

## **Minutes to the Lieutenant Governor Brogan's Meeting with the Base Commanders**

**EVENT DATE:** February 6, 2002  
**TIME OF EVENT:** 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Naval Air Facilities Key West

### **Executive Summary**

Lieutenant Governor Frank Brogan and the commanding officers of military bases, installations, and major commands throughout the state met to discuss how Florida could contribute to the efficiency of the military within the state. Attendees at this meeting included representatives from every military service, every installation, three joint combatant commands, and the Florida National Guard.

### **NAF Key West, Host Commander**

As host of the meeting, Captain Larry Cotton, opened the meeting with an overview of the Naval Air Facilities' missions, units, 20 miles of coastline, and flight paths. Base's environmental actions have produced a man-made, eagle nesting area and a "clean" marina, one of nine in Florida.

### **State of Florida**

Lieutenant Governor reviewed the progress of issues since the last Commanders' meeting on August 27, 2001 at Tyndall Air Force Base.

- Supported the state's leveraging the military's distance learning success to improve education at the university and high school levels.
- Farewelled commanders, who would rotate before the next Governor's meeting, Captain Gagnon, Captain Bahr, and Brigadier General Pettit, and welcomed Brigadier General (P) Chedister and Captain Yeakel.
- Praised the selection of Major General (Retired) Ron Harrison to run the Military Transition Assistance Program for the Agency for Workforce Innovation's.
- Briefed that Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) is partnering with the FannieMae Corporation to develop a housing program to fund down payments and closing costs for military personnel. FHFC's work is in response to Rear Admiral Gaudio's housing initiative discussed at the last Governor's meeting with commanders. The program is in development and will most likely be ready for promotion in the next couple of months.
- Complimented the work of the Military Transition Working Group, as it moves Florida to be increase its educational supportive of military youth and all mobile children.
- Commended Captain Bahr's work with the Department of Environmental Protection for raising the purchase of Pitcher Plant Prairie to the "A" list for state purchase via the Florida Forever Program. This land purchase countesr the threat of development that is encroaching on the base's ability to conduct flight patterns.
- Resolution of an issue between Avon Park Bombing Range and the Department of Corrections, which recognizes the Department of Corrections' responsibility for maintaining infrastructure at Avon Park Bombing Range. The DOC is using current

funding to make necessary repairs to the wastewater and sewage systems at the installation and the Air Force is extremely satisfied with their proposed resolution. Thanks to OTTED for helping bring key players to the table to discuss the consequences of a 1973 sale agreement.

- Briefed that the Governor wrote the Secretary of Defense detailing Florida's support of the Miami location for U.S. SOUTHERN Command (SOUTHCOM), which the Commander in Chief has stated is critical to its mission.
- Praised state agency response to Eglin's security concerns after the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> by securing state funding to fence the exposed Eglin baseline to State Road 85 Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development (OTTED) Enterprise Florida (EFI), and Department of Transportation (DOT) played key roles in arranging funding.
- Commended state-local-military cooperation in controlling a section of A1A, which impacted the security of Patrick.
- Stated the Governor's support of continuing the funding of the Defense Infrastructure at \$5M and Community Defense Grants at \$1 million.

#### **Guest Speaker: ADM Natter, Commander in Chief (CINC) of Atlantic Fleet.**

- Fleet continues its training in Puerto Rico.
- Impressed with Florida's model support of the military.
- Emphasized the importance of the military's interface with state and local officials. Urged his commanders to accommodate civil requests made of their bases and not to refuse a request without consulting the CINC.

#### **Guest Speaker: MG Arnold**

- Recounted the responsibilities and actions of his command during September 11<sup>th</sup> and the International War on Terrorism.

