

**Florida Defense Alliance
Annual Work Plan Retreat
Minutes**

Wednesday, March 8th, 2006
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Enterprise Florida
390 N. Orange Ave. Ste. 1300
Orlando, FL 32801

Attendees: John Pruitt (Chairman), Jim Breitenfeld, Dan McCarthy, Harrison Conyers, Diana Gonzalez, Marty Martin, Kellie Jo Kilberg, Sean Corscadden, Guy P. York, Craig Dalton, Wayne Nelms, Pat Flynn, Kim Agee.

Staff: Al Latimer, Chris Hart, Angela Martini.

Meeting Agenda: The following agenda items were discussed:

- I. FDA
 - a. Vision and Mission
 - b. Governance

- II. FDA Work Plan for 2006-2007

- III. Staffing Update

- IV. FDA Communications Plan (Website Enhancement, etc.)

- V. Working Group Issues
 - Growth Management and Encroachment
 - Government Relations
 - Workforce Housing
 - Family Support
 - Economic Development
 - Marketing/Communication

- VI. Regional Reports/Issues
- VII. Spring Meeting Date

Call to Order: A quorum being present, FDA Chair, John Pruitt, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Welcome & Introductions

John Pruitt greeted the group and invited attendees to introduce themselves. He asked everyone to offer a brief comment on whether the Florida Defense Alliance was achieving its mission and identify one thing that could make the organization better. Responses were as follows:

Wayne Nelms, *OTTED*, “The FDA is the most effective national level Defense/Military organization in the country.”

Guy P. York, *Bay Defense Alliance*, “The FDA is a very effective and successful organization. We need to do whatever we can to keep the Governor’s Base Commanders’ meeting and other military activities going under the next administration. ”

Sean Corscadden, *Bay Defense Alliance*, “I have been involved in the FDA since the beginning. The organization has had tremendous success compared to similar initiatives in other states.”

Kellie Jo Kilberg, *Clay County Chamber of Commerce*, “The Florida Defense Alliance has been very successful in achieving BRAC related objectives, the it is more than BRAC. We need promote that fact more.”

Marty Martin, *Whiting Field*, “The FDA has done much more than what people realized, it is a key organization because it allows people to get together and talk. It fosters relationships and partnerships among city, county and state military interest.”

Harrison Conyers, *City of Jacksonville*, “The FDA is a proactive organization. The funding provided through grants has a tremendous impact.”

Daniel MacCarthy, *City of Jacksonville*, “There is always an opportunity to pursue, and the FDA should always advocate for these opportunities. Florida is the state where military people are treated better.”

Jim Breitenfeld, *Okaloosa County*, “As the father of the FDA, I am proud it is still a relevant organization. It is critical for the FDA to maintain its relevant role.”

Al Latimer, *EFI*, “The FDA is relevant thanks to the hard work of many individuals; however, participation has decreased a lot in the last two years. Efforts should be made to get folks reengaged.”

Kim Agee, *EDC of Florida’s Space Coast*, “The FDA is a very proactive organization in elevating military issues, but I don’t think we are leveraging ourselves as best as we can.”

Pat Flynn, *Florida National Guard*, “As a person who has lived all over the country, I consider Florida the most soldier friendly state I’ve ever lived in.”

Diana Gonzalez, *The Beacon Council*, “The FDA brings all the communities together, gives focus to our legislative issues and, provides funding.”

John Pruitt, *Gulf Power Company and FDA Chair*, “The FDA is a terrific organization; however attendance is off, perhaps because the military sector perceives our mission to be primary BRAC.”

FDA Vision/ Mission/Governance

Chairman Pruitt highlighted shared that the Florida Defense Alliance Strategic Plan, posted on the FDA website was dated April 2004 still labeled as draft, because it was never approved by the EFI Board of Directors. He stated that updating the plan and getting it approved by the Board would be an action plan item.

The group asked they could better engage the EFI Board to ensure stronger support for the FDA. Kim Agee commented that FDA should emphasize its economics development relevance as a way of making a stronger connection to Enterprise Florida's core mission.

