doesn’t hinder his ability to move military construction funds around to pay for a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border….

### White House Open to Stopgap Bill, Wall Fund Compromise

Association of Defense Communities | Posted November 5, 2019 | by ADC author

The White House is willing to accept a smaller pot of money for a southern border wall than it initially requested, CQ reported late Tuesday.
“The bazaar is open, no reasonable offer refused,” CQ reported a source as saying. “It’s time for the Hill to make them a proposal,” the source said.

The development gives new hope that Congress can pass another short-term stopgap spending bill to keep the government open past Nov. 21 while it tries to finish the formal appropriations process.

**Conger: DCIP Funding Key to Secure Installations**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted November 5, 2019 | by ADC author

https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/conger-dcip-funding-key-to-secure-installations/

To keep installations resilient, the Pentagon needs to focus on infrastructure outside the fence, John Conger wrote in a Defense One article encouraging Congress to fund the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP). The program would support community resiliency efforts against threats such as climate change.

“[D]efense communities have become indispensable to the installations they surround, providing electricity, water and wastewater services, communications nodes, transportation infrastructure, housing for the majority of military personnel, the civilian workforce, education for military children, specialized medical capability, and emergency response,” Conger wrote. “[M]ost bases would not be able to function for long without the services provided by neighboring communities.”

Congress authorized DCIP last year but has not funded it. DCIP is included in the defense policy bill that’s currently stalled on Capitol Hill. That bill also calls for a review of vulnerabilities at each installation.

**Defense Industry**

**Lockheed Martin grabs $60M in metro Orlando defense work**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted November 5, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom

https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2019/11/05/lockheed-martin-grabs-60m-in-metro-orlando-defense.html?ana=e_ae_set1&i=90179371&t=Afternoon&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTTJZeU16QTROekExTJZeU16QTROekExWQpObSlslnQiOlxTk5UWFFoYk02K3p5ekhwdXBjdNfx5VR0WWJNQW1S0xcLzhpzdKSKlRZTBEM3FiSFpCdFZ3eW5aADZucFBhZVpHYjZZYlNWM2pFdvyeGpXaGk2dGNHaVRzWDgyYWtntnATFJbW5hRkVjR3ZVvmY1eG1nRGxwdVoxeUxVbEI7Z2pxOWJqSGhpN3Z5VHgzTmFnaWMI1SGh3PT0ifQ%3D%3D
Central Florida’s largest defense contractor has secured two U.S. Navy contracts with local work worth a combined $60 million.

Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT) won a $40 million contract to build Trident II missiles. The contract was awarded to Lockheed’s Titusville operations and 12.5% of the work will take place in Cape Canaveral. The contract is expected to be completed by Sept. 30, 2024.

Lockheed also won a $20 million contract for the production of training devices for the Littoral Combat Ship. Fifty-one percent of the work will be done in Orlando, and the work is expected to be completed by March 2022.

**Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman win combined $200M+ in defense contracts with local work**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted November 7, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom

https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2019/11/07/lockheed-martin-northrop-grumman-win-combined-200m.html?ana=e ae_set1&j=90187931&t=Afternoon&mtk_tok=eyJpIjoiWXpoa1IqVXdabVJqTVRNeSJ5InQIOjyODhTRVM0Mml2Zkp3TTZU2FJQBBeEpEMVIFMFhOaFdVZdVv1k2Z0tEcGdqRkkFcw3YTihbMcLy1N3l4aE5pRE4rcXhTF5xU2RVeHV1NVqVVlyUGZmR2FBU0RsRXNwMHo5cERkZEtMQ0pQawXzanfTGdqb2RqQUJ1SE5TzBHczlIRvud2IERFYwaE50T2xRPT0iQ%3D%3D

Two of Central Florida’s largest defense contractors snagged a couple of big deals that will bring more work to the region.

Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp. won a $184 million contract modification from a team that includes the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and non-Department of Defense clients. A portion of the work on this contract, 19%, will take place in Melbourne, the Department of Defense announced on Nov. 6.

Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT) is contracted to establish repair capabilities for F-35 aircraft systems.

**Other Items of Interest**

**Protecting US Bases Increasingly Requires Hardening Civilian Infrastructure**

Defense One | Posted November 4, 2019 | by John Conger

As the House and Senate work to complete the DoD Appropriations and the National Defense Authorization Act, they need to prioritize resilience efforts not only at military installations, but the communities that surround them.

The National Defense Strategy published by the Pentagon in 2018 sets the right tone by declaring that the “homeland is no longer a sanctuary.” We cannot assume that installations in the United States can consider themselves free from harm, especially as technological advances allow service members on bases to have direct impacts in war zones. In this context, the Pentagon has been increasing its focus on installation resilience – ensuring it will be able to continue operating even as threats manifest.

While the NDS doesn’t specifically call out climate change as a threat, it’s pretty clear that Mother Nature has imposed some pretty severe costs on our domestic bases. Extreme weather such as hurricanes have devastated Tyndall AFB and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in late 2018. Record flooding struck Offutt AFB in March. Naval Weapons Station China Lake was severely damaged by a major earthquake in July. Taken together, recovery from these four events alone well exceeds $10 billion….

Top House Defense Appropriator Leaving Congress

Association of Defense Communities | Posted November 6, 2019 | by ADC author

House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Pete Visclosky (D-Ind.) surprised colleagues Wednesday by announcing he won’t seek re-election to the House next year.

By seniority, Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) is next in line to head the subcommittee. If she chooses not to leave her current position heading another subcommittee, Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Ohio) would be next in line, CQ reported.

Appropriations Committee Chair Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) praised Visclosky as a “champion for the women and men of our armed forces, and a supporter of a robust mix of defense, diplomacy and development to keep our nation safe and strong,” according to Defense News….

DOD, Researchers Testing Potential PFAS Fix

Association of Defense Communities | Posted November 7, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/dod-researchers-testing-potential-pfas-fix/
The Air Force and scientists have tested a method of cleaning up PFAS-contaminated groundwater at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, using plasma technology to destroy the “forever chemicals,” the service announced in a press release.

“This is the only technology that actually destroys PFAS molecules that has been demonstrated at this scale; it doesn’t just remove them from water,” said Tom Holsen of Clarkson University, which partnered on the project with GSI International. “All of the other demonstrations that we’re aware of remove it from the water through filtration, so there is still a PFAS containing waste. Our method actually destroys PFAS.”

The next phase of the test is to further analyze water samples.

“Research like this could lead to the breakthroughs we need to address potential contamination,” said Mark Correll, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, energy and the environment.

**The Defense Department May Have Found a Fix for Contaminated Water on Bases**

Military.com | Posted November 7, 2019 | by Oriana Pawlyk
https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/11/07/defense-department-may-have-found-fix-contaminated-water-bases.html

Academic researchers and the U.S. Air Force have conducted a test using technology that can destroy hazardous chemical compounds in groundwater that are contaminating military bases, surrounding communities and the environment.

The service this week announced it had tested an "Enhanced Contact Plasma Reactor," capable of destroying perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid -- known as PFOS and PFOA -- synthetic chemical compounds that are collectively part of a group of polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

Tested at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, with partners Clarkson University and GSI Environmental as well as the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, the reactor acts as "a closed system utilizing water, electricity and argon gas to degrade PFOS and PFOA in minutes," the service said in a news release….

**Hire Our Heroes: Helping veterans transition from military service**
Bureau of Labor statistics on unemployment in America tell an unpleasant story. Between 2009 and 2011 unemployment among civilians age 18–24 who had never been in military service remained consistently around 16 percent. Unemployment among America’s military veterans in that same age range, however, jumped from around 20 percent in 2009 and 2010 to 30 percent in 2011.

Dan Caporale knows what it’s like to transition from military service with a respected position and guaranteed paycheck to being a civilian pounding the pavement looking for a job. Today he is the chairman and founder of Hire Our Heroes, (a.k.a. HOH) a not-for-profit organization “founded by veterans for veterans” to help transitioning military personnel in being more employable and assist them in meeting employers looking to hire veterans. On April 2, 2014, Caporale spoke with HistoryNet’s senior editor, Gerald Swick, about what Hire Our Heroes does.

**HistoryNet**: To begin with, what is Hire Our Heroes? What is its mission…?

**Companies that Recruit Veterans Often Fail to Hire Them, Data Shows**

The buzz companies make around hiring veterans often doesn't result in actual jobs, according to a study released Tuesday by LinkedIn.

Transitioning veterans received 26% more recruiter messages via LinkedIn than their civilian counterparts, the study found. But while interest in veterans from the recruiters was high, 38 of the top 50 industries actually employ veterans at a lower rate than nonveterans. And when they did make it through the door, veterans were 70% more likely than nonveterans to walk into a new gig that was a step down, the report said.

The gap between recruitment and hiring rates and the rate of veteran underemployment can likely be traced back to an issue that has long plagued the military community -- the military-civilian divide, said Sarah Roberts, who heads military and veteran programs for LinkedIn….
Veterans might want to think twice when choosing a city to live in, and then think again before buying a home, according to separate surveys recently conducted by private firms.

