

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Alliance**

A regular meeting of the Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) Florida Defense Alliance was held on May 28, 2009 at the Officers' Club at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, in Jacksonville, Fla.

### **Members Present:**

Congressman Ander Crenshaw –U.S. House of Representatives  
Agee, Kimberly -Space Coast EDC  
Betz, George – NSA Panama City  
Borchers, Ronald -Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
Breitenfeld, Jim -Okaloosa County EDC  
Brock, Susanne -Florida Community College  
Buehn, Bob -City of Jacksonville  
Busch, Gerald - NAVFAC Southeast  
Conyers, Harrison -City of Jacksonville  
Corcadden, Sean -Bay Defense Alliance  
Dalton, Craig -Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Dantzler, Larry - Bay Defense Alliance  
DeBerry, Flin- NSA Panama City  
Debus, Kandi -NAS Jacksonville  
Dougherty, Louis -Florida National Guard  
Fanto, Jeff -Okaloosa County  
Flynn, Patrick -Florida National Guard  
Gartland, Kevin-NAS Jacksonville  
Gonzalez, Diana- Florida Defense Alliance  
Harding, David -Serco North America  
Hirsch, Paul -Madison Government Affairs, Inc.  
Hummel, Christina -MacDill AFB  
Jacobs, Stephanie -Jobsplus  
Johnson, COL Mark -Hulburt Field  
Jordan, Pamela -Patrick AFB  
Kilberg, Kellie Jo -Clay County Chamber of Commerce  
Marino, Joe -Office of Tourism, Trade & Economic Development  
McClintock, COL Bruce -Eglin AFB  
Murray, Steve - Florida Department of Veteran Affairs  
Neubauer, Tom -Bay Defense Alliance  
Oram, Stephanie -NAS Pensacola  
Pageau, Laura -Florida Air National Guard  
Panyko, Debi -Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Pardue, Donald -Florida Senate Military Affairs  
Pembleton, Anita -Tyndall AFB  
Piazza, Patty -Worksource  
Rasmussen, Kay -Okaloosa County EDC  
Raspet, Bill -NAS Jax  
Reuter, CAPT Bill "Roto" -NAWC-TSD/NSA Orlando  
Riedel, Ronald -Avon Park Range  
Roslin, Julie -Space Coast EDC  
Roy, Randy- NAS Whiting Field  
Schechter, Jill -Clay County Chamber of Commerce  
Sears, Helen -Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Sherman, Eric -DoD Liaison  
 Shutt, Fred- SAIC  
 Smith, Jackie - Rep. Ander Crenshaw  
 Smolek, Sarah -Navy Region Southeast  
 Striebel, Erica –Rep. Ander Crenshaw  
 Stone, David -Patrick AFB  
 Wibberley, Jana -Bay Defense Alliance  
 York, Guy -Bay Defense Alliance  
 Zeh, COL David -Tyndall AFB

<b>Present Via Phone</b>
None
<b>Staff Present</b>
Rocky McPherson, Director, Military and Defense Juliana Peña, Program Manager, Military and Defense

**Agenda**

- I. Windshield Tour NAS Jax
- II. Florida Department of Veterans Affairs legislative update
- III. Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development legislative session overview.
- IV. Military in Florida Update
- V. The BRAIVE fund presentation
- VI. Community Reports
- VII. FDA Working Groups reports
- VIII. Military Issues in Washington, DC

*A quorum being present, Diana Gonzalez, FDA Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS JAX), CDR Carol Schrader, greeted the FDA members and welcome them to the station.*

**Windshield Tour of NAS Jax**

During the Station tour, 35 FDA members toured the new BRAC hangar for the P3 aircraft moving from NAS Brunswick and the P8 aircraft that will replace it. Additionally the members drove by the new Helicopter hangar for the five new Helicopter MH-60 Romeo squadrons being assigned to the installation, the new three story hospital addition and the new homes, completed and still under construction, for the enlisted personnel and their families on the installation.

**Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs (FDVA) Update**

Steve Murray, Communications Director, FDVA presented the four bills that Governor Crist signed into law on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009:

Senate Bill 316, High School Diplomas/Vietnam War Veterans – This legislation recognizes the enormous commitment and sacrifice veterans of the Vietnam War made to serve their country during war time. This bill, sponsored by Senator Lee Constantine, authorizes the Commissioner of Education to award Vietnam veterans who were honorably discharged with a Florida high school diploma. This bill is similar to existing legislation that awards diplomas to veterans of World War II and the Korean War.

House Bill 509, Veterans – Sponsored by Representative Juan Zapata and Senator Mike Fasano, this legislation will improve the lives of Florida’s veterans and their families for generations to come by accomplishing several important goals:

- Waives building and permitting fees for safety and accessibility residential renovations for Florida’s 20,000 veterans permanently and totally disabled as a result of their military service.
- Removes the cap on certain military and veteran license tag fees to help fund Florida’s Veterans Nursing Home Trust Fund.
- Incorporates Title 33 of the United States Code into Florida law, allowing the implementation of the New GI Bill, or Post 9/11 GI Bill, which goes into effect August 1, 2009.

House Bill 685, Educational Dollars for Duty Program – This bill, sponsored by Representative Bill Proctor and Senator Mike Fasano, makes significant improvements to the Florida National Guard’s Education Dollars for Duty Program (EDD).

House Bill 635, Military Affairs – This legislation adds significant legal protections for Florida National Guard soldiers and airmen on active duty while they are serving the State of Florida. Sponsored by Representative Michael Scionti and Senator Charlie Justice, this bill enhances re-employment rights and adds protective measures against discrimination of military members by employers. It also creates a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation.

Murray added that Governor Crist is also praising the Legislature for passing House Joint Resolution 833, Homestead Ad Valorem Tax Credit for Deployed Military. The resolution proposes a Constitutional amendment that would exempt men and women deployed on active duty overseas from property tax on homesteaded property. It would allow an additional exemption based on the length of the overseas deployment. This initiative will go before voters in November 2010. If approved by 60 percent of voters, the tax exemption would become effective January 1, 2011.

Lastly, Murray talked about the “Boots to Books” program. This program is designed to help Veterans meet their educational and career goals. Information on the new benefits is available to veterans at [www.FLBootsToBooks.org](http://www.FLBootsToBooks.org).

### **Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED) legislative session overview.**

Joe Marino, Defense Coordinator for Governor Crist’s Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development talked about Governor Crist’s Military outreach efforts as well as

the recently passed House Bill 7123: Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support.

House Bill 7123, creates a council whose mission is to support and strengthen all U.S. Department of Defense missions and bases in Florida and serve as the liaison between local communities and the Legislature and to maintain and enhance Florida's Defense Economy.

Additionally, Marino gave an overview of the Florida Base Commanders' Meeting held at Eglin Air Force Base on February 24, 2009. He said the meeting focused on four main subjects: Encroachment/Land Use, transportation/infrastructure, energy, quality of life/family support. Colonel Bruce McClintock, Commander, Eglin AFB, stated that the meeting was a success. The summary of this meeting is available on the FDA Website.

As a final point, Marino discussed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 defense grants appropriations:

- Defense Reinvestment Grant \$850,000.
- Defense Infrastructure Grant \$ 500,000.
- Military Base Protection \$150,000.

### **Military in Florida Update**

Rocky McPherson, Director, Military & Defense programs at Enterprise Florida Inc. (EFI) provided an update of the most current military issues in the state. His complete presentation is available of the Florida Defense Alliance Web site.

### **The BRAIVE Fund Presentation**

Tammy a representative from the BRAIVE fund provided an overview of what the Florida BRAIVE fund is and gave examples of some of the projects for which BRAIVE fund grants have been awarded.

She explained that the funding was awarded by The Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF) of the California Community Foundation, and that three foundations in Florida had been granted each five million Dollars to award grants to smaller non-profit organizations serving military families.