#### **Round Table Discussion (in order of rank or speaking order)**

##### **U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)**

- Appreciates the Governor's endorsement to the Secretary of Defense of SOUTHCOM's Miami location as being the right location for the execution of its missions. The resolution of the headquarters' location depends on budget support for the land purchase.
- SOUTHCOM's Mike Rhodes, Chair of the Florida Defense Alliance Working Group on the Transition of the Military Family (Youth-Education) briefed that his group mailed its finding to all base commanders. He is seeking an appointment with the Secretary of Education to discuss state-level issues affecting the mobile child. He urged all base commanders to continue working with their local Superintendent on the issues that are within the County's jurisdiction.

##### **Chief, Naval Education and Training (CNET)**

- Appreciates the lines of communication that the Governor's forum produces, which is important to expand as we near the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. This forum improves the state's understanding of national security concerns.

- Values the community-military discussions, which are alleviating encroachment issues.

### **U.S. Coast Guard- District 7**

- District is working closely with Admiral Natter's Atlantic Fleet on improving port security. The District balances security and maritime missions.
- Working to extend port security to inspections at the ports of departure and increasing the role of other nations in international port security.
- South Carolina is working to import the success of Florida legislation to their state's port security.
- National Guard's large role in port security will continue.

### **Florida National Guard**

- Plans are to scale back airport security missions in March. If Federal Aviation Authority does not issue new protocols, than the Guard will need more funding for a continued presence. More time is needed for ports to transition to providing their own security.

### **Tyndall Air Force Base**

- Reopening of East Pass is an environmental success for the St. Andrews Bay. Tyndall will continue to work the issues to keep it open.
- Partnering with the Coast Guard to provide force protection for the expansive Tyndall shoreline
- Continuing talks with the St. Joe Company on their planned development as it relates to encroachment. Lieutenant Governor offered state assistance on this issue.

### **Eglin Air Force Base**

- Applauded the state's support of the President's visit.
- Force protection measures are backing up community highway traffic. Eglin seeks on-going community support to allow the military to implement the security measures it deems appropriate.
- Eglin will work with the communities to resolve infrastructure needs to include sponsoring a forum or a conference call to focus attention on infrastructure solutions.
- Announced its support of the largest Earth Day in Florida this April 21-23, 2002. This day's events are anticipated to draw over 21,000 people.

### **Patrick Air Force Base**

- Credited the Space Community with 26 launches this year. These launches involved the First Air Force and the National Guard for launch security.
- The safety of the launch sites is essential to our national security.
- A three mile, Maritime Exclusion ruling has been a key security achievement, as it requires commercial entities to file a float plan. Patrick Air Force Base will assist any commander to pursue a Maritime Exclusion designation.
- Applauded the law enforcement cooperation between state and local authorities, which reacted in 20 minutes to close a section of A1A in order to meet Patrick's

heightened security requirements. Local jurisdiction allowed joint National Guard and Florida Highway Patrol to share security inspection duties. The vehicle checks detected 35 intoxicated drivers and two stolen vehicles.

- Patrick will support the Space Day at the Capitol on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- In light of the state's lenient state tuition rulings for the military, who maintain state residency, how will the leniency affect military parents, who are moved out of the state?
- What state agency should be involved with Patrick Air Force Base's proposal to designate a General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Day during Black History Month? This honor would recognize a Pensacola native for his accomplishments in the U.S Air Force and in the service of his nation.
- Appreciates the state efforts to compensate the Bright Futures Scholar, who chooses to attend a military academy and receive a free education.

### **MacDill Air Force Base**

- Appreciates the state and local assistance in increasing security measures to include the National Guard's monitoring of fishermen. Florida Department of Law Enforcement assists in the background checks for contractors. Exploring security measures that include x-raying cargo in trucks.
- The Tampa military and community have signed a memorandum of agreement, which outlines commitment and responsibilities for the education of the military child.
- The local Robinson High School has started a MacDill Aeronautic Academy to focus on aeronautic skills.

### **Navy Region Southeast**

- No new quality of life issues. Appreciate what the state has accomplished on curtailing predatory lending practices. The U.S. Navy is working with Virginia legislators to implement the same legislation for their state.
- The Defense Infrastructure Grant program is vital to the strengthening of the bases' military value especially in light of the coming BRAC decisions.