Tampa, Florida, was rated No. 1 for veterans among 100 cities nationwide on the basis of affordability, access to Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and other factors, according to the 2019 Best & Worst Places for Veterans to Live survey by the personal finance website WalletHub. Detroit was ranked No. 100.

A separate study by the website House Method on the best cities for veterans to buy a home put San Antonio at the top of a list of 50 cities and Los Angeles at the bottom….
FDSTF Update – November 15

Task Force Members,

A good Friday evening to everyone.

1. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be on November 21st at 9:00 am in the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza, 4200 Jim Walter Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33607. The November meeting will be preceded by a Florida Defense Alliance meeting in the same location the day prior. I am attaching the agendas for both meetings to this update

2. Meeting Call In Number –

   888-585-9008  Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. Florida Military Bases Face Increasing Threat From Dangerous Heat – This week the Union of Concerned Scientists released a report about the possibility of rising temperatures increasing the risk of heat-related injuries and deaths within the US during the coming decades. A sub-section of that report dealt specifically with heat-related health issues at US bases and Florida is the state most at risk from this phenomenon. Of the 10 bases most affected by extreme heat, five of the top six are in Florida (Homestead ARB, MacDill AFB, Corry Station, NAS Pensacola’s Outlying Field Bronson and Hurlburt Field). This received a lot of reporting from various sources this week and I’ve pasted some of the more complete articles below in the News Clips of Interest.) The hyperlink immediately below leads the the UCS original military base report.

   https://blog.ucsusa.org/kristy-dahl/military-extreme-heat?_ga=2.76436701.935474946.1573512690-1220789704.1571859539&_gac=1.255954681.1573512690.CjwKCAiAqqTuBRBAEiwA7B66hUT1ItRALAbm4OuPoBtx9sS5hNAEZNLN-wKjLDr8moGw0hbKWGEUxoCPBMQAaD_BwE

4. Progress on a DOD Budget – The Department of Defense doesn’t have a FY 2020 budget yet but multiple reports this week indicate that US Senate and House of Representatives have found common ground on reducing their differences and the White House has signaled a willingness to negotiate with the House leadership on their major items of disagreement. There aren’t any specific details on this but at least there are indications of progress. See below in the News Clips of Interest for more details.

5. Beth Medina Starts Work at EFI on Monday – Last week I introduced you via E-mail to our new Senior Vice President for Military and Defense, Beth Medina. Monday will be her first day here at EFI and we’re not giving her any time to get settled in. On her second day on the job we’re bringing her down to Tampa with us for the FDA and FDSTF meetings next
week. We look forward to introducing her in person to all of you when we see you next Wednesday and Thursday.

6. **Attachments:**
   - Florida Defense Alliance Agenda – November 20, 2019
   - Florida Defense Support Task Force Agenda – November 21, 2019

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Hurlburt Field**

‘*Not an Easy Decision*: Rescue Mission Ends With an Airman Still Missing

The New York Times | Posted November 11, 2019 | by John Ismay

One of the bedrock principles of military service is to leave no one behind. So when an airman, Staff Sgt. Cole Condiff, 29, fell from a cargo plane into the waters south of the Florida Panhandle during a training exercise last week, an intense search effort was quickly underway.

Rescue teams started from the spot where he was believed to have fallen on Tuesday, about four miles offshore between Fort Walton Beach and Pensacola. The Coast Guard dispatched three types of aircraft over the course of the search, along with several boats. Army Special Forces joined the search as well.

But after three and a half days scouring 700 square miles of the Gulf of Mexico without success, the rescue teams faced the grim reality: The sergeant was unlikely to have survived that long unaided. Their mission was no longer to rescue him, but to recover his body....
U.S. Air Force Receives First HH-60W Helicopters

On November 6, the first Lockheed Martin/Sikorsky HH-60W was delivered to a U.S. Air Force base. A second arrived on the following day, the first two of an eventual six that will be assigned for trials at Duke Field, a satellite of Eglin AFB in the Florida panhandle.

The helicopters were delivered from the Sikorsky Developmental Flight Test Center at West Palm Beach, Florida, by crews from the 88th Test and Evaluation Squadron’s Det 2. The delivery flights were undertaken under visual flight rules as the HH-60W’s experimental certification does not permit instrument flight or the use of transponders. Careful planning was needed to conduct the flight through busy traffic and around inclement weather.

At Duke Field, the aircraft are flown by the 413th Flight Test Squadron, part of the 96th Test Wing. The squadron performs trials with special operations and rescue aircraft, and currently has various C-130 Hercules variants, CV-22 Ospreys, and older H-60 variants on strength. . . .

Tyndall AFB

Tyndall Air Force Base rebuild underway

The base of the future is coming to Bay County. Executive Director of the Tyndall Air Force Base Reconstruction Program Management Office, Brig. Gen. Patrice Melancon, along with 325th Fighter Wing Vice Commander, Col. Jefferson Hawkins, discussed the progress of the base rebuild.

Tyndall Air Force Base was severely damaged in Hurricane Michael leading to a complete rebuild of the facilities.

“We’re building a base that’s going to be here for 70-100 years, building it to support aircraft and missions that we can’t even imagine right now,” said Melancon. Melancon said their
deadline for the base rebuild is October 2023 because the first F-35 aircraft are slated to arrive the first of the month.…

**Power Up Energy Expo brings eco-friendly technology to Tyndall Air Force Base**

Mypanhandle.com | Posted November 13, 2019 | by Madalyn Bierster

Rebuilding Tyndall Air Force Base is a critical aspect to Bay County’s economy, but as they rebuild they are looking to create the mold for future bases as they become more energy efficient. Their goal is to become the base of the future.

The 10th annual Power Up Energy Expo in Panama City Beach had over 300 different representatives from multiple different companies to talk with Tyndall Air Force Base about their own energy-efficient companies.

“I think we had a really big trial with Hurricane Michael being put in front of us, and if Panama City and this community is going to be rebuilt were going to have to be smart,” said Sesco Company Project Administrator, Alan Gray.…

**DoD Budget**

**Hard Border Wall Positions Start to Soften**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted November 13, 2019 | by ADC author

The White House has signaled a willingness to accept a lower level of homeland security funding for building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border than it originally requested, CQ reported Wednesday night, a potential small first step in breaking an appropriations stalemate that could stretch into 2020.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), chair of the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, said it was her “understanding” that the White House would settle for less in the homeland security spending bill but only if Congress lets President Trump keep what he considers an authority to move military construction money to the border wall. Democrats maintain he does not have such authority.
The same issue is the main sticking point in National Defense Authorization Act negotiations…

**HASC Chair Hits Back At Republicans Over Stalled NDAA**

Breaking Defense | Posted November 13, 2019 | by Paul McLeary


Debate over the Space Force remains one of the “higher echelon” issues roiling negotiations over the 2020 defense policy bill. Add to it President Trump’s border wall, the ban on recruiting transgender troops, and reauthorizing the 2002 AUMF, Rep. Adam Smith, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee told reporters today.

Smith wouldn’t predict what the final compromise bill might look like, but noted that there is a huge range of opinion on the Hill over the Space Force and talks continue.

Overall, “I think we are proceeding reasonably well” on getting a final bill wrapped up. Smith added that, “I don’t think we’re particularly far off” from forging an agreement over the most contentious aspects of the legislation….

**Esper: Get Ready for Program Cuts in 2021**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted November 12, 2019 | by ADC author


Expect cuts in to some programs in the 2021 defense budget proposal as DOD looks for ways to trim spending in some areas to find priorities in the National Defense Strategy, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said this week.

As Army secretary, Esper made it a priority to trim spending, a process the Air Force is also working on.

“All the services need to go through this so we can focus on the National Defense Strategy and…get rid of legacy programs and activities and pivot toward the future,” Esper told reporters Monday, according to Defense One.

**Other Items of Interest**

**Climate Change Is Already Making U.S. Troops Sick, and Florida Military Bases Will Suffer Most**
Veterans Day commemorates the end of World War I, when the guns fell silent across the Western Front at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Since that time, average global temperatures have increased by an average of 1.5 degrees — and experts say that's no doubt affecting today's U.S. military operations.

This morning, the Union of Concerned Scientists published an interactive map identifying the U.S. military bases most at risk of extreme heat in the next century. Scientists predict those military bases will weather an additional month on average of "dangerously hot days" — where the heat index soars into the triple figures — by midcentury. But service members stationed in Florida can expect a helluva lot more heat.

The four military bases expected to be most affected are Homestead Air Reserve Base outside Miami, which can expect 102 more extreme-heat days; MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, with 96 more extreme-heat days; Corry Station at Naval Air Station Pensacola, with 78 more extreme-heat days; and Outlying Field Bronson at Naval Air Station Pensacola, with 77 more extreme-heat days….

