

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #80 on Thursday, January 16, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force held a publicly noticed meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown at 09:02 AM EST – 11:51 AM EST. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Representative Thad Altman  
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret)  
Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF, (Ret)  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret)  
Representative Holly Raschein

#### **Task Force Members on the Phone:**

Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret)  
Amy Gowder, Vice President, Lockheed Martin Rotary and Missions Systems Company

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Senator Doug Broxson, Chairman  
Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret)  
Representative Mel Ponder

#### **Speakers Present:**

Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, State of Florida's Chief Resilience Officer  
Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Chair  
Matt Schwalb, Matrix Design Group  
Steve Murray, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA)  
Joe Marino, Veterans Florida

#### **Others Present:**

Jim Breitenfeld, The Principi Group  
Greg Britton, DEFENSEWERX  
Danny Burgess, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA)  
George Cheros, National Center for Simulation  
Callie DeHaven, Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)  
Chuck Faircloth, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs/GILAW  
Dr. Neal Finkelstein, National Center for Simulation  
Carolyn Fries, The Doolittle Institute  
Bruce Grant, Florida Defense Alliance  
Deborah Keller, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Dale Ketcham, Space Florida  
Jim Kuzma, Space Florida  
Sara Lefevers, Greater Pensacola Chamber/West Florida Defense Alliance  
Command Sergeant Major Dave Lenham, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
Chris Meinhardt, Veterans Florida  
Captain Chris Middleton, Florida National Guard (FLNG)

Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Amy Phillips, Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)  
Mario Rubio, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Jamal Sowell, President & CEO, Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI)  
Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife

**Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI)  
Ray Collins, Executive Director, FDSTF  
Marcy Sanders, Grants Manager FDSTF  
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI)



**Florida Defense Support Task Force – Meeting #80**  
**Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown, 316 W. Tennessee Street,**  
**Tallahassee, FL 32301**  
**AGENDA for January 16, 2020**

<b>CALL-IN NUMBER:</b>	<b>888.585.9008</b>
<b>CONFERENCE ROOM:</b>	<b>262-492-927</b>

<b>KEY:</b> <i>(I) = Information</i> <i>(D) = Discussion</i> <i>(A) = Action</i>
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- 0900 – 0940 Welcome, Guest Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance..... Chairman **(I)**
  - Florida Resiliency Program Dr. Julia Nesheiwat **(I) (D)**
- 0940 – 1020 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
  - Budget update Marcy Sanders **(I)**
  - Economic Impact Study Final Results Matt Schwalb **(I) (D)**
- 1020 – 1145 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - TF Member Reports Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - Florida Defense Alliance Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - Washington Office Update Steve Murray **(I)**
  - FDVA Update Joe Marino **(I)**
  - Veterans Florida Update Ray Collins **(A) / (D)**
  - Presentation of Draft 2020 Progress Report and Work Plan Beth Medina **(I)**
  - Mil & Def Update
- 1145 – 1200 Public Comment..... Chairman
- 1230 – 1330 LUNCH / CLOSED SESSION..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

March 19, 2020	Jax / Blount Island	February 20, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
May 21, 2020	Tallahassee	April 16, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
July 16, 2020	Melbourne / NOTU	June 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>
September 17, 2020	Key West / Army Dive School	August 20, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
November 19, 2020	Orlando / PEOSTRI	October 15, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
		December 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>

**Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** began the meeting at 09:02 AM EST.

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome, Guest Introductions, Pledge of Allegiance

**Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** welcomed attendees and guests. He asked the TF members and guests both in-person and on the phone to introduce themselves, then asked **Command Sergeant Major Dave Lenham** to lead the TF and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. He reminded the TF that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

*Florida Resiliency Program*

**Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, the State of Florida's Chief Resilience Officer**, presented on the resiliency program in the State of Florida. Dr. Nesheiwat's role in developing a resilient Florida consists of four goals: develop strategic resilience goals for protecting coastal communities and fortifying infrastructure for continued state prosperity; coordinate statewide policy to prepare for impending environmental, physical, and economic challenges; advocate for high-priority resilience initiatives throughout the state in order to better integrate resilience planning at all levels; and partner with state agencies (such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) and Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)), local communities and stakeholders.

