

Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Florida Defense Alliance.

A regular meeting of the Enterprise Florida, Inc., Florida Defense Alliance was held on November 13, 2007 at the Radisson Resort at the Port Hotel, in Cape Canaveral, FL.

Members Present.

Col. Dave Dahl, USN-NRSE
Amanda Meyer, Clay Economic Development
Maj. Bob Thomas, Camp Blanding JTC
Brice Harris, Ph.D, OTTED
Bub Lenoir, Navy Region Southeast
Cindy Anderson, TEAM Santa Rosa County
Col David Zeh, 325 FW/MSG Tyndall AFB
Craig Dalton, Pensacola Chamber
Debi Panyko, Pensacola Chamber
Deborah Keller, The Nature Conservancy
Diana Gonzalez, Miami Dade Defense Alliance
Dorothy Dunlap, Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance
Edward Ellegood, Embry -Riddle Aeronautical Univ.
Elizabeth Scully, 45 SW/CAG Patrick AFB/CCAFS
Eric S Sherman, DoD State Liaison Office
Geoffrey Miller, Workforce Central Florida
Guy York, Bay Def Alliance
Helen Sears, Central FL Regional Planning
Hillary Yarbrough, SAF/IEI, Contractor
Howard Grant , Florida National Guard
James F. Bury , RCC Southeast
Jill Schechter, Clay Economic Development
Jim Breitenfeld, Okaloosa County EDC DSI
Joanne Bailey , Navy Region Southeast
John Eichelbeger, Pendulum Management
John Newstreet, U.S. Senator Mel Martinez
John Pruitt, Chairman FDA
Kay Rasmussen, EDC Okaloosa DSI
Kim Agee, EDC of FL Space Coast
Louise England, Highlands Economic Development
Marty Martin, NAS Whiting Field
Patricia Piazza, FCWD, INC Worksource
Patrick Flynn, Florida National Guard
Paul Hirsch, Madison Government Affairs Inc.
Ron Burton, FL Troops & Spouses to Teachers
Ron Despard, University of Central Florida
Sean Corscadden, Bay Def Alliance- BearingPoint
ShaQuanna Wilson, Workforce Escarosa
Stephanie Oram, NAS Pensacola
Ted Spangenberg, Bay Def Alliance

Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance
Wes Smith, 325 CES/CEO
Zane Thomas, Highlands County Planning

(Please note that some of the attendees didn't sign in)

Present by phone

None

Staff Present

Stephen Urquhart, Vice President, Corporate Communications and Investor Relations
Rocky McPherson, Director, Military and Defense Programs
Juliana Peña, Program Manager, Military and Defense

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. FDA Update
- III. DoD Office of Economic Adjustment
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Defense Grants/Policy
 - b. Communications
 - c. Community reports
 - d. Committee reports
 - e. Leadership progression
- V. New Business
 - a. FDA Strategic plan
 - b. FDA Website Survey
 - c. Brainstorming
 - d. Floor Items

FDA President John Pruitt welcomed everybody to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then provided welcoming remarks and thanked our break sponsor Space Coast EDC.

FDA Update

Rocky McPherson reported on the three major issues for the Florida Defense Alliance that the last meeting we left with.

- FDA getting support for the EDO's and those defense advocates that are not federal or state employees was approved by OTTED.
- The HAAS study 2003 study done by University of West Florida on economic impact of the military in Florida. We are moving forward to update it. University of West Florida, HAAS center has been contracted. We are schedule to have a

- The status of creating a line item in the State budget for additional funds for the Florida Defense Alliance or to support the grant program is that EFI is addressing this through the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED). We are continuing to work with Florida's defense communities to get information on extra projects to build a case for that purpose, and we have the data of all the grant applications received for this fiscal year and will be using that for the upcoming legislative session.

Rocky proceeded to introduce the guest speaker, David McKinnon for the Office of Economic Adjustment.

Department of Defense (DoD) - Office of Economic Adjustment

David McKinnon, Associate Director, Office of Economic Adjustment. Mr. McKinnon did his presentation on the Joint Land Use Study program. His presentation has been posted on the Florida Defense Alliance Web site.