**How rising temps could cause even more heat casualties at military bases**

About 2,800 troops suffered illnesses from dehydration to heat stroke last year. That number is 50 percent higher than it was five years earlier, according to a study published Monday, and will only get worse as global temperatures continue to rise.

The military’s hottest bases clock in at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, and they could be staring down four months a year where the heat index tops 100 degrees.

“The growing number of dangerously hot days could pose a challenge to the military’s efforts to protect service members’ health while also ensuring mission readiness,” Kristy Daul, the study’s lead author, said in a Monday news release….

The section is a consolidated source of Florida travel information for service members, veterans, and their families. The site includes information about discounts and experiences available to military members and their families, monuments and memorials, military-related events, museums and more.

“More than 1.5 million veterans call Florida home and the defense industry is one of the state’s top economic drivers,” said Governor DeSantis. “On Veteran’s Day, we recognize and observe the sacrifices of our men and women in the armed services who have dedicated their lives to preserving the principles upon which our great country was founded. Since taking office, I have made it a priority to enhance Florida’s reputation as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. VISIT FLORIDA’s new military travel hub expands this initiative and further strengthens the bond between Florida and our nation’s heroes….”

**Congress Close to Striking Landmark PFAS Deal, Chairman Says**

Congress’ two chambers have largely resolved their differences over which provisions relating to “forever chemicals” should stay in an annual defense authorization bill, the House Armed Services Committee chairman said Nov. 13.

Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) said the lawmakers negotiating over this bill have reached agreement on issues such as setting a deadline for the Pentagon to adopt a replacement firefighting foam that doesn’t contain these chemicals, and on forcing the Environmental Protection Agency to establish nationwide drinking water regulations for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

“I think we’ve worked that stuff out,” Smith told reporters. However, he said the House and Senate haven’t yet agreed on whether to add these chemicals to the EPA’s hazardous substances list. Doing this would force the Pentagon to pay for cleanups at sites contaminated with PFAS through the EPA’s Superfund program….
Task Force Members,

A good Tuesday afternoon to everyone. This update serves for both a follow-up from last week’s meetings and my update for this short holiday week. I’ll resume the normal publication schedule in December.

1. **Next Meeting** – The Task Force will not meet in December, so our next meeting will be January 16th, 2020. Since the 2020 Legislative Session will have begun, we’ll be meeting in Tallahassee at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

   888-585-9008  
   Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **November FDSTF meeting** – Our last Task Force meeting of 2019 was a very productive one. The Task Force heard from Liz Miller of DEO who gave us an update on the development of the Aerospace & Defense Online Platform which should have an early phase online by Spring 2020. The Task Force also voted on the prioritization of the non-conservation lands submitted by the base commanders around Florida so the staff can forward those results to DEO. Finally, Matt Schwalb gave an In-Progress Review of the work on the 2019 Military & Defense Economic Impact Study. The final results of that study should be available to be announced at our January 2020 meeting.

   Following the meeting some members of the Task Force took a tour of MacDill AFB where they practiced on the KC-135 refueling boom simulator and viewed the Deployed Unit Complex for aircraft working over Avon Park AFR. The tour finished with an especially impressive group of junior sergeants and airmen who showed us their dedication and innovation keeping these Eisenhower-era KC-135s operating.

4. **November FDA meeting** – Last Wednesday, November 20th, the Florida Defense Alliance held its final meeting of 2019. The FDA received a briefing on the US Air Force Strategic Basing methodology and how it has been applied to the decision-making process on basing F-35s in the Air National Guard. The FDA also received briefings on education programs for children of military personnel, Mission United and opportunities for cooperation between universities and the military. During the afternoon the FDA broke up into the Mission Sustainment and Family Support Working Groups.
5. **DoD Budget** – Last Thursday the US Senate and House of Representatives both passed another Continuing Resolution that funds the government through December 20. Congress is in Thanksgiving recess now but still has considerable work ahead when they reconvene next week. There are some reports that the White House and Speaker Pelosi are working on a deal. Details are in the *News Clips of Interest*.

6. **Thanksgiving Greetings** – As we all turn to celebrating the Holiday Season, we here at the EFI staff are very thankful for all of you who volunteer your time and effort to support the efforts to help our military personnel, their families and help protect the bases they use. We certainly couldn’t do this without your help. We wish all of you a very pleasant and Happy Thanksgiving!

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Space Force / Space Command**

**Space Command head ‘really eager’ to get Space Force off the ground**

Air Force Technology | Posted November 19, 2019 | by Harry Lye


The head of the US Space Command (USSPACECOM) and US Air Force Space Command, General John Raymond, said he was ‘really eager’ for Congress to authorise the creation of a US Space Force.

The Space Force would become the sixth branch of the US Armed Forces if authorised by Congress in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The legislation, which sets the annual budget for the Department of Defense, includes a section devoted to the creation of the Space Force or ‘Space Corps’.
Speaking at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC, Raymond said: “I’m really eager for Congress to pass this NDAA so we can have the Space Force.” Raymond also provided more details about the possible structure of the Space Force and how it would fit in with the various combatant commands.

**Hurlburt Field**

**Hurlburt U-28 crew wins prestigious Mackay Trophy**

Northwest Florida Daily News | Posted November 23, 2019


A crew of air commandos from the 319th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron stationed at Hurlburt Field has been awarded the prestigious Mackay Trophy for 2018.

The trophy, which goes to the crew flying “the most meritorious flight of the year across the Air Force,” was presented to Maj. Caitlin Reilly, Capt. Patrick Perez, Capt. Samantha Lang and Senior Airman Kyle Hanson on Nov. 13 at a ceremony at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

The crew, known as Draco 42, flies a U-28A aircraft used by special operations forces for intelligence gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance. They earned the award for their actions during an Aug. 14, 2018, flight in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel, according to an article posted by the Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs office.

**How AFSOC Plans to Use Its Light Attack Aircraft**

Air Force Magazine | Posted November 18, 2019 | by Brian Everstine


Air Force Special Operations Command plans to use its small buy of A-29 Super Tucano aircraft, under the service’s light attack experiment, to bolster its air advisers’ ability to train and, in the long term, improve the armed overwatch capability it can provide to other services.
Brig. Gen. David Harris, AFSOC’s director of strategic plans, programs, and requirements, said the A-29 will improve the command’s ability to continue to address the low-intensity, violent extremist fight in the future by bolstering allied capabilities and better protecting US forces under fire, in a way that current USAF assets cannot.

The service on Oct. 24 released the final request for proposals for the light attack experiment, calling for two to three AT-6s from Textron Aviation for Air Combat Command. These would go to Nellis AFB, Nev., for testing and development of operational tactics, according to a service release. The two to three Sierra Nevada Corp.-Embraer A-29s will go to AFSOC at Hurlburt Field, Fla., to create an instructor pilot program for air advisers to meet an “increase [in] partner nation requests for light-attack assistance,” the service said.

**Recovery effort suspended for airman lost in Gulf of Mexico**

Fox News | Posted November 25, 2019 | by Louis Casiano

The search for an Air Force special tactics combat controller who fell into the Gulf of Mexico after falling out of a plane earlier this month has been suspended, military officials said over the weekend.

The Air Force, along with other military branches, has conducted round-the-clock searches in an effort to recover the remains of Staff Sgt. Cole Condiff.

The 29-year-old was presumed dead after falling 1,500 feet out of a C-130 aircraft on Nov. 5 during a parachute training exercise near Hurlburt Field, Fla.

**Tyndall AFB**

**Tyndall Air Force Base to become one of first military bases in U.S. with 5G service**

WTXL Tallahassee | Posted November 21, 2019

Tyndall Air Force Base, which suffered catastrophic structural damage in 2018 due to Hurricane Michael's Category 5 winds, will now become one of the first military bases to light up with 5G service.
AT&T says the U.S. Air Force is working with them to create a "Smart Base of the Future" at Tyndall Air Force Base, which is located in the Florida Panhandle.

They'll be one of the first military bases in the U.S. to feature the 5G service. The service is expected to launch as early as mid-2020.

**FL National Guard / Camp Blanding**

**Florida Guard leader promises action on sexual misconduct scandal**

Military Times | Posted November 23, 2019 | by Howard Altman

The commander of the Florida National Guard on Tuesday promised more action on the problem of sexual assault and harassment in the wake of a burgeoning scandal he inherited, which involves allegations of sexual misconduct covered up for years by leadership.

“In April, just as I was taking command, our organization was rocked by public allegations of misconduct that went all the way up our chain of command to the highest levels,” Air Force Maj. Gen. James O. Eifert, the Florida National Guard adjutant general, said in a message to troops posted on his Facebook page.

“Over the past seven months, we have received more than 60 allegations — some extremely serious — ranging from misuse of government resources to retaliation to sexual assault. Needless to say, it has been a challenging few months, and the fallout from these allegations has not left our organization unscathed….”