Kellie Jo Kilberg pointed to the current situation of a lack of dedicated staff as an indication of where EFI support could immediately improve. Chris Hart, Senior VP of External Affairs and the unit under which the FDA falls gave a staffing update. He announced that the search for a new Director of Military and Defense Programs was about to begin. Chris told members that, after the less than impactful, and short tenure of the two previous Directors, he understood how critical it was to select the right person. The group opined that the Director should have outstanding relationship building skills, good knowledge of economic development and military issues, and the capacity to successfully lead the Florida Defense Alliance through periods of uncertainty. They also mentioned that the new Director should have good administrative support. On that point Chris Hart said that EFI plans to create a Defense Department consisting of a Director, a Grants Coordinator, and a Program Coordinator, which would better facilitate the administrative needs of the unit.

The group had a discussion about the upcoming Governor's election and a potential change in state priorities which could move other interest ahead of military issues. They reiterated how vital is to have a dedicated and capable Director in place soon.

Current FDA Mission Statement

Chairman Pruitt read the existing mission statement and asked for volunteers to help rewrite it.

"Florida Defense Alliance's strategic plan is designed to partner with communities, develop economic diversification and promote base efficiencies in the State of Florida. This Alliance supports local groups that work to enhance their military bases and defense industries. Locally administered, strategic plans will be bolstered through state assistance, i.e., financial, legal, and political."

Guy York, Kellie Jo Kilberg, and Patrick Flynn agreed to assist. John Pruitt said they he would send out an e-mail within two weeks with the first draft revisions.

Work Plan

The Chairman guided the members through a question and answer session to stimulate thoughts for the development of a work plan for the remainder of his term which ends November 2007. The answers listed below are a summary of the majority opinion and in sum cases represents the consensus opinion.

Q: Is the current FDA vision and mission relevant and adequate?

A: *It is relevant; however it needs to be updated.*

Q: Does the FDA have the right mix of participants? How does the FDA attract more participation?

A: *The FDA needs more participation from the military installations, commands and mission function as well as the private business sector. Participation from Base Commanders wives can also bring a great deal of resource support to some aspect of the works FDA hopes to accomplish. The FDA together with the communities must work on a compelling plan to attract more people.*

Q: Is continuity a concern?

A: *Yes. An action plan that keeps everyone focused, and a staff director who is on the job for longer than six months will help the FDA get things done.*

Q: What made the FDA successful in the past? What will make it successful in the future?

A: *The support from Governor Bush, bringing military partners and interest together and the Defense Grants Program, all made the FDA successful in the past. The continue hard work and dedication of the FDA membership and the future Director of Military and Defense Programs will make it successful in the future. Growing the membership will also help.*

Q: Have the FDA successfully communicated its accomplishments and potential?

A: *No. A communications plans needs to be developed. A part of which should be ways to make the FDA website more of a tool for disseminating information.*

Q: What is the FDA relationship with Enterprise Florida's Space and Defense Council?

A: *EFI is considering splitting the Council in two separate groups. The Space Advisory Council will represent on space issue and the FDA would be the body that advise EFI on military and defense issues.*

Q: Where does the FDA want to concentrate its efforts over the next 1-2 years?

A : *Updating and getting the Strategic Plan approved, developing a communications plan, with EFI sanctioning submit recommendations to the legislature to support proposals which are important to the military and defense community. The body should also work on its mission, vision, and structure.*

Q: Does the FDA want to publish a work-plan? Who would approve the plan?

A: *Yes, the FDA should publish its work-plan.*

Working Group Issues

After a group discussion it was decided that the following working groups would be established/continued, and will focus on the topic listed after it. Chairmanship assignments are also listed below.

1. Growth Management & Encroachment Chair Marty Martin
 - a. Education
 - i. AICUZ
 - ii. JLUS
 - iii. GUP
 - b. Encroachment Buffering
 - c. Implementation of 1604

2. Government Relations Co-Chairs: Kelli Jo Killberg and Diana Gonzalez
 - a. Awareness (Federal/Sate Local)
 - b. BRAC Implementation