She discussed that resiliency is needed in Florida due to sea level rise, hurricanes and flooding. Response to sea level rise and flooding in Florida may cost \$76 billion by 2035. Specifically, she noted the economic implications just from Hurricane Irma in 2017:

- \$50 billion in damage (this hurricane destroyed 25% of the Keys)
- \$2.5 billion lost from destruction to Florida's crops
- \$27 billion businesses were impacted across all counties in Florida
- \$25 billion tourism industry impact associated with less visitor spending

Governor DeSantis' efforts in recovery commitment include \$1 billion for recovery awarded by FDEM for hurricane recovery, \$28 million invested in Northwest Florida one year after Hurricane Michael and \$1.2 million to study evacuations, including proactive planning.

Resilience solutions mean the ability of physical, social, environmental and governmental assets to absorb, recover and adapt to adverse events. Resilience is taking shape as state agencies are beginning to incorporate resilience into infrastructure planning and local and regional investment efforts are occurring.

Florida's 2030 goal is that all residents will be protected by resiliency plans. Ideas to support this goal include support and incentivize communities to complete vulnerability assessments and develop resilient redesign efforts. Identify and implement actions to improve Adaptation Action Areas throughout Florida for coastal communities at risk. Encourage and incentivize communities to enter the Community Rating System (CRS) Program and reduce their CRS score, making them less vulnerable and reducing flood insurance costs for property owners. Make science-based decisions about how to protect, increase responsiveness and invest in regions and communities at risk from extreme weather, coastal flooding and other dangers.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of Minutes*

A quorum being present, **Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** asked if any corrections are needed for the November 21, 2019 minutes. Noting none, a motion to accept these minutes was made by **Major General Richard Haddad**, seconded by **Major General James Eifert**, all were in favor and the November 21, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.

### *Task Force Grants and Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** reported grantees were given an extension on the due dates of their quarterly reports due to the holidays.

DTF Grant #16-136, Highlands County Board of County Commissioners: this contract is not closed as they requested to continue the grant until June 2020 as they plan to use the balance of \$42,135.52 for additional pre-acquisition service and due diligence costs on remaining parcels of land.

DTF Grant #20-102, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast: this contract has been executed and will conclude on October 31, 2020.

DTF Contract #19-214, Matrix Design Group: this contract is closed pending receipt of deliverables and final invoice.

### *Budget Update*

**Marcy Sanders** reported that the Florida Defense Alliance's approved \$30,000 has been moved to unencumbered as currently there is no mechanism to distribute these funds. Recently updated numbers for Administrative Expenses are as follows:

- Staff Salaries and Benefits has been updated to \$89,382.87
- Task Force Travel and Per Diem has been updated to \$10,558.59

### *Economic Impact Study Final Results*

**Matt Schwalb, Matrix Design Group**, presented the results from the 2020 Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis. He discussed trends in defense spending, both nationally and in Florida, the statewide and regional impacts of that spending and presented the final economic impact numbers which were derived from 2018 economic data.

#### **2018 Florida Defense Industry Impacts**

<b>Installation Footprint</b>	<b>\$50.7B</b>	<b>417,950 jobs</b>	<b>53.4%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Military Personnel</li><li>• Civilian Personnel</li><li>• Base Operations</li></ul>			
<b>Procurement</b>	<b>\$21.3B</b>	<b>225,589 jobs</b>	<b>22.4%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manufacturing</li><li>• Professional and Technical Services</li><li>• Construction</li></ul>			
<b>Transfer Payments</b>	<b>\$23.0B</b>	<b>271,248 jobs</b>	<b>24.2%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DoD Retirement Payments</li><li>• VA Compensation and Spending</li></ul>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$94.9B</b>	<b>914,787 jobs</b>	<b>100%</b>

Distribution of Impact by Component: Military 92%; National Guard 5%; Coast Guard 3%