**NS Mayport**

**11 sailors suffered minor injuries in fire on USS Iwo Jima**

Associated Press | Posted November 15, 2019 | by AP

The U.S. Navy says 11 sailors suffered minor injuries when fire broke out Friday on the USS Iwo Jima, now docked at the Naval Station Mayport near Jacksonville.
In a news release, the Navy said sailors on the amphibious assault ship reported smoke early Friday in a cargo hold. The Naval Station's fire department responded, joined by crews from the Jacksonville Fire Department.

The injured sailors were treated at the scene and released. Capt. Darrell Canady, the ship's commanding officer, said the sailors are "rigorously trained to combat casualties such as this fire."

The ship is undergoing maintenance at the base.

**MacDill AFB**

**There may be unmarked graves at MacDill Air Force Base, historians say**

Fox 13 Tampa Bay | Posted November 21, 2019 | by Evan Axelbank and Kellie Cowan

Crews at MacDill Air Force Base will begin the process of searching for a forgotten African-American cemetery.

The search began after a member of the Hillsborough School District's Historical Response committee said there would be new cemeteries discovered in Tampa. "I understand he has found something in the Port Tampa area that will be coming forth," said Hillsborough Commission Chair Les Miller.

MacDill spokespeople say there's a reason to believe that in a wooded area of the base's northwest corner, there could be an African-American cemetery.

**MacDill supports joint force exercise**

6th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs | Posted November 22, 2019 | by Airman 1st Class Ryan C. Grossklag,

For around a week, the skies over MacDill Air Force Base, Florida buzzed with the sounds of HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters, as the base hosted a Joint Force deployment readiness exercise.
The 512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, and the 445th Airlift Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, transported the assets needed by the 305th Rescue Squadron, Davis-Monthan, Air Force Base, Arizona, using a C-5 Super Galaxy and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft in a show of total force mobility.

U.S. Air Force Reserve Airmen and U.S. Army Special Forces have made MacDill’s Deployed Unit Complex their temporary home for the exercise as MacDill is the ideal location for the operations taking place at Avon Park Air Force Range, Florida. Resources available at MacDill and the Tampa Bay area provide all the necessities for successful mission completion for the units.

**Avon Park**

**SOF AND CONVENTIONAL UNITS TEST FUTURISTIC GOGGLES THAT MIGHT REVOLUTIONIZE WARFARE**

SOFREP | Posted November 22, 2019 | by Stavros Atlamazoglou


Technological superiority over an enemy is a sure way to gain an advantage in war. Whether that advantage is capitalized upon to bring victory is another matter.

The U.S. military might be the most technologically advanced force on the planet, but the competition isn’t far behind. Perpetual vigilance in upholding this advantage, regardless of the branch or platform, is key. And when it comes to the equipment used by close-combat troops — arguably the ones who win or lose wars — then that vigilance must be that much higher.

Recently, the Soldier Lethality Cross-Functional Team (SL CFT), which aims to improve the lethality of close-combat troops, tested a prototype of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS). The testing included both conventional and Special Operations units. The Microsoft-designed product is looking to ensure tactical superiority over current and future adversaries.

In the coming February, SOCOM is going to host a Technical Experimentation (TE) event at Avon Park Air Force Range, Florida. The aim of the TE is to explore emerging technologies and industry progress in the Night Vision Electro-Optics (NVEO) field. More specifically, the event will focus on True Color Night Vision and Fused Imagery Sensors, True Color Night Vision for the, Tactical Video System (TVS), Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition (RSTA) and Technical Surveillance Equipment (TSE)…
DoD Budget

Congress passes deal to avert Thanksgiving government shutdown, but December shutdown looms

Military Times | Posted November 21, 2019 | by Leo Shane III and Joe Gould

Senate lawmakers on Thursday took another step toward erasing the threat of a government shutdown over the Thanksgiving holiday by passing a four-week budget extension, raising the possibility of a Christmas shutdown instead.

The move came over continued objections from some defense lawmakers who warned the short-term budget deals jeopardize military planning by keeping Pentagon funding stuck at last fiscal year’s levels and adding future uncertainty into long-range procurement plans.

But House lawmakers advanced the deal by a 231-192 vote on Wednesday and the Senate by a 74-20 vote a day later, noting that without the one-month reprieve federal workers would have faced furloughs and program halts starting Friday morning.

President Donald Trump has indicated he will sign the measure into law later in the day, meaning the new budget extension would run out on Dec. 20…. 

Fate of Next Spending Deal Lies With Pelosi, Mnuchin

Wall Street Journal | Posted November 24, 2019 | by Kate Davidson and Andrew Duehren

When Congress returns from its Thanksgiving break, lawmakers will have just three weeks to come up with a detailed agreement on funding for more than a dozen federal agencies or risk a government shutdown days before Christmas for the second year in a row.

To help negotiate a path forward, the administration is deploying Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin to work with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.), according to two administration officials. It is an unusual remit: Past Treasury secretaries have played a role in budget negotiations, but they haven’t typically conducted discussions over detailed spending legislation.
While the Office of Management and Budget leads the administration’s efforts on spending, Mr. Mnuchin has emerged as the public face of the administration on Capitol Hill in the spending talks, which took a positive turn this weekend even as impeachment strains the broader relationship between the two branches. Mr. Mnuchin’s role speaks to the rapport and goodwill he has built up with lawmakers and, in particular, Mrs. Pelosi, current and former administration officials said….

Defense Industry

Smart sensor maker snags $7.5M defense deal

Orlando Business Journal | Posted November 19, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom

A few weeks after winning its first major defense contract, an Osceola County smart sensor facility has secured another deal.

Kissimmee-based Bridg won a $7.5 million U.S. Air Force contract for research and development related to the semiconductor manufacturing process. Work will be performed at the Kissimmee facility and is expected to be completed by Sept. 22, 2022.

Bridg declined to provide further comment regarding the contract….

Other Items of Interest

Pentagon Warns that Number of Military Bases with Contaminated Water Likely to Rise

Military.com | Posted November 21, 2019 | by Tara Copp

The number of known military installations with water sources contaminated by cancer-linked firefighting foam is likely to rise, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

In 2018, the Pentagon reported that 401 sites -- including wells, on-base drinking sources and groundwater -- at its military bases and communities worldwide had tested positive for higher than allowable levels of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl compounds, commonly known as PFAS.
Based on further testing, that 401 number is likely to go higher, Robert McMahon, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment said Wednesday. A new, higher number is expected in an interim report on the issue that is expected to go to Defense Secretary Mark Esper next week.

### Spencer Fired As SecNav, Three Different Stories Why

Breaking Defense | Posted November 24, 2019 | by Paul McLeary

Defence Secretary Mark Esper fired his Navy Secretary today at a critical time for the sea service, as top leaders were about to sign off on an ambitious new shipbuilding plan. They now have to contend with yet another crisis in the Pentagon’s top ranks.

Ambassador to Norway Ken Braithwaite will be nominated as the new Secretary of the Navy, according to a statement by Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman, breaking a pattern where President Donald Trump elevates a deputy and keeps him as acting instead of nominating someone new. Navy Undersecretary Thomas Modly will take over as acting secretary for the second time this year, after a brief stint when Spencer moved up to take over as acting defense secretary while Esper was awaiting confirmation.

Braithwaite graduated from the Naval Academy in 1984, and was an aviator before moving on to head several public affairs shops in the US and overseas within the Navy. After retirement as a rear Admiral in 2011, he worked as an executive in various businesses, ran communications at the US Embassy in Islamabad, and was senior advisor to Sen. Arlen Specter.

### The Pentagon completed its second audit. What did it find?

Military Times | Posted November 16, 2019 | by Aaron Mehta and Jen Judson

For the second year in a row, the Pentagon has officially failed its audit. And for the second year in a row, that result was expected.

Elaine McCusker, the Pentagon’s acting comptroller, told reporters ahead of the formal audit release — which occurred late on a busy Friday night in Washington — that “as expected,” the department would be receiving what is known as an “overall disclaimer,” a technical term that means the results of the audit did not come back clean.

Still, McCusker said she sees real progress being made. “I think the department has been pretty open with the fact that it’s got material weaknesses, it’s got things that need [to be]
fixed,” she said. "But, you know, our ability to really demonstrate solid progress, I think is the headline….”

**A new, non-toxic firefighting foam could be on the way**

Military Times | Posted November 15, 2019 | by Meghann Myers

Under pressure from environmental groups, the Defense Department is on the hunt for an aqueous film-forming foam — the kind it uses to put out fires after aircraft crashes and other incidents — that doesn’t contain potentially cancer-causing chemicals that leach into ground water.

The Pentagon has put about $10 million into the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program since 2011, according to a Friday DoD release, to eventually create a foam that doesn’t contain perfluorooctane sulfonate or perfluorooctanoic acid, collectively known as PFAS.

The research “encourages us to work across disciplines and outside our own university, even at locations throughout the world, to get the best minds to address this,” Christopher Higgins, a Colorado School of Mines civil and environmental engineering professor said in the release….

