

Base and Installation Commanders' Meeting, August 27, 2001

Governor Jeb Bush Discusses Issues with Florida's Military Leaders

Executive Summary

Governor Jeb Bush and the Commanding Officers of military bases, installations, and major commands throughout Florida met on August 27, 2001 to discuss how Florida could continue to contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the military within the state. Attendees at this meeting included representatives from every military service, every installation, the joint combatant commands, and the Florida National Guard.

Issues and Updates

Tyndall Air Force Base

As host of the meeting, MG Hodgkins, 325th Fighter Wing Commander, opened the meeting with an overview of Tyndall Air Force Base's missions, units, lands, and ranges. The new F22s are arriving in 2003, which will trigger an increase in personnel. The Gulf Range Complex is critical to the accomplishment of future missions. Tyndall is cognizant of its responsibilities to protect federal land and its endangered species.

State of Florida

Governor Bush emphasized the importance of Florida's being a good host-state to the military. He knows that the dialogue between the military and the state is a key partnership and he is willing to listen, learn, and lead. He reviewed the following progress, which has occurred since the last Commanders' meeting, February 5, 2001.

- New legal requirements for the Check Cashing Industry are aimed to slow predatory lending to include requiring the publishing of lending rates. Florida understands that 40% of its population are two paychecks away from financial difficulty.
- Laws were passed this session to protect a service member, who is under military orders to move. The Military Renters' Clause is required in renter contracts to prevent unwarranted penalties, when a move occurs earlier than the service member and landlord anticipate.
- Explained that the defense infrastructure program had two items vetoed due to a processing error and not due to the projects' merit. The encumbered projects were proposed into legislation directly instead of relying on a statewide assessment to prioritize requirements. Now that legislators understand the conditions that trigger a veto, a veto of infrastructure projects should not happen again.
- State is working a compromise involving offshore drilling to protect the military's freedom to train.
- State has a great opportunity to support military needs, when it involves housing, distance learning, growth management, and infrastructure upgrades.

Installation Updates (Installations are listed in alphabetical order)

Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation (AFAMS)

- COL Grant Herring assumed command since the last Governor's meeting.
- Cooperative intern arrangements with the University of Central Florida are going well.

Camp Blanding/Florida National Guard

- Col Horace Tucker assumed command since the last Governor's meeting.
- The bridge at Avon Park Bombing Range is in need of renovation and the \$1.5M project is being worked with the Department of Transportation.

Chief Naval Education and Training (CNET)

- Introduced the new chief of staff, Captain Nelms.
- The command is looking at hi-tech distance learning and lessons learned. Governor offered to work with CNET to share lessons learned, as Florida's progresses with fielding virtual high schools.
- CNET is looking to copy the USN's success in Norfolk that allowed sailors attending CISCO technical schooling to receive college credit.

U.S. Coast Guard 7th District

- The drug control mission responds to 50 of the busiest ports in the nation. This command works with the Department of Transportation to look at strategic plans to address the increase in sea trade, migrant smuggling, and hoax or diversionary calls in light of decreasing budgets.
- The District works with NAS Jacksonville's helicopter interdiction squadron.
- Accommodating force structure reductions to include the loss of two cutters and seven Falcons.

Coast Guard Group Mobile

- The command is well supported by state and local authorities.

Director, Marine Corps Programs

- No issues.

Eglin Air Force Base

- Eglin continues to offer its ranges in support of Navy training as a result of the changing situation at Vieques. Eglin can support the USN in the training of air to ground targeting. Eglin is looking for ways to provide ship-to-shore target training. Eglin cannot support the Navy's amphibious training requirements at this time.

First Air Force Headquarters, Tyndall Air Force Base

- Planning joint exercises, which will involve emergency management coordination with the state and the military participants.
- Anticipates \$40M in projects and the locating of the F-22.
- Partner agreements with the city are being pursued to secure detached housing.

Homestead Air Force Base

- Colonel Stephen Fulgrum assumed command since the last Governor's meeting.
- Supports U.S. Customs and Air National Guard currently. Pursuing the possibility of a F-16 training mission this spring. The base is accepting more missions.

Hurlburt Air Force Base

- Appreciates the state's investment in the infrastructure grants.

Joint Interagency Task Force - East

- Strong working relationship is on going between the military and other federal agencies to share intelligence.
- The high cost of housing for civilian employees is a concern.

MacDill Air Force Base

- Mission and construction are expanding. A new mission is bringing the 1st of 3 planes to MacDill. \$84M of new construction is underway. New runway project will cause the temporary closing of the airfield. There is an upgrade in progress for the family housing area.
- Working with the County Board Of Education to formalize a program to ease the military child's transition into the school system. The Board is expected in the next month to approve the recommendations of the non-profit Military Child Education Coalition.