### **U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM)**

- Florida's educational benefits are valued as being superior to other states' programs that support military education.

### **U.S. Central Command (CENTOM)**

- Provided an update on the command's role in the International War on Terrorism to include its mission successes and logistical statistics. These successes depend on 78,000 service members deployed in the area of operation and another 3,000 service members providing command and control from MacDill.

### **NAS Pensacola**

- Escambia County is voting tomorrow on rezoning the area, which will help with the sale of property.
- NAS Pensacola won the Navy's top award for environmental consciousness.

- Over 4,000 of a possible 7,000 acres of land have been purchased to stop encroachment.

### **U.S. Marine Corps' Training Systems Program**

- The development of the USMC's training simulation systems is a growing mission, which currently involves 30 employees.

### **Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD)**

- State and the military are working together to better security.
- CNET is acquiring the mission of training systems.
- Chief of Navy Operations (CNO) has launched a Task Force Excel to align CNET and Navy Air Command to improve the development of training systems and the allocation of human resources.
- Orlando is the location of a flag officer conference, which will showcase the military-University of Central Florida partnership.
- Moved into the Partnership I Building that is the result of an agreement that guided the location of a state building on Navy land. This NAWCTSD relocation helps reduce operating costs.
- The plans for a second Partnership Building must now take into account security "stand-off" requirements as a result of the terrorist threat. To meet this requirement, the University of Central Florida is exploring a land purchase with state funding.
- The command is supporting Military Appreciation Day with the presence of the command's executive officer soon to be commander.

### **U.S. Coast Guard Group Mobile**

- Its Florida units receive tremendous state support.
- The new 87-foot patrol boat is replacing the 82-foot version.

### **Naval Station Guantanamo Bay**

- Appreciates the new missions, resources, and world attention that have occurred at the base since the last commanders' meeting.

### **Blount Island**

- USMC has programmed the funding to purchase the land in FY04. USMC leadership is looking for an opportunity to advance the year of purchase.

### **Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation (AFAMS)**

- No issues. AFAMS is in leased buildings. Force protection continues to be a concern.

### **Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB)**

- HARB stands on a short-list of three bases, which are in competition to be chosen to host the United Arab Emirates' training program.
- U.S. Air Force plans to accept Miami-Dade's reuse plan for economic development.

### **Whiting Field**

- No report.

### **NAS Jacksonville**

- Prioritizing the purchase of Northeast timberlands will help increase military value.
- Currently implementing a high-tech traffic flow system.

### **Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP)**

- Appreciates impressive city support.

### **Naval Station Mayport**

- Securing a section of A1A is an issue and coordination is on going with the local community. Traffic congestion continues to be severe during peak commute hours and would be during an evacuation.
- Maryland is interesting in copying Florida's success with the Governor's forum.

### **Hurlburt Field**

- Requesting assistance from Department of Transportation in alleviating traffic congestion as a result of security measures and the patience of the local community.

### **Simulation, Training & Instrumentation Command (STRICOM)**

- Force protection is a problem as the military shares university building space. STRICOM cannot control access to these public facilities.
- Partnering with schools to encourage the pursuit of technical disciplines. With the graying of the civil service population, STRICOM will need to hire quality engineers within the next five to seven years and depends on the Florida school system to produce these well-trained engineers.
- Distance learning successes could be adopted by the public school system.
- The Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) will be holding its annual winter conference in Fort Lauderdale this February.

### **Joint Interagency Task Force – East (JIATFE)**

- Continues its counter drug mission for SOUTHCOM.
- Many of the assets it lost to homeland defense are returning for counter drug operations.
- Working with the Department of Law Enforcement and Federal Bureau of Investigation so that seized vessels are prosecuted in federal courts in Florida.