**Trump taps US Ambassador to Norway to be his new Navy Secretary**

CNN | Posted November 25, 2019 | by Zachary Cohen

President Donald Trump has tapped Kenneth Braithwaite, his ambassador to Norway, to replace ousted Navy Secretary Richard Spencer amid unprecedented tensions between top military leaders and the White House over a controversial case involving a Navy SEAL accused of war crimes.

The President announced his decision to nominate Braithwaite, a retired Navy rear admiral, shortly after Defense Secretary Mark Esper forced Spencer to resign for circumventing the
chain of command by working on a "secret agreement with the White House" to reinstate Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher despite resistance from the Pentagon.

"Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer's services have been terminated by Secretary of Defense Mark Esper. I thank Richard for his service & commitment. Eddie will retire peacefully with all of the honors that he has earned, including his Trident Pin," the President wrote Sunday on Twitter….
FDSTF Update – December 9

Task Force Members,

A good Monday afternoon to everyone.

1. **Next Meeting** – The Task Force will not meet in December, so our next meeting will be January 16th, 2020. Since the 2020 Legislative Session will have begun, we'll be meeting in Tallahassee at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

2. **Meeting Call In Number**

   888-585-9008  Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Next Round of F-35 Basing Decisions** – Through follow-up calls and E-mails after our November FDA and FDSTF meetings the staff has learned that when Air Force Secretary Barrett took office, she wanted to study the staff work the Air Force had done on selecting potential bases for the next squadrons of F-35s. Our Florida delegation in Washington believes that her review is nearly complete, and the Air Force will announce the “Enterprise Definition” which lays out the criteria for selecting the bases to locate those aircraft later this month. We’ll keep you apprised as we learn more.

4. **Progress on DoD 2020 Budget** – During this past weekend U.S. House of Representatives and Senate budget negotiators made some significant progress on an agreement for a 2020 Defense budget. This would include, among other things, appropriating some funds to start up a U.S. Space Force. The progress was significant enough that congressional leaders are optimistic they will have a final bill that both houses can pass before this week is over. Details are in the *News Clips of Interest*.

5. **NAS Pensacola** – We were all deeply saddened to hear the news coming from NAS Pensacola last Friday. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those killed, to those whom were wounded and to all the others affected by this tragedy. I have attached Governor DeSantis’s proclamation ordering flags to half-mast to this update. Also, in view of the series of recent attacks at various bases, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper announced a DoD-wide review of base security procedures. Details on that are in the *News Clips of Interest*.

6. **2019 Military Base Protection Program Tier Rankings** – Following our November meeting the staff prepared a memo for DEO officially announcing the Task Force’s decision. I have attached a copy of that memo to this update. You will note that it is labeled a “CORRECTED COPY.” The corrections were correcting typographical errors for place names in the first version we sent out.
7. **Legislative Update** – HB 687 - (Zika & CoSponsor Eskamani) and SB 104 (Harrell & CoSponsors: Cruz, Mayfield, Wright), both titled “Services for Veterans and Their Families” are both working their way through various committees now. These two companion bills would expand the proof-of-concept pilot program that FDVA established in 2014 in the Tampa Bay area and make it state-wide. The new program would be called the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program and would provide a state-wide 211 phone number to help veterans find needed help, especially for mental health and substance abuse issues.

8. **Attachments:**
   - Governor Ron DeSantis proclamation ordering flags to half-staff in respect of the victims of the NAS Pensacola mass shooting
   - FDSTF letter to DEO announcing 2019 Military Base Protection Program tier ranking recommendations

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Space Force / Space Command**

**Trump’s Space Force Launches in $738 Billion Defense Policy Bill**

Bloomberg Government | Posted December 7, 2019 | by Roxana Tiron and Travis J. Tritten


The U.S. military will have a new separate service branch—the Space Force—under a final agreement reached by House and Senate negotiators on the defense authorization bill, according to two people familiar with the outcome who asked not to be named because the bill is not yet public.

The compromise measure would hand President Donald Trump a significant policy victory: the creation of the first new military service in seven decades.
The separate space-focused military branch would be located inside the Department of the Air Force in the same way the Marine Corps is inside the Department of the Navy. Space Force would be added into Title 10 of the U.S. code, the portion of the law that enumerates each of the existing armed services and provides authorities to each, according to the people....

**Air Force leaders enthused as Space Force legislation heads to House floor**

Space News | Posted December 7, 2019 | by Sandra Erwin


Under a deal first reported Dec. 6 by the Wall Street Journal, the White House agreed to grant 12 weeks of paid parental leave to all federal workers in exchange for the Space Force authorization, which has been a high priority for the Trump administration.

“Space Force has been agreed upon for a couple of months as far as the structure,” Rogers said Dec. 7 at the Reagan forum....

**NS Mayport**

**Navy's newest littoral combat ship USS Indianapolis arrives in Mayport**

The Florida Times-Union | Posted November 26, 2019 | by Times-Union staff


The USS Indianapolis arrived at Naval Station Mayport on Tuesday, the seventh littoral combat ship to be based here.

After leaving from the shipyard in Marinette, Wis., the Indianapolis officially joined the fleet on Oct. 26 when it was commissioned in Burns Harbor, Ind.
The ship’s arrival at Mayport is the second time in a year that a littoral combat ship arrived here just before Thanksgiving. Another littoral combat ship, the USS Sioux City, docked in Mayport just before Thanksgiving last year.

**Mayport highlights support services for military families following Pearl Harbor shooting**

First Coast News | Posted December 5, 2019 | by Nick Perreault


Following Wednesday's fatal shooting at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, Navy Station Mayport wants service members and their families along the First Coast to know help is all around.

Military officials say a sailor fatally shot two civilian Defense Department employees and wounded a third, before turning the gun on himself at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. Military officials say the sailor used his service weapons.

There are a variety of services available for the 11,000 men and women who call Naval Station Mayport home, but those services are not just exclusive to people serving at Mayport.

**Team Orlando**

**Air Force F-35 Simulator Will Let Pilots Fly in Formation, Talk to Other Aircraft**

Military.com | Posted December 4, 2019 | by Oriana Pawlyk


When the U.S. Air Force gets its first F-35 Lightning II distributed mission training simulator system at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, this spring, pilots will have the ability to fly virtually as a group, alongside other aircraft, and practice exchanging information across a network, according to Lockheed Martin officials.

"When the F-35 [deploys to] a fight, we know it's not going by itself," said Chauncey McIntosh, vice president of F-35 Training and Logistics for Lockheed. McIntosh spoke during the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) conference in Orlando, Florida, on Tuesday.
"So by allowing our ... warfighters to really bring in all the other assets in a virtual environment and practice that, to ensure they get high-end training in these dense, immersive environments, [it] is going to be a game changer," he added….

**US Southern Command**

**Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk Returns From Drug Interdiction Patrol**

Seapower | Posted November 27, 2019 | by Seapower Staff


The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk returned to their homeport of Key West following a 75-day patrol throughout the Caribbean Sea in support of U.S. Southern Command Joint Interagency Task Force South and the Coast Guard 7th District, according to a release.

During the patrol, the Mohawk crew interdicted three suspected drug vessels, detained 15 suspected drug smugglers and seized more than 5,500 pounds of cocaine. The cutter crew conducted a joint operation with the Royal Netherlands Navy for one of the interdictions to help strengthen international partnerships and interoperability in the Caribbean area of responsibility.

The Mohawk crew safely interdicted and repatriated more than 150 migrants back to their countries of origin, extending the Department of Homeland Security’s Border Security mission into the maritime domain….

**DoD Budget**

**NDAA May Move Fast After Deal on Space Force, Family Leave**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted December 8, 2019 | by ADC author

https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/ndaa-may-move-fast-after-deal-on-space-force-family-leave/

Democrats seem willing to create the Space Force as a sixth branch of the military in exchange for paid parental leave for all federal personnel, according to the Washington Post’s coverage of a National Defense Authorization Act deal that emerged over the weekend.
Space Force was the White House’s top priority in the defense bill negotiations, sources told the paper.

Reps. Adam Smith and Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), the leaders of the House Armed Services Committee, announced over the weekend that legislators will act on the bill this week.

**Defense Industry**

**Lockheed Martin moves forward with hypersonic weapon in Air Force contract worth nearly a billion dollars**

Military & Aerospace | Posted December 3, 2019

U.S. Air Force aerial weapons experts are asking Lockheed Martin Corp. to move forward on developing a prototype air-launched hypersonic weapon for use against surface targets like enemy military bases, surface warships, and rapidly relocatable weapons.

Officials of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Eglin Air Force Base, announced an order worth nearly one billion dollars to the Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control segment in Orlando, Fla., on Monday related to the Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW).

The $988.8 million contract modification asks Lockheed Martin for efforts toward ARRW critical design review, test, and production readiness support. ARRW is a technology-development project aimed at producing a missile able to move at five times the speed of sound.