Navy Region Southeast

- Briefed a 13-state program that provides low cost housing loans to assist service members in buying homes. The most successful program to date involves Virginia's Housing Authority's financial guarantees.
- Per the Governors' request, Mr. Keith Bowers, Florida Housing Finance Corporation attended to hear the brief. The Governor said that the state wants to pursue this loan program and was prepared to work legislative action if required.

NAF Key West

- Key West is handling the impact that the Navy Battle Group and sees an increased use of the base.
- Designation as a Naval Air Field as of July 1, 2001.
- Florida Guard is supporting hurricane operations.
- New Coast Guard station is forthcoming.

NAS Jacksonville

- Increased hiring of personnel. The command is moving into new space. Pine Castle EIS is going well and final meeting is scheduled in two weeks.
- Working with the city on some encroachment issues.

NAS Pensacola

- Captain Bahr praised community support in zoning 1700 homes as residing in an Air Installation Compatibility Use Zone (AICUZ) I / II areas. The commissioners

enacted laws that permit signage at roadways to show flight areas and acceptable decibel levels. There is to be no new development allowed in AICUZ I areas. In AICUZ II areas there are only to be two homes per acre with the lots being ½ acres. DoD Office of Installations has praised this community action as a model for the country.

- A key encroachment issues being worked with the County Commissioners involves Perdido Picture Plant Prairie. The Prairie was changed from a fully funded state priority to a matching fund state priority on the Friends Forever List.
- Supports Navy Battle Group's presence in the Gulf and may ask Department of Environmental Protection's help to obtain expedited timeline and permitting for dredging to facilitate deep draft vessels.

NAS Whiting Field

- Captain Brian Watkins assumed command since the last Governor's meeting.

Naval Aviation Depot

- Partnering with industry to include General Electric to subcontract parts so that the labor is provided in Jacksonville. USN is exploring new role as a sub-contractor.

Navy Air Warfare Center/Training Support Division (NAWC/TSD)

- The state's Defense Infrastructure Grant program has positively impacted Central Florida. The most recent grant used fiber optic cable to link the university and federal organizations to increase the sharing of information.
- The state-funded buildings that are being offered the military promotes shared federal-state software development and quality training. The second partnership building is in the design phase.
- The simulation convention at the Orlando Convention Center in the last week in November will show the military and civilian worlds what the simulation industry in Orlando accomplishes.

Naval Station Guantanamo

- As a new member to this forum, the commander briefed his station's mission and its interest in expanding training missions and range support.

Naval Station Key West

- Units are supplementing search and rescue missions in the area.
- Joint agreements between the USN and the community enable efficient control of the piers.

Naval Station Mayport

- Captain Matt Schellhorn assumed command since the last Governor's meeting.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division, Coastal Systems Station (CSS)

- As an aging civil service workforce retires, CSS anticipates hiring over 400 high-salaried engineers and other technicians over the next five years.
- Partnering with Eglin and Tyndall Air Force Bases on resource sharing.

Patrick Air Force Base

- Shuttle has supported 53 successful launches.
- Boeing and Lockheed-Martin are on track with new launch vehicles.
- Range maintenance involves a downtime of 5 weeks.
- The arrival of eight Chinese illegal immigrants shows the security challenge involved in defending a coastline of 27 miles.
- Two new launch vehicles are on-board. The next launch is November 29th.
- Appointed a senior officer to act as the liaison officer to the School Board to ease issues affecting the military's child transition into the schools.
- Patrick would like to obtain "go-fast cutters" to upgrade launch security.

U.S. Central Command

- Recruiters are being denied easy access to a few private schools in the Tampa area, which require a fee to access their student lists.
- Recommend the state consider waiving the tolls for enlisted service members throughout the state. The Governor responded that he could only look at the state-owned turnpike tolls. Local authorities would have to be approached on the tolls that they control.

U.S. Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM)

- No issues.

U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)

- General Pace was congratulated by the Governor on his nomination for Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- General Pace said that SOUTHCOM is fully engaged in counter drug operations.
- SOUTHCOM's Mike Rhodes is chairing a fast-track working group consisting of representatives from all bases and their local communities. This committee is looking at issues that could ease the transition of the mobile child into the Florida school system.

U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM)

- Special Operations is facing a funding cut of its counter narcotics operations.
- Complimented Florida's Bright Futures Program as attracting talented youth to continue higher education in Florida.

USMC Blount Island

- Currently the USMC pays leased costs while the USMC seeks a to purchase the land in 2003. This critical purchase for the USMC is not in the Defense 2002 Budget.
- Blount Island provision 17 ships for the USMC's pre-positioning mission. Over 900 individuals are employed.