- c. Networking
- 3. Housing Chair: TDB
 - a. Partner with Statewide Efforts
 - b. Advocate for Military Families
- 4. Workforce Development Chair: TBD
 - a. Spousal employment
 - b. Higher education
 - c. Military member in transition / retention
 - d. Workforce Board
- 5. Family Support Chair: Pat Flynn
 - a. Identify needs
 - b. Family support center
 - c. Veterans returning from war
- 6. Economic Development Co-Chairs: Dan McCarthy and Jim Breitenfeld
 - a. Identify and pursue current and future opportunities
 - b. Offer support to communities with mission expansion
- 7. Marketing / Communication Chair: Kim Agee
 - a. Internal
 - i. Develop a monthly newsletter
 - ii. Create a password protected sections in the FA website for members only
 - b. External
 - i. Keep communities inform about what's going on
 - ii. Engage legislators on "checks presentations"
 - iii. Allow each community to show their "base-impact" by publicating such information on the FDA website.
 - iv. Create credibility by publishing bios of the FDA core-group members on the website.

Open Discussion

After the discussion on "working groups" the group deliberated about ways to increase military involvement in the Alliance which led to the suggestion that EFI writes a letter, over John Adams signature, to each base commander asking them to provide a point of contact for the FDA.

Items of General Interest

Wayne Nelms gave an overview of the following bills and suggested that the FDA monitor them closely.

SB 462: Senator Constantine (HB499: Rep. Traviesa)

Armed Forces/Deferred Presentment; restricts actions of deferred presentment provider under deferred presentment transaction agreement with member of United States Armed Forces or spouse of service member; prohibits deferred presentment provider from entering into transaction agreement with service member under certain circumstances. Amends

SB1634: Senator Baker (HB1109: Rep. Smith)

Title Loans; deletes authorization for regulation of title loan lenders by local governments; requires certain additional disclosure provisions to be specified in title loan agreements; increases maximum interest rates on said loans; provides exception for members of U.S. Armed Forces & their spouses; requires certain minimum principal payments on loans that are extended, etc. Amends 494.00797, 537.008,.011,.013; repeals

SB2424: Senator Webster (Compares to SB2048)

Charter Schools; revises purposes for which said school may be established; requires that director, governing board, & sponsor of said school take certain action if school is graded "D" or "F"; requires that DOE provide certain training & assistance to applicants for said schools; exempts said school from occupational fees; **removes said schools from special academic programs provided for students from military families**, etc. Amends FS. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon becoming law. 03/02/06 SENATE Filed

H.R. 4112: National Emergency Centers Establishment Act

National Emergency Centers Establishment Act - Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish at least six national emergency centers on military installations to provide: (1) temporary housing, medical, and humanitarian assistance to individuals and families dislocated due to an emergency or major disaster; and (2) centralized locations for the training and coordination of federal, state, and local first responders, and to improve coordination of preparedness, response, and recovery efforts of government, private, and not-for-profit entities and faith-based organizations. Requires the use of such centers to meet other appropriate needs determined by the Secretary.

Drilling for oil in the Eastern Gulf

See attached St. Petersburg Times article on Senators Nelson and Martinez proposal to short circuit attempts to sanction drilling for oil in the eastern Gulf Coast.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the FDA was set for May 9&10. More specific information will be sent out within the next 10 days.

Close

FDA chair, John Pruitt concluded the meeting by asking the participants to provide regional updates.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

Senators plan to fight offshore drilling

Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson and Republican Sen. Mel Martinez plan to announce details of their proposal Wednesday morning.

By WES ALLISON, Times Staff Writer
Published January 31, 2006

WASHINGTON - Alarmed by recent attempts to encourage oil and gas drilling off Florida's Gulf Coast, the state's U.S. senators are pushing for broader and permanent protection.

If it wins congressional approval, a bill crafted by Republican Sen. Mel Martinez and Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson would keep oil rigs as far as 260 miles off Florida's West Coast. That's far more protection than any of the other drilling deals recently debated in Congress.

As part of the deal, oil companies would get access to a now-closed but long-sought section of sea bottom that experts believe is rich in natural gas.

Drilling is forbidden in most of the eastern Gulf of Mexico thanks to a hodgepodge of two-decade-old federal bans, but they begin to expire next year. And oil-friendly forces in Congress, buoyed by rising energy prices, are pushing several plans to allow offshore drilling as close as 20 miles from land.

The senators' proposal is ground-breaking because neither Nelson nor Martinez has ever shown any willingness to dicker on drilling. If approved, the bill would end the yearly scramble by Florida lawmakers to stop gas and oil exploration in the Gulf.