**Here’s how big Lockheed wants to grow its Orlando workforce**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted December 3, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom

Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT) is already Central Florida’s eighth-largest employer, but it’s not done growing.

The Bethesda, Maryland-based defense contractor employs 8,000 people between its two campuses in Orlando, and the company plans to add 1,000 more over the next four years, said Amy Gowder, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin in Orlando, at the I/ITSEC modeling, simulation and training conference on Dec. 2.
The company’s local workforce grew from 5,000 to 8,000 between 2014-2019, Gowder said, and the contractor plans to have a workforce of 9,000 by 2023. Roughly 70% of the company's existing positions are engineering or technical jobs, which pay more than the Orlando area's average annual salary of $44,900.…

**L3Harris Technologies lands $50M Marine Corps contract**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted December 9, 2019 | by Cindy Barth


L3Harris Technologies received a $50 million follow-on delivery order for its Falcon III radios and related equipment from the U.S. Marine Corps as part of its High Frequency Radio II modernization program.

The order is part of the Navy Portable Radio Program five-year IDIQ contract received in 2017.

The L3Harris radios provide beyond-line-of-sight communications in satellite-denied environments, and are the smallest, lightest and fastest wide-band manpack available.….  

**Cyber**

**The US Air Force wants to network all its weapons together. Will simulators be included?**

Defense News | Posted December 3, 2019 | by Valerie Insinna


As the U.S. military prepares for the release of its fiscal 2021 budget request, Air Force leaders have made clear that a massive financial hike is needed for multidomain command-and-control efforts to connect weapon systems across the joint force.

As part of that initiative, it will also be critical for the military to link together simulators so service members can replicate combat on a massive scale, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Stephen Wilson said during a speech Tuesday at the Interservice/Industry, Training, Simulation and Education Conference.

“I know you spent a lot of time yesterday about how to connect and integrate simulators from across our various weapons systems. I can't overstate how important that is,” he said.
“Individual weapon system simulators can help our men and women become proficient tacticians, but it’s their ability to integrate and connect that will differentiate us against a peer threat. And no one is going to win alone….”

**Other Items of Interest**

**U.S. defense secretary securing military bases after Florida shooting**

Reuters | Posted December 8, 2019 | by Brad Heath

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said he has instructed the armed forces to review both security at military bases and screening for foreign soldiers who come to the United States for training after a shooting in Florida.

A Saudi Air Force lieutenant killed three people and wounded eight others in a shooting rampage Friday at a U.S. Navy base in Pensacola, Florida. Esper said on “Fox News Sunday” that he had asked top defense officials to “make sure we’re taking all necessary precautions” to make sure military installations were secure.

Esper said he had asked the Pentagon to “review what our screening procedures are” before soldiers from other countries come to the United States for training. He described those programs as “very important to our national security….”

**Trump Taps Missouri Vet to Lead Navy’s Installations Office**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted December 2, 2019 | by ADC author

The White House has nominated Charles Williams to be the Navy’s assistant secretary for installations, energy and the environment. Former Navy Secretary Richard Spencer got pushback from lawmakers when he proposed cutting the position.

Williams, a Navy veteran who retired at rank of rear admiral, currently works in real estate in St. Louis, according to the White House’s announcement last week. Williams is also an advisor to the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network, which offers additional details about his career.
FDSTF Update – December 13

Task Force Members,

A good Friday afternoon to everyone.

1. **Next Meeting** – The Task Force will not meet in December, so our next meeting will be January 16, 2020. Since the 2020 Legislative Session will have begun, we’ll be meeting in Tallahassee at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee, FL 32301 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

   888-585-9008    Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Northwest Florida Base Communities Working Group Meeting** – On Wednesday, the NW Florida Base Communities Working Group held a meeting in Ft. Walton Beach. Beth Medina and I attended the meeting, chaired by Jim Breitenfeld. Representatives from all the major bases in the region plus a number of the community organizations were also present. We received updates on the reaction to the recent events at NAS Pensacola, the status of the rebuild of Tyndall AFB and the NW Florida Sentinel Landscape proposal. There was considerable discussion on protecting the Gulf of Mexico Test & Training Range. Most importantly, this was an excellent opportunity for Beth to meet the local leaders and for her to hear directly from them about their concerns. Many thanks to Jim Breitenfeld for organizing this and to all whom attended and made this a success.

4. **2020 National Defense Authorization Act** – On Wednesday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the 2020 Defense Appropriations Bill. The Senate is expected to vote on the same bill next week and President Trump has announced that, if passed by both houses of Congress, he will sign it into law averting the need for another continuing resolution for the Department of Defense. Of particular note for Florida and our defense communities is that this bill would provide $1.5 billion in military construction money to continue the Tyndall AFB rebuild and would set aside $75 million for the Defense Community Infrastructure Program within the Office of Economic Adjustment to pay for infrastructure projects around military bases. Details are below in the *News Clips of Interest*.

5. **U.S. Space Force One Step Closer to Becoming Reality** – The 2020 NDAA would also officially create the U.S. Space Force under the Department of the Air Force. The Space Force would be the 6th branch of the U.S. military and this would be the first additional branch of the military created since 1947 when the U.S. Air Force was created by the National Security Act of 1947. Details are below in the *News Clips of Interest*. 
News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

Space Force Champions on Hill Talk about New Branch

Association of Defense Communities | Posted December 11, 2019 | by ADC author
https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/space-force-champions-on-hill-talk-about-new-branch/

If approved by Congress, a new space force would remain a part of the Air Force for the foreseeable future, one of the force’s top champions in Congress predicted Wednesday. Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) said he doesn’t see a need to make it its own service.

“It just depends if it becomes too burdensome for the Department of the Air Force to have two services in there,” Rogers told reporters, Air Force Magazine reported. “That hasn’t proven to be the case in the Department of the Navy [where the Marine Corps is housed], so it may not be the case here.”

The defense policy bill passed by the House and pending in the Senate would establish Space Force, creating a chief of space operations position and giving that person 18 months to establish the force….

NAS Pensacola

Saudi Military Cooperating with Pensacola Mass Shooting Investigation; Flight Students Grounded, Some Remain Restricted to Base

USNI News | Posted December 12, 2019 | by Ben Werner
A dozen members of Saudi Arabia’s military remain restricted to Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., as federal investigators continue gathering information about last week’s mass shooting on base, Pentagon officials said on Thursday. The gunman, Royal Saudi Air Force 2nd Lt. Ahmed Mohammed Alshamrani, was attending flight school at NAS Pensacola when he killed three U.S. sailors on Friday and injured several others. Alshamrani was killed in the incident by local law enforcement.

The Saudi Arabian commanding officer of the Saudi students decided to restrict the students who were acquaintances of Alshamrani to base, chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said during a Thursday press briefing. About 162 Saudi students at Pensacola are under no restrictions, but are grounded and limited to classroom instruction, USNI News understands.

While the dozen Saudi students are barred from leaving the base, they do have access to instruction, food, medical staff, a U.S. military imam and their commanding officer. They are not participating in operational training right now, Hoffman said.

The Navy announced a standdown for all Saudi flight students earlier this week. “A safety stand-down and operational pause commenced Monday for Saudi Arabian aviation students at NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field and NAS Mayport, Florida. Classroom training is expected to resume this week for those students,” the Navy said in a statement on Tuesday.

“There are approximately 175 Saudi Arabian students training at NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field, about 140 in Pensacola and about 35 at Whiting Field. There are approximately 128 Saudi Arabian students training at NAS Mayport.”

**Eglin AFB**

**Eglin Testers Prepare for First MH-139 Helicopters**

Air Force Magazine | Posted December 9, 2019 | by Rachel S. Cohen
https://www.airforcemag.com/eglin-testers-prepare-for-first-mh-139-helicopters/

Eglin AFB, Fla., will start receiving Air Force Global Strike Command’s new patrol helicopter, the MH-139, at its new test detachment at Duke Field in the coming weeks.

Lt. Col. Mary Clark will assume command of Det. 7 on Dec. 18, the day before Global Strike holds a naming and unveiling ceremony for the helicopter, which will replace the Vietnam-era UH-1N Hueys, according to a Dec. 6 release.

“Detachment 7 will manage four helicopters, with the first scheduled to be delivered Dec. 19 at the naming and unveiling ceremony,” according to the release. “The second aircraft is due to arrive mid-January 2020, while the third and fourth aircraft are scheduled to arrive in February.”
Florida’s chief resilience officer tours Tyndall Air Force Base

Florida’s chief resilience officer, appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis in August to help prepare the state for the environmental, physical and economic impacts of sea level rise, toured Tyndall Air Force Base on Tuesday.

Julia Nesheiwat, who holds degrees from Stetson University and Georgetown University, and earned a doctorate from the Department of Science and Engineering at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, brought a special expertise to her tour of Tyndall AFB, which was all but destroyed in October 2018 as the Category 5 Hurricane Michael scored a direct hit on the installation.