Handouts

Presentation on Navy Housing Initiatives with State Agencies

Presentation on U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Update, Florida Defense Alliance Working Group on Encroachment
Update, Florida Defense Alliance Working Group on Infrastructure Grants
Update, Florida Defense Alliance Working Group on Military Family Transition –
Schools
Update, Department of Environmental Protection
Update, State Historical Preservation Office, Department of State
Talking Points, Recruiter Access to High Schools (Tampa, Florida), U.S. Central
Command
Contact Information on the Military Liaisons to the Florida Defense Alliance

Next Meeting:

Feb 6, 2002, Key West, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Military Attendees:

General Peter Pace, Commander In Chief, U.S. Southern Command
Major General Michael C.Kostelnik, Commanding Officer, USAF Air Armament Center, Eglin
Vice Admiral Alfred G.Harms, Jr., Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET)
Rear Admiral Thomas W.Steffens, Chief of Staff, U. S. Special Operations
Rear Admiral Jay Carmichael, Commander 7th, Coast Guard District
Rear Admiral Jan Gaudio, Commander, Navy Region Southeast
Brigadier General William W. Hodges, Commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill
Brigadier General William Hodgkins, Wing Commander, 325th Fighter Wing, Tyndall
Brigadier General Donald P.Pettit, Wing Commander, 45th Space Wing/Command Center
Patrick Air Force Base
Brigadier General Charles Bouchard, Deputy Commander Continental U.S. North
American Aerospace Defense (CONR) Command
Captain Colin Campbell, Commanding Officer, USCG Integrated Support Command – Miami
Captain Chris Roum, Commanding Office, Naval Aviation Depot/ Jacksonville
Captain Mark Boense, Commanding Office, NAS Jacksonville
Captain Matthew E.Schellhorn, Commanding Office, Naval Station Mayport
Captain Fred Shut, Commanding Office, Naval Surface Warfare Center
Dahlgren Division, Coastal Systems Station
Captain Randal L.Bahr, USN, Commanding Office, NAS Pensacola
Captain Brian Watkins, Commanding Officer, NAS Whiting Field
Captain Donald R.Gagnon, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Warfare Center
Training Systems Division
Captain Lawrence Cotton, Commanding Office, NAF Key West
Captain James W.Stark, Commander Coast Guard Group Mobile
Captain Bob Buehn, Commanding Officer, US Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
Captain Dovard Nelms, In-bound Chief of Staff, CNET
Captain Ferd Salomon, Executive Officer, NAS Whiting Field
Captain Robert Buchholz, Commanding Officer, Navy Public Works Center
Colonel Allen Coulter, Commanding Officer, USMC - Blount Island
Colonel Steven R.Fulghum, Commander, 482nd Fighter Wing, Homestead ARB
Colonel Robert R.Tovado, Director, Manpower & Personnel, U. S. Central Command
Colonel Lyle Koenig, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field
Colonel Joseph F.Buranosky, Program Manager for Training Systems
Colonel Grant F.Herring, Commander Air Force Agency for Modeling & Simulation
Colonel Gonzalez, accompanying General Pace, U.S. Southern Command

Colonel Jim Laughlin, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Simulation Training & Instrumentation
Command

Colonel Larry Kemp, Florida National Guard

Commander Stephanie Oram, NAS Whiting Field

Colonel Lyle Koening, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field

Lieutenant Colonel, Howard E. Thompson, Jr., Commanding Officer, Avon Park Bombing Range

Lieutenant Colonel Keith Keck, Deputy Commande, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill AFB

Lieutenant Colonel Dan Golden, Camp Blanding Training Site, Camp Blanding

Lieutenant Col Keith Keck, MacDill Air Force Base

Lieutenant Commander Nick Petrillo, Aide to Vice Admiral Harms

Lieutenant Martinez, accompanying Rear Admiral Carmichael

Sergeant Major Dwight J. Brown, Command Sergeant Major, U. S. Central Command, MacDill

Command Sergeant Alcea, Hurlburt Field

State Agency Attendees:

Ms. Kathleen Shanahan, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office

Dr. Pamella Dana, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic
Development (OTTED)

Mr. John C. Anderson, CEO/President, Enterprise Florida, Inc.

Ms. Kellie Jo Kilberg, Director, Florida Defense Alliance/Senior Director of Partner Relations for
Economic Development and Defense, Enterprise Florida

LT CDR Jennifer Carroll, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

Ms. Marla Gillman, Special Assistant to the Director on Space and Defense, OTTED

Ms. Kathy Ward, Program Manager for Defense, Enterprise Florida

Mr. Bill Buckeye, Governor's Washington, D.C. Office

Ms. Mollie Palmer, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Keith Bowers, Single Family Administrator, Florida Housing Finance Corporation

Dr. Jan Matthews, State Historic Preservation Office, Department of State

Ms. Debra Matthews, Office Manager, Enterprise Florida