## Regional Defense Impacts

Region	Economic Impact (\$B)	Employment	Distribution of Impacts
Northwest Region	\$22.7	209,622	23.9%
East Central Region	\$18.4	190,366	19.3%
Tampa Bay Region	\$19.3	183,942	20.3%
Northeast Region	\$16.1	155,355	16.9%
Southeast Region	\$14.2	124,437	14.9%
Southwest Region	\$2.3	25,346	2.4%
North Central Region	\$1.8	21,928	1.9%
South Central Region	\$0.3	3,790	0.3%

### In summary:

- The economic impact is approximately \$95 billion
- Total jobs supported are approximately 915,000
- Impacts have grown by 12% since 2016
- The defense industry continues to account for 9% of Florida's economy
- Since 2015, defense-related manufacturing contracts have doubled to \$9 billion, led by Brevard and Orange counties with \$5.7 billion combined

### III. Agenda Item III: New Business

#### *Task Force Member Reports*

**Major General James Eifert** shared that it was great to be back with the group and that he regretted missing the November meeting, but it was for good reason as he was in Europe visiting deployed Florida National Guard (FLNG) organizations.

Current mobilization activities include a total of 466 FLNG Soldiers and Airmen (417 Army and 49 Air). Current deployments include the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and 1st Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in Poland and Germany supporting the European Defense Initiative; 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group in the Sahel Region of Africa supporting the fight against ISIS; Special Operations Detachment-Central Command in Afghanistan supporting the fight against ISIS in Syria and the evacuation of Bagdad during the recent missile attacks. The 927th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion returned home in December from a year-long deployment to Afghanistan. Upcoming deployments include the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron, 146th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 202nd Red Horse Squadron, and 53rd Finance Detachment to Central Command; 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment to Northern Command; and 111th Air Operations Battalion to Africa Command.

Efforts continue, in working with Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) and Miami-Dade County, to acquire a 70-acre parcel of land that had been a part of the old Air Force Base and now borders current HARB boundaries. The land acquisition will benefit their 50th Regional Support Group, currently located on the installation, allowing for organizational growth in the South Florida area along with supporting installation-

buffering needs. They are also in the process of proposing a grant opportunity to the Task Force to assist with clearing and securing the property.

As situational awareness for the collective group, they continue to face significant facility maintenance and repair challenges in their armories throughout the state. Sixty-eight of their armories have an average age of 45-years. Overall, their total armory footprint is 1.5 million square feet and over the past three-years, they have experienced a negative trend in funding from the Florida Legislature as evidenced in receiving \$7.7 million in FY 17/18, \$0.0 million in FY 18/19 and \$1.1 million in FY 19/20. The current industry standard for warehouse space is \$5.56 per square foot. Their armories are the bedrock for their Army National Guard organizations and it is imperative they provide decent workspace for their Soldiers.

As an F-35 update, they are awaiting Secretary of the Air Force guidance on round three decisions on F-35 bed-down opportunities. The first two fielding rounds saw Vermont (2010), and Alabama and Wisconsin (2017) receive the F-35. As their 125th Fighter Wing, located in Jacksonville, has led the way in staging/facility preparedness, it has been frustrating that the political process has overshadowed the best needs of the Air Force. They remain hopeful for a positive outcome when the Secretary of the Air Force announces the next round of F-35 distribution.

As a Space Force update, the Florida National Guard is one of only four or five states that have space units. Their 114th Space Control Squadron, located at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, maintains an offensive space mission. The unit had just returned from a historic one-year deployment, as the first unit of its kind to deploy to a combat theater, supporting Central Command. With establishment of the Space Force, National Guard leadership is advocating for the creation of a Space National Guard, which would be significantly relevant to Florida in light of Florida's space industry. In an effort to grow their space mission, the FLNG is in discussion with National Guard Bureau to field a defensive space control squadron that would include the acquisition of the Bounty Hunter system. They would propose staging the organization at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station or MacDill Air Force Base.

Their largest organic organization, 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, consisting of approximately 4,000 Soldiers, is in the fourth-year of its five-year readiness cycle. This year's training responsibilities requires they spend a 30-days at the Joint Readiness Training