Old Business

Brice Harris, PhD gave a presentation regarding the defense grants. He reiterated how important it is for the communities to constantly remind their elected officials of the importance of the military in Florida.

Also he asked the communities to think creatively about how and where to invest the defense grant dollars. He challenged the communities to work together in creating local programs that are forward thinking in their scope and that have the greatest potential for long term economic benefits to our communities as well as long term strategic benefits to the military.

He encouraged everyone to consider the strengths that their local commands and communities have and to consider how those strengths can be married on to programs that support the Department of Defense ongoing transformation initiative. This will help our communities retain the military presence they have as well as to grow the military presence within the state.

He asked them to consider high tech, space, network centricity as areas to develop.

He said that communication is key between EDO's, local government and the military installations. This will enable to identify the needs of the community.

Juliana Peña, Program Manager, Military and Defense gave a brief presentation about the overall comments that the grant judges had about this year's applications.

For the DRG, the judges agreed that this should be more projects specific; they would like to see these projects to closely follow the parameters included in the request for proposal (RFP).

She asked the communities to please submit the grant applications with all the non-project related required information: who would be the grantee, the contact person, federal identifications number. This helps facilitate the expedition of contracts once the grants are awarded.

The new invoice containing the new language to be included if seeking reimbursement for registration fees for attending EFI sponsored events. That invoice has been placed on the FDA Website.

Communications

Rocky McPherson led the conversation regarding enhancing communications for the FDA.

The idea is to make the FDA more functional. He announced that the he and the FDA Chairman will be calling on the membership to assume some responsibility positions necessary for the effective functioning of the organization.

The communications between the FDA and the communities can be enhanced. Ideas such as better dissemination of information, via newsletter, and enhancement of the FDA Web site were discussed.

One of the recurrent issues was the consistency in communication with the legislators and the elected officials to keep them aware of the successes attained with the appropriated grant funds; in addition to show them the constant need for those funds to continue to be appropriated.

Community reports

Diana Gonzalez gave a report for South Florida. The biggest issues happening right now is the mission growth happening at Homestead AFB. The specifics on the number of personnel coming are still pending. Miami-Dade County continues to market the surplus property adjacent to Homestead ARB for additional military purposes. Amongst the interested are Special Operations Command South and other SouthCom related organizations.

Miami-Dade County has leased to the State on a permanent basis the largest hangar on site for purposes of being a depot of materials in the event of a mass immigration into the Caribbean Basin.

SouthCom is still tracking the Federal legislation that is going to fund their new facility. That funding is currently on hold.

This summer the Association of Defense communities meeting took place in Miami and it proved to be a very successful event.

Jim Breitenfeld gave the update for North West Florida. The most important things taking place in the region is the coming of the “Joint Strike Fighter” over the several years and some range issues throughout the region. This has allowed for all the communities to work together.

The five counties defense coalition continues to work. They successfully completed trips to DC.

Kim Agee gave the update for the Space Coast. The current issues for the region are:

Naval Ordnance Test Unit “Milcon” project that has been delayed is getting close to going thru.

The Child Development Center at Patrick AFB is another project waiting for \$11.4 million Federal facility to replace the existing facility that is in bad conditions.

Finding alternatives to reduce the gap between the Shuttle Program retirement and the start of the “Constellation” program.

Remain engaged with the Coast Guard to determine their needs.

Rocky provided the update for Northeast Florida. The main concern in the region is the decommissioning of the USS Kennedy and whether the port become nuclear capable and whether nuclear carrier group moves to the region. The Environmental Impact Statement for this region is due in January 2008. This study will determine is the port could become nuclear capable.

Craig Dalton provided an update for the Pensacola area. He commented about the Health Information Technology Summit that took place in November 7-8, 2007. The main projects taking place right now in the region are the Sauffley Field Enhanced Use Lease is being completed; and “Florida LambdaRail” connectivity project which will connect their main three bases to the Global High Speed Network.

Working Groups reports

Pat Flynn, group chair provided the update for the Family Support Working Group. The group took a look at the priorities they had last year which was predatory lending, spousal employment and childcare.