### **Avon Park Bombing Range**

- Appreciates the resolutions in the House and Senate that seek \$1.6 - \$2M in funding to upgrade the bridge to Avon Park. The low-load of the current bridge is a major limiter to training Air Force and National Guard units.
- The Park provides an anti-encroachment model for the state. The Park produces \$40K in forestry revenue.

- \$1.6M is required in airfield construction.

### **Coastal Systems Station**

- No new issues.

### **Camp Blanding**

- Renovating the main gate for force protection.
- Reconfiguring new land management center.

### **Handouts**

First Air Force's Presentation on Operation Noble Eagle  
 Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field –Security Impacts on Local Community  
 NAWCTSD– Force Protection  
 Update, Florida Housing Finance Corporation  
 Update, Department of Environmental Protection  
 Update, State Historical Preservation Office, Department of State  
 Update, Department of Veterans' Affairs  
 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  
 Memo, Florida Defense Alliance - Florida's Military Appreciation Day, February 7<sup>th</sup>

### **Attendees at the Military Round Table**

Major General Larry Arnold, Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Force, Tyndall AFB  
 Major General Douglas Burnett, Adjutant General, Florida National Guard  
 Major General Gary Speer, Acting Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command  
 Rear Admiral John Townes, Vice Chief of Naval Education and Training  
 Rear Admiral Jay Carmichael, Commander, Coast Guard District Seven  
 Brigadier General (P) Robert Chedister, Commander, Air Armament Center, Eglin AFB  
 Rear Admiral Jan Gaudio, Commander, Navy Region Southeast  
 Brigadier General William Hodgkins, Commander, 325<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Tyndall AFB  
 Brigadier General Wayne Hodges, Commander, 6<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, MacDill AFB  
 Brigadier General Donald Pettit, Commander, 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, Patrick AFB  
 Captain Randy Bahr, Commanding Officer, NAS Pensacola  
 Captain Robert Buehn, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay  
 Captain Mark Boensel, Commanding Officer, NAS Jacksonville  
 Colonel Joseph Buranosky, Program Manager for Training Systems, Marine Corps  
 Captain Lawrence Cotton, Commanding Officer, NAF Key West  
 Captain Karl Yeakel, Commanding Officer, Naval Aviation Depot Jacksonville  
 Captain Eddie Mack, Commander, Coast Guard Group Mobile  
 Captain Matthew Schellhorn, Commander, Naval Station Mayport  
 Captain Donald Gagnon, Commander, Naval Air Warfare Center  
 Captain Brian Watkins, Commanding Officer, NAS Whiting Field  
 Colonel Allen Coulter, Commander, USMC Blount Island Command  
 Colonel Steven Fulghum, Commander, 482<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Homestead ARB

Colonel Grant Herring, Commander, Air Force Agency for Modeling and Simulation  
Colonel Gary Boyle, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Special Operations Command  
Colonel Robert Tovado, Director of Manpower and Personnel, U.S. Central Command  
Colonel James L. Laughlin, Chief of Staff, STRICOM  
Colonel Randy Ockman, Joint Interagency Task Force East  
Colonel Frank Kisner, Air Force Special Operations Command  
Lieutenant Colonel Howard Thompson, Commander, Detachment 1, 347<sup>th</sup> Wing, Avon  
Park Bombing Range  
Commander Robert Harned, Executive Officer, Coastal Systems Station  
Lieutenant Colonel Richard Gallant, Camp Blanding, Florida National Guard

**State Attendees**

Dr. Pamela Dana, Director, Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development  
Ms. Mollie Palmer, Deputy Chief of Staff, Florida Department of Environmental  
Protection  
Dr. Jan Matthews, State Historic Preservation Office, Department of State  
Ms. Marla Gillman, Policy Coordinator for Defense and Environmental Issues, OTTED  
Mr. Bill Buckey, Space and Defense Issues, Governor's Washington, D.C. Office  
Ms. Kathy Ward, Program Manager for Defense, Enterprise Florida