These organizations are: Dade Community Foundation, The Community Foundation in Jacksonville and Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice in Southwest Florida. The foundations jointly established The Florida BrAlve Fund, with each foundation managing grants in their region of Florida. Additional information about this program is available at [www.floridabraive.org](http://www.floridabraive.org) .

### **Community Reports**

Northwest – Jim Breitenfeld. Jim reported on the continuing implementation of BRAC 2005 decisions at Eglin AFB. He also described ongoing issues concerning the F-35 and community noise concerns.

Northeast – Bob Buehn. Capt. Bob Buehn, USN, Ret., recently was appointed as the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs, Veterans and Disabled Services Director by Mayor John Peyton. He related ongoing community support efforts for the Navy and Marine Corps in Jacksonville, highlighted the growing Navy presence at NAS Jacksonville, and commented on several military program issues which might impact the Cecil Field commercial operations.

Space Coast – Kim Agee. Kim reported continuing efforts to maintain and create jobs for current NASA and other employers which will be affected by the closing of the Space Shuttle program and the gap until the Constellation program is up around 2015. She also related other efforts supporting the teams at Patrick AFB and the Cape Canaveral AFS.

Central Florida – Capt. Reuter, USN, Executive Officer, NSA Orlando, commented on the support NSA Orlando received from the Florida legislature concerning the security upgrades being funded and the Partnership III building to be constructed at UCF/NSA Orlando.

South Florida – Diana Gonzalez. Diana reported concerning the ongoing construction of the new US SOUTHCOM headquarters project, ongoing activities with Homestead ARB, and ongoing Navy issues concerning noise Naval Aviation activities at NAS Key West.

## **FDA Working Groups Reports**

### Growth Management

Kevin Gartland, chair of the Growth Management working group informed the membership about the items discussed during the working group meeting.

The topics discussed included:

- Update on proposed revision to Florida Building Code (FBC) to include prescriptive construction measures to local ordinances requiring sound attenuation in noise zones of civilian and military airports within the local jurisdiction. Navy and City of Jacksonville representatives briefed the FBC Commission Structural Advisory Committee in April and received numerous recommendations to include in the proposed revision to be submitted in January 2010. Commission vote is in June 2010.
- Update on proposed encroachment protection legislation for 2010 Florida Legislature consideration. This legislation was not introduced in the 2009 session because of budget priorities. Action item: All Committee attendees are to review/provide comments to Jim Breitenfeld, Legislative Tiger Team Leader, through FDA, on the proposed legislation on the FDA website by 30 June.
- Review of DCA status report on County compliance with 2004 legislation requiring all counties to have a military ex-officio member on county planning commission and revision to county comprehensive plan regarding military encroachment protection. Committee members provided updates on County compliance with the legislation and the status of encroachment protection around their respective installations.

## Family Support

Patty Piazza, chair of the Family Support working group informed the membership about the items discussed during their working group meeting.

The items discussed included:

- FDA Website review & update
- Briefed by BRAIVE Foundation to get the word out
  - \$15 million to 3 foundations in Florida for OIF & OEF military families
- Military Spouse Hiring Preference
  - OPM has drafted new rules (non-competitive)
- State-wide military spouse friendly employer
  - Incentives equal to veterans programs
- UC for military spouses –
  - Extend # of days to quit employment prior to transfer & benefits
- Composition of Working Group
  - FDA MFSWG formal Letter of Invitation
  - Active duty leadership representation
  - Ensure subject matter experts & key community organization are involved

## **Military Issues in Washington DC.**

Congressman Ander Crenshaw (R-Fla.), briefed the members on the national defense issues being deliberated in the nation's capital.

U.S. Representative Crenshaw commended the partnership developed by Enterprise Florida, Inc, and the Florida Defense Alliance. Furthermore he reiterated how important the military is for Florida and the great impact it has in the states' economy.

Moreover, Crenshaw mentioned the efforts being made in Washington DC, to secure the nuclear carrier for Naval Station Mayport.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.*