On the predatory lending progress has been made. Federal regulations has been passed in October this year that puts caps on predatory lending and theses regulations will be enforced by state governments around the nation.

On the spousal employment: Progress on the reciprocity and certification agreements for professions like nursing and teaching.

Career advancement accounts for military family members. This is a \$3000 funds for education support for Military spouses.

Accessible and affordable childcare for the military families remains an issue this year.

Marty Martin, group chair provided the update for the Growth Management group. Overall the trend is to have Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AISCUZ) and Range Compatible Use Zone (RCUZ), Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), Encroachment Action Plans (EAP).

Another common trend is the Readiness Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) that the Department of Defense (DoD) and the services has established funding for the bases to access and is mainly used to acquire land close to the bases.

This was Marty Martin's last meeting. He is retiring from Federal service on January 2008. His Successor will be Kevin Gartland, from NAS Jacksonville.

Diana Gonzalez provided the Legislative update.

State Issues:

Many of the Quality of Life issues facing military personnel living in Florida are directly affected by the actions of the Florida Legislature. Listed below are those issues that have been brought to the attention of the Legislature and have been addressed to some degree but need ongoing monitoring for final resolution.

- 1) Spousal Employment: Some action is already fixed or in process; would like to see enhanced reciprocity agreements with other states.
- 2) Affordable Housing – This is an ongoing issue which requires continued monitoring of ongoing actions to improve a serious issue for junior military service members.
- 3) Access to safe and affordable child care-seeking ways for the State to incentivize child care providers to operate facilities that meet DoD standards
- 4) Military Growth Management
 - Military airfield buffering
 - Florida Forever (\$300 Million per year)
 - Highly successful program
 - Need to educate community/elected officials on value
 - Requirement for continued funding
 - Sunsets 2010: All but \$12 Million obligated
 - Requirement for increase for last two years
 - Program requested \$100 Million (Not funded)
 - Successor Program
 - Coalitions forming now
 - Coalitions are focusing on partnerships with military installations and military communities
 - Growth Management Bill Adjustments-legislation will be proposed by Rep. Jeff Miller
- 5) Participation in the School Compact-compact developed by the Council of State governments that seeks specific reciprocity for children of military personnel as they transfer from one school

district to another.

Federal Issues:

Attached is a legislative report that has been prepared for the Board of Directors of the Association of Defense Communities by the Counsel to the Board, Kutak Rock. The memorandum outlines recent events related to the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations, Department of Defense Appropriations and the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2008.

- 1) Continued BRAC Funding-
- 2) Legislation for Affordable Housing-At the Congressional level, there has been legislation filed to address needed changes to the Internal Revenue Code that would allow for military personnel who meet the income require to be eligible for housing funded through Low Income Housing Tax Credits. This legislation entitled *Military Access to Housing Act of 2007* which has been introduced in the Senate as S. and in the House of Representatives as H.R. 1481 are currently in the respective financing committees and have not received any major actions.

Leadership progression

John Pruitt announced that hopefully in January 2008 a new FDA Chairman will be announced. He asked for people to let him know if anyone is interested in becoming the chairman or a group chair.

New Business

The FDA Strategic plan

The FDA Strategic plan for the FDA needs to be rewritten as the latest review focuses on BRAC. The Enterprise Florida Board adopted this strategic plan in October 2006 in Sandestin, FL. Input was solicited for the new strategic plan. The strategic plan was made available on the FDA Web site.

The Website survey.

A brief survey was provided soliciting input on what needs to be changed or added.

Brainstorming

Rocky commented about the new structure of the new “Military Leadership forum” formerly known as “The Military Base Commanders’ Meeting”.

Rocky opened the floor seeking input for communication improvement or FDA improvement in general. Some ideas gathered are:

A document that shows the successes of the FDA programs can do for the communities. This will be used to introduce the new Base Commanders to what the organization does.

Preparation for next BRAC round.

Increase congressional involvement by inviting them to attend the FDA meetings.

Hold monthly conference calls with the representatives from the military communities.
Change the “FDA members” tab on the Web site to say “Local Partners.”

Follow up on the affordable housing working group that started at the Sandestin meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45p.m.

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