Nesheiwat’s doctoral thesis was titled “Post-Disaster Reconstruction in Energy Technology and Resiliency,” and on Tuesday, she was at the Air Force Civil Engineer Center’s Research and Development Laboratory, housed at Tyndall AFB.

Tyndall AFB officials are looking at the rebuilding process as an opportunity to increase the base’s resiliency against future storms. On Tuesday, though, Nesheiwat defined resiliency more broadly than storm recovery.

North Florida Land Trust makes huge investment in Clay

The North Florida Land Trust acquired 20 acres in Clay County that extends the Trail Ridge Preserve within the critical Ocala to Osceola, or O2O, wildlife corridor surrounding Camp Blanding, along with a 463-acre plot near Camp Blanding. The 463-acre purchase is located within the Ocala to Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor, a 1.6 million-acre network of public and private lands that connect the Ocala and Osceola National Forests.
The newly-acquired property provides habitat for imperiled and other wildlife species and helps buffer the military installation. The property connects Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park to NFLT’s Robert R. Milam Jr. Preserve which was acquired in 2018 in collaboration with Camp Blanding.

NFLT will manage the new preserve to improve the natural areas and habitats and will work with the FTA on the new trail route. This will help further FTA’s mission to build a 1,300 mile-long trail across Florida’s most iconic and scenic natural landscapes. The acquisition was made possible by funding from the Army National Guard through a program designed to secure buffers around military installations and the Clay County Development Authority which was awarded funds by the Florida Defense Task Force to buffer the installation. NFLT also recently acquired 20 acres adjacent to Camp Blanding that expands the Trail Ridge….

**DoD Budget**

**House passes ‘progressive’ defense bill, 377-48**

Defense News | Posted December 11, 2019 | by Joe Gould


In a strong bipartisan vote, the House passed a compromise defense policy bill that authorizes a new Space Force and $738 billion for the Pentagon, but a small but vocal group of Democrats voted against it because of the absence of new war powers restrictions, arms control language and border wall mandates. The vote was 377-48.

Beyond the 3,488-page bill’s role in authorizing the defense budget, lead House Democrats highlighted a number of reasons for their caucus to vote for the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. Paid parental leave for federal workers was at the top, with a new process to redress military medical malpractice cases, improvements to scandal-plagued military housing, the elimination of the military “widows tax” and prohibitions on the military’s use of “PFAS” chemicals. …

The Senate plans to take up and pass the bill next week, where an even larger proportion of Democrats are expected to support it. However, two Democratic presidential contenders, Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, announced they will vote against the bill in part because it rejected the Yemen provisions. Warren, in a tweet, called the bill a, “$738 billion Christmas present to giant defense contractors…..”

**NDAA: Bill Funds Community Infrastructure Projects**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted December 10, 2019 | by ADC author
The compromise defense policy bill lawmakers plan to consider authorizes $75 million for the Office of Economic Adjustment’s Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP). The initiative, which supports community infrastructure projects that affect military quality of life, was first authorized in the fiscal year 2019 authorization bill but was not funded.

“Quality of life for military families is a priority for the state and local communities that enjoy the privilege of hosting military installations and should also be a priority for the federal government,” dozens of mayors wrote in an August letter to lawmakers in support of DCIP funding.

DCIP projects may include those focused on transportation, schools, hospitals, police, fire, emergency response, water, wastewater, telecommunications, electric, gas, or other utility infrastructure.

Defense Industry

Oviedo software firm scores $43M defense contract

Orlando Business Journal | Posted December 9, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom

A local software company has won its second large military contract of the year.

Oviedo-based Riptide Software Inc. was awarded a $43 million U.S. Army contract for work related to the Targetry Range Automated Control and Recording system, a military training system. The contract is expected to be completed by Dec. 2, 2027.

Riptide is the primary contractor for the system. The company, which employs 110 workers, creates software for military training systems. In December 2018, Riptide secured a $103.2 million Army contract for a battlefield simulation…..
FDSTF Update – December 20

Task Force Members,

A good Friday afternoon to everyone.

1. **Next Meeting** – The Task Force will not meet in December, so our next meeting will be January 16th, 2020. Since the 2020 Legislative Session will have begun, we’ll be meeting in Tallahassee at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

   888-585-9008     Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **DoD Budget Passed** – Yesterday, both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate completed passing both the National Defense Authorization Bill and the Defense Appropriations Bill for 2019 and sent both bills to the White House for President Trump’s signature. President Trump announced that he will hold a signing ceremony for both bills at 7:20 pm tonight on Andrews AFB, so shortly after you read this (or by the time some of you read this) we will finally have an approved Defense Department budget for this year. As reported earlier, the big news in this budget is the creation of U.S. Space Force and Military Construction (MILCON) money for the rebuild of Tyndall AFB, but we just learned this afternoon that this news is even better than we were initially told. Details are in the *News Clips of Interest.*

4. **More Money than Expected for Tyndall AFB Rebuild** – Throughout the budget building process we have heard that Congress was planning on spending $1.5B this year for MILCON money to rebuild Tyndall. Late today we found out that very late in the budget negotiations Congress increased that total to $2.4B! Because this was such a late change, that number appears in the Defense Appropriations Bill but not in the NDAA. To verify all this, Florida’s Washington Office checked with the offices of Senators Rubio and Scott as well as Representative Dunn and all three confirmed that despite not being in the NDAA, this money is all intended to be spent to rebuild Tyndall AFB. Additional details are in the *News Clips of Interest.*

5. **Another Sign that Tyndall is Coming Back to Conduct Operations as Before** – The week brought yet another sign that Tyndall AFB is resilient and returning to conduct operations as normal. Most of us have probably listened as a child to the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) tracking the movements of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. NORAD normally does that from Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado. This year, 1st Air Force will be tracking Santa and reporting his position from Tyndall AFB! Details are in the *News Clips of Interest.*
6. **Sad News for One of Our Own** – Unfortunately, not all the news this week was happy. Our condolences go out to the Chairman of our Task Force, Senator Doug Broxson and his family who lost Senator Broxson’s brother, former State Senator and State Representative John Broxson, this week. As a sign of respect Governor DeSantis ordered flags to half-staff the day of the legislator’s funeral. I have attached a copy of that decree to this E-mail.

7. **Final Weekly Update of 2019** – Due to the approaching holidays, this will be the final FDSTF weekly update of 2019. I’ll resume sending this out in January. This has been a whirlwind six months for me, but I have enjoyed every minute of working with all of you. In 28 years in the U.S. military I was accustomed to being able to do something to benefit my country. This has been my first opportunity to do something to benefit my state. The things I mentioned above show that we, collectively are making a difference for Florida and for the country. This wouldn’t be possible without all your effort and all of us pulling together. I and the rest of the staff here in Tallahassee thank each of you for what you have done this year and we wish all of you a very happy holiday season. We’ll see you all in 2020.

8. **Attachments:**

   - [Governor Ron DeSantis decree ordering flags to half-staff in honor of former Senator John Broxson](https://breakingdefense.com/2019/12/16000-afspc-head-to-space-force-what-about-the-rest/)

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**News Clips of Interest:**

**Space Force / Space Command**

**16,000 AFSPC Head To Space Force; What About The Rest?**

Breaking Defense | Posted December 19, 2019 | by Theresa Hitchens


Some 16,000 people — civilians and airmen — will be shifted from Air Force Space Command to the Space Force upon its stand-up sometime early next year.
“It’s a lot of people,” said Kaitlyn Johnson, who has been tracking the Space Force concept at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, although about the number DoD has been projecting. She noted that AFSPC currently numbers 26,000 personnel from military to administrative staff, although the Congressional Budget Office estimates there are 23,000 full time personnel in all of the Defense Department, excluding the intelligence agencies. But not all of those folks are actually well-versed in the space mission, given the Air Force’s practice of rapid rotation and its past emphasis on general, rather than specialized, training.

“One of the issues from the start has been how the Air Force can dig out the space people” who may or may not be working in AFSPC or a space-related job, she said. “Can people volunteer…?”

**NAS Pensacola**

**Navy awards medals to three sailors killed during NAS Pensacola shooting**

Pensacola News Journal | Posted December 19, 2019 | by Madison Arnold

Families of the three men killed at the NAS Pensacola shooting earlier this month received Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism during a memorial service Thursday.

The Navy posthumously awarded the medals to Naval Aircrewman 3rd Class Mohammed Haitham, Naval Aircrewman 3rd Class Cameron Walters and Ensign Joshua Watson. Both Haitham and Walters were also awarded Good Conduct Medal, a recognition for enlisted Sailors, according to a media release from the Navy.

"We can never know what will be demanded of us on any given day, and no one could have foreseen what would be demanded on Dec. 6, but these men answered the call,” said Adm. Chris Grady, commander for U.S. Fleet Forces Command. “Through their heroic acts, they saved lives by sacrificing their own and for that, we are forever grateful….”