Martinez and Nelson have scheduled a news conference for Wednesday morning. According to a draft obtained by the St. Petersburg Times, the bill would ban drilling east of the U.S. military's training area in the Gulf, some 260 miles off Tampa Bay and 150 miles off the Panhandle.

A no-drilling buffer of 150 miles also would surround the state's southern and eastern shores.

In exchange, oil companies could seek permits to drill in the south-central section of Lease-Sale Area 181, a boxy chunk of Gulf real estate about the size of Vermont. Companies with existing drilling rights within the new boundaries would be compensated.

Nelson and Martinez have been shopping the plan to environmentalists and fellow Florida lawmakers in recent days, and the pair met last week at Martinez's Orlando home to finalize details.

Nelson, who lives in the same neighborhood, confirmed last week that he jogged over to Martinez's house to discuss a bill - "He served me Gatorade" - but he refused to provide details.

A spokeswoman for Martinez also declined comment.

On Tuesday, Martinez's and Nelson's staffs briefed aides to at least eight U.S. House members from Florida, including Mike Bilirakis, R-Tarpon Springs; Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Broward County; Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale; and Jim Davis, D-Tampa, a leading drilling opponent who is running for governor and who has opposed past compromises.

Attendees said the bill was generally well-received, though some aides were upset they weren't told about it sooner.

Davis also spoke with Nelson on Tuesday evening. He said the bill sounds promising, but he wanted to review it before deciding to back it. If he finds it agreeable, Davis said he will call Rep. Jeff Miller, a Panhandle Republican, about co-sponsoring a companion bill in the House.

"Any time two United States senators in different parties get together and say something is good for the state, that is very powerful," Davis said. "But I need to read the details."

Miller's spokesman, Dan McFaul, said Miller and Nelson also spoke Tuesday. It is similar to a last-minute deal proposed in the House in November, he said, but Miller also wants more details. "We're glad they're moving in this direction."

Representatives from several environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, the Florida Public Interest Research Group and the League of Conservation Voters, also met recently at the Defenders of Wildlife office in downtown Washington to review a draft of the plan.

The reception was positive, attendees said. Mark Ferrulo, director of Florida PIRG in Tallahassee, which has been fighting drilling for more than 20 years, said his organization plans to back the bill.

"This legislation represents a laundry list of protections we've long fought for. It actually expands our current areas that would be protected, and makes it permanent," Ferrulo said.

Specifically, the deal would protect the so-called "stovepipe" section of Area 181, just 20 miles off Pensacola, and block exploration in the eastern part of Area 181, which oil companies have been eyeing.

Area 181 totals about 6-million acres. The Bush administration opened 2-million acres to drilling in 2001, and federal prohibitions on drilling in the rest start to expire next year.

Nelson's and Martinez's bill would protect the 3.2-million acres of Area 181 closest to shore, while allowing drilling in about 800,000 acres, according to a draft.

"There's never been any compromise or legislation that's ever talked about giving protections for those areas," Ferrulo said.

But passing the bill will mean aligning some difficult political parts:

It needs the blessing of the Bush administration and congressional leaders, which have close ties to the oil industry. They include Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who favors more offshore energy production and who has sparred with Nelson over protections for Florida's coast.

It would mark a significant political victory for Nelson, who is up for re-election this year. Republican leaders may not want to hand that victory to him. Martinez would benefit, too, but he's not up for re-election until 2010.

House Resources Chairman Richard Pombo, R-Calif., who negotiated with Floridians over a deal last year, prefers a measure that would address offshore drilling nationwide, spokeswoman Jennifer Zuccarelli said. "There are members from California, Democratic members, who are up in arms about this, because it doesn't address the Pacific."

Meanwhile, rising energy prices have increased pressure to boost domestic oil and gas production, and several bills to ease long-standing restrictions have been introduced.

One that would allow gas exploration within 20 miles of shore now has 120 sponsors in the House. And last month, the U.S. Department of Interior drew tentative new Gulf of Mexico boundaries that could put waters off Florida under the control of Louisiana, which supports offshore drilling.

"I don't think this bill is going to mean all the other bad bills are going to be dropped by the oil industry and their allies," Ferrulo said, "but we're going to be on the offensive this session instead of always playing defense."