

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 October 14, 2008 at the Hilton Bayfront in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Members Present:

Alderson, Cindy (Guest of Babin, Herb)-Florida Community College
Anderson, Shakra, U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
Babin, Herb-Florida Community College
Bailey, Joanne-NAVFAC-SE
Borchers, Ronald-Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Cassidy, Lil- 45FSS/FSFR
Conyers, Harrison-City of Jacksonville/ Military Affairs
Corcadden, Sean-BearingPoint
Dalton, Craig (Guest of Panyko, Debi)-Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
DeBerry, Flin-NSAPC
Dougherty, Louis-Florida National Guard
Dunlap, Dorothy-Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance
England, Louise-Highlands County EDC/IDA
Fanto, Jeff-Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners
Finkelstein, Neal-Army/RDECOM
Flynn, Patrick-Department of Military Affairs
Gandy, Pete-Team Santa Rosa, EDC
Gartland, Kevin-Naval Air Station, Jacksonville
George C., Betz-NSA Panama City
Gonzalez, Diana-The Beacon Council/MDDA
Grant, Howard -Department of Military Affairs
Hirsch, Paul-Madison Government Affairs, Inc.
Hummel, Christina-MacDill AFB
Hunt, Melissa-FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Jacobs, Stephanie-Workforce Development Board
Jordan, Pamela-Patrick Air Force Base
Keller, Deborah-Nature Conservancy, The
McGregor, Rob-Florida National Guard
McPherson, Rocky-Enterprise Florida
Neubauer, Tom-Bay Defense Alliance
Null, Richard-Florida Department of Transportation
Panyko, Debi-Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Piazza, Patricia-WORKSOURCE
Riedel, Ron-Avon Park Air Force Range, 23rd Wing, Detachment 1
Roslin, Julie-Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast
Sadsad, Enrique-NAS Whiting Field
Schechter, Jill-Clay County Chamber of Commerce
Schwartz, Jodie-Tyndall AFB Family Support
Sears, Helen-CFRPC
Sherman, Eric-Office DUSD MCFP
Sobush, Dave-Pinellas County Economic Development
Solin, Lester-Solin and Associates, Inc.
Stitt, Bruce-West Florida Regional Planning Council
Thomas, Bob-Camp Blanding Joint Training Center
Ushkowitz, Eric-Metro Orlando EDC
Wheeler, Ken-U.S. Army PEO STRI
York, Guy-Bay Defense Alliance
Youngston, Amanda-Serco-NA
Zeh, David-USAF alphabetical order by last name with officers or leaders listed first.

Present Via Phone
None
Staff Present
Al Latimer Sr. Vice President, External Affairs Lisa Lutka, Director, Investor Relations Rocky McPherson, Director, Military and Defense Juliana Pena, Program Manager, Military and Defense

Agenda

- I. Family Support Working Group Committee report
- II. Growth Management Working Group Committee report
- III. Community reports
- IV. Legislative discussion
- V. Florida military update
- VI. FDOT 2010 SIS Plan Update
- VII. Defense grants discussion

A quorum being present, Diana Gonzalez, FDA Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Family Support Working Group Committee report

Past FDA MFSWG Chair Patrick Flynn announced the new MFSWG Chair Patty Piazza and welcomed and congratulated her to the new position.

Rocky informed everyone that FDA Charter and Bylaws are in the process of being updated and a draft charter was sent out for review.

Patty Piazza opened the topic of the mission and vision of the Military Family Support Working Group by handing out an FDA MFSWG Overview sheet to the group. The sheet was designed as a quick reference for people to use when asked what the FDA was and it's purpose as well as the MFSWG. She then opened for discussion the question of how does the MFSWG get the word out on this group to gain new membership and to keep participation up?

The group brainstormed to identify current Florida military family issues. The ideas were summarized in the following 4 areas:

- Military Spouse preference --what is the opportunity for state jobs/county/city/school system?
- Financial/crisis mgmt issues – low income high cost of living, budget classes, family readiness crisis assist. Payday lenders financial examiners training. Falcon loan emergency loans.

- Childcare issues to include: job search funding issues while looking for work, hours of operation, and quality of care. VPK, weekend childcare particularly for single parents and guardsman, rating system for childcare facilities –number of different services out there. Subsidy offered for quality childcare businesses using a state quality rating system.

- Communication network – Florida Inter-service Family Assistant Support Coordinating committee (ISFAC) – ensuring families know of the services available. Addressing family support vice family issues... next meeting for Lillian is vice chair integrate with the FDA. Reduce redundancy in services.

Following discussion the items prioritized and the top two issues were:

- Childcare – Weekends and after hours – Need state rating system in place, subsidies offered for quality childcare.
- Military Spouse Employment Preference – State, County, City.

Eric Sherman, Regional State Liaison Office, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense Military Community and Family Policy gave updates from last FDA meeting regarding Payday Lenders. The lenders are required to tell Military Members about options on base, i.e. Air Force's Falcon Loan for \$500, before lending them money. There is a new disclosure statement on the payday loans websites and marketing materials. He also highlighted a website to review from the DOD level on what the DOD is doing for military and military families: www.usa4militaryfamilies.org.

The following suggestions emerged:

- Meet more often and monthly conference calls to keep information fresh.
- Invite/include active duty members i.e. Senior Enlisted Advisors and spouses, Veteran Groups such as the VFW and the American Legion, Military Child Education Coalition; more representation from Family Support Offices on the various bases.
- Include in a formal invitation examples of what we have done/accomplished as a working group (both Rocky and Diane agreed if it would provide more influence coming from them they would be happy to sign and send them out).
Include agenda of meeting with invitation to show what will be discussed and prepare attendees for participation.

Members were requested to visit the Florida Defense Alliance Web site www.floridadefense.org and submit suggestions for missing or incorrect information.

Potential issues for legislative action were:

- Military Spouse Preference for State, County, or City. Need to define what type of "Military Spouse" might have preference.
- "Buy-In" State Retirement System.
- Bridge Programs for ease of transition.

Growth Management Working Group committee report

- Kevin Gartland, chair of the Growth Management working presented draft amendment to Florida Building Code to include prescriptive measures to attenuate noise in structures in airport noise zones.
- Jim Breitenfeld presented issues of concern to be included in proposed amendment to Florida Statutes to address compatible land use, enforcement and real estate disclosure.
- Captain Rick Sadsad, USN presented NAS Whiting Field briefing on encroachment protection initiatives. His presentation is available on the FDA Web site.
- Attendees were requested to provide current encroachment protection challenges at their installations by 1 November to the working group Chair.

Community Reports

Community representatives provided a brief update of the most important things taking place in their region.

For Team Orlando: NAVAIR, inaugurated the Virtual Technology Development Operations Center.

For Avon Park: The community has a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) on the way. The study is being managed by the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, since the JLUS includes four different counties. This region is still seeking opportunities to fund a RAICUZ or AICUZ study.

For the Space Coast: As a result of the latest military construction bill passed, Cape Canaveral was the recipient of the new Satellite Operations facility. Patrick Air Force Base had a change of Command. Brig. General Susan Helms is moving to STRICOM. General Ed Holton is taking over the command. Shuttle program termination and the gap to the 'Constellation Program' is still a great concern in this region.

For South Florida: On September 27 an Army Community covenant was executed by the Army local Garrison and the local elected officials. This brought together the military families and local elected officials. A document was signed stipulating what the community is going to do for the military and what it means to have the military in Miami-Dade County. Homestead is in the process of integrating the sewer and water system on the base with the public water and sewer system. The Homestead JLUS was completed and officials have met to OEA seeking to secure funding for the implementation of the 11 recommendations.

Legislative Update

Rocky McPherson, Director Military and Defense Programs for Enterprise Florida Inc. gave an update about the legislative issues affecting the military. The presentation is available via the FDA website.

Florida Military Update

Rocky McPherson, Director Military and Defense Programs for Enterprise Florida Inc. gave a briefing concerning Florida Military Issues. The presentation is available via the FDA website.

FDOT SIS Plan Update

Terry Kraft, SIS Project Manager, presented the purpose and importance of Florida's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). He provided handouts containing information about the SIS, and the importance for the military to get involved. This information is available on the FDA Web site.

Mr. Kraft discussed the current SIS strategic plan for the State of Florida, and some key issues that have already been identified specifically for the military.

The SIS is currently underway to be updated. By 2010 a leadership group will be formed, the Florida Defense Alliance will be invited to be a part of.

The update of this SIS strategic plan will provide a forum to the military communities to state their future transportation needs.

Defense Grants Discussion

Rocky McPherson talked about instances where Enterprise Florida Inc. (EFI) had to deny reimbursement for already incurred grant expenses. He emphasized the responsibility that both grantees and administrators have to ensure that State funds are used within the bounds of the program for which they were appropriated. He reiterated that EFI is responsible for the accountability of these funds.

Rocky asked grantees to please consult with EFI prior to expending funds in activities of concern. He asked grantees to be as specific as possible in their scope of work, also to plan ahead, and to keep in mind that perceptions are important.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.