**Eglin AFB**

**Air Force names newest helicopter ‘Grey Wolf’**

Gen. Timothy Ray, AFGSC commander, made the announcement, comparing it to the wild animal that bears the same name.

The Grey Wolf is the command's first major acquisition in its 10-year history. The name Grey Wolf is derived from the wild species that roams the northern tier of North America, which also encompasses the intercontinental ballistic missile bases in AFGSC….

**Tyndall AFB**

**Tyndall AFB gets needed construction funding**

A late addition to the federal defense spending and policy bill for this fiscal year has provided Tyndall Air Force Base with all of the military construction funding it will need to rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Michael, according to Rep. Neal Dunn, R-Fla.

According to Dunn, whose district includes Tyndall AFB, a late change to the military spending and policy plan boosted construction funding for the base — all but destroyed by the Category 5 storm in October of last year — from $1.5 billion to $2.4 billion.

Combined with $1 billion in construction funding included in an emergency supplemental federal appropriation earlier this year, Tyndall AFB now has $3.4 billion available for construction projects as it emerges from the ravages of last year’s hurricane and works toward becoming what the Air Force is calling an “installation of the future.”

The $3.4 billion will be available to Tyndall AFB for the next five years, Dunn explained, as the base transitions from being an F-22 Raptor fighter jet pilot and maintenance training facility into a home for three F-35 stealth fighter jet squadrons. A first squadron could be at Tyndall by 2023 or 2024, Dunn said….
'Alexa, Where's Santa?' NORAD Gets Ready for Modernized Christmas Eve Mission

Gazing up at the starlit sky isn't the only way kids these days may get a glimpse of Santa and his nine reindeer as they travel around the world on their present-delivery mission this Christmas Eve. For years, kids have been able to log onto Noradsanta.org to see exactly where Santa is on the journey. And for the last two years, they have even had the option to ask Amazon's Alexa virtual home assistant for real-time Santa updates.

But the ease of knowing where everyone's favorite jolly ol' man in the red suit doesn't come without the help from hundreds of airmen and volunteers at the North American Aerospace Defense Command, more commonly known as NORAD. "It connects our military with our society," said Navy Vice Adm. Michael Dumont, deputy commander, U.S. Northern Command, and vice commander for the U.S. element at NORAD at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

There's also assistance from additional Air Force units. "We've established communication with Santa, call sign 'Big Red,'" said Col. Scott Charlton, of Tyndall Air Force Base's 1st Air Force, the designated air component for the U.S. Northern Command, in a recent video. "We're ready to track the delivery of your toys and gifts…"

DoD Budget

Pentagon finally gets its 2020 budget from Congress

Three months late, the U.S. military finally has its budget for fiscal 2020. Congress on Thursday sent President Donald Trump the final version of the 2020 defense appropriations bill, part of a broad $1.4 trillion spending deal to finalize federal spending for 2020 and avert a government shutdown. The defense bill would provide $738 billion.
On Thursday, the Senate passed the two spending packages that make up the deal, sending it to the White House, where the president is expected to sign it into law. Funding was in danger of expiring late Friday.

The defense bill dedicates $40 million to establish a new, sixth armed service for space, which was $32 million less than the administration’s request. Even as Congress approved a sweeping defense policy bill this week that re-designates Air Force Space Command, it included language to prohibit any new billets, meaning the organization must be built with existing forces.

**Congress adopts defense bill that creates Space Force**

Defense News | Posted December 18, 2019 | by Joe Gould

Congress has approved a compromise defense policy bill that creates a new Space Force in exchange for establishing paid parental leave for federal workers, as part of $738 billion for the Pentagon for 2020. The Senate overwhelmingly approved the bill Tuesday, 82-8, just days after the House passed it, 377-48. The bill now goes to the White House for President Donald Trump’s signature, and he has signaled he will sign the defense policy measure.

The bill authorizes $635 billion in base discretionary funds for the Pentagon, $71.5 billion in overseas contingency operations funds and $23.1 billion for nuclear programs at the Energy Department. It also authorizes $5.3 billion in emergency aid for disaster-struck bases in Nebraska, Florida and North Carolina.

The NDAA would redesignate Air Force Space Command as the new, sixth armed service, but it included language to prohibit any new billets, meaning the organization must be built with existing forces. Likewise, the defense appropriations bill would grant $32 million less than the administration’s $72.4 million request.

**Defense Industry**

**Lockheed grabs $15M add-on to Orlando defense contract**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted December 16, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom

Lockheed Martin is ramping up its production for a missile program, bringing more defense work to Central Florida.
Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT) won a $15.5 million modification to a U.S. Army contract for the delivery of Joint Air-to-Ground Missiles. All work will be performed in Orlando and is expected to be completed by March 30, 2022.

The modification is for a $300 million contract originally awarded in 2015. It calls for Lockheed to increase its delivery of missiles from a rate of 50 per month to 100 per month. The Joint Air-to-Ground Missile system is used by helicopters and drones operated by the Army.

**Lockheed wins $64M in sensor work for Orlando facility**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted December 17, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom
a=a_e_ae_set1&j=90362991&t=Afternoon&mt_ktok=eyJpIjoiT0RjeFqUMtaVClpT1RgClIsInQiOiJkQXITzFDU0tXcnhZbDNyamtPS1ZCZFRcLzNPeHQzMHVQTitQceE9jr1wwVEVYY1JOWnFkb10VHFYRnA1WHHQI1VjUxY0lMWTZQR3VLOpXRmZUODJHdYE2ak1JY3dXQ3K1dMelViRGZBOducndZbEdxbDF5N0dLVmV2WGpteIlhbWlRDBoeVNiR1oyUDIGSEZaaEVSQT09ln0%3D

Central Florida’s largest defense industry firm has won another local contract, this one worth $64.7 million.

Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT) was awarded the U.S. Army contract, a modification to a $269 million contract from 2016, for work related to the Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight (M-TADS). Work will take place in Orlando and will be completed by Dec. 31, 2020.

Lockheed Martin produces the sensor system for one of the U.S. Army’s most popular helicopters, the Apache. Work for the system happens at Lockheed’s Missiles & Fire Control campus on West Sand Lake Road.

**Space Coast firm wins piece of $808M defense contract**

Orlando Business Journal | Posted December 18, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom
https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2019/12/18/space-coast-firm-wins-piece-of-808m.html?
a=a_me_set1&j=90368851&t=Morning&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTVRJMU4ySTVNemRqTWpsaClIsInQiOiJvUGVya05ZUwpBdkMzY2ZmSiNCTkpcjhiVSgxOHRIY2NWV3hZalpsakIK1U1aEhQV05ROWdXd3pER1psOUJ3aWpoQ08zeUZqVHycFd0WVDBzMsqOFwvNTJkajZucUpHYWdicTVIqOVtZWhgcU9xVIQzU2RqStLeUQ1YjF2cDNFNk45ajZclzhkM2JBRGh0Tmczd09In0%3D

A Melbourne defense contractor is one of six companies to secure work as part of an $808 million Department of Defense contract.
DRS Network and Imaging Systems will work on the contract to deliver interconnection equipment for the Defense Logistics Agency. Work will take place in Melbourne, where DRS Network & Imaging Systems is located, with work expected to wrap up by Dec. 17, 2024.

The contract announcement does not list what percentage of the work will take place in Florida.…

**Other Items of Interest**

**What DCIP Means for Communities: 3 Questions for ADC’s Joe Driskill**

Association of Defense Communities | Posted December 18, 2019 | by ADC author

https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/what-dcip-means-for-communities-3-questions-for-adcs-joe-driskill/

**What does funding for DCIP mean for defense communities?**

For the first time, there will be a dedicated DOD funding source specifically for infrastructure outside the gate that supports military missions on installations. The funding is important, but what I think is equally important is the recognition from Congress that our critical defense infrastructure – and the military value it supports – does not stop at the fence line. This is a game-changer as we think about the future of military-community collaboration.

**How did we get here?**

This idea started a few years ago within ADC, and to be honest, many people did not think it would go anywhere. But through the hard work of our staff, the Federal Outreach Advisory Committee and dozens of ADC members around the country, the support for the idea continued to grow. Our support on the Hill has been deep and bipartisan, and that will be critical as we begin implementation.…

**Military spouses will get reimbursed up to $1,000 for professional relicensing costs**

Military Times | Posted December 19, 2019 | by Karen Jowers

A new provision in the defense bill bumps up the maximum military spouse reimbursement to $1,000, for relicensing and recertification costs each time they relocate with their service member.

The defense bill, waiting to be signed into law by President Donald Trump, also extends the authority for this reimbursement by two years — through Dec. 31, 2024.

Separate provisions in the bill would remove some barriers for spouses who own businesses when they move from state to state and provide funding for Defense Department officials to work with states to address the core issue of cumbersome and costly requirements of getting relicensed or recertified in their profession every time they move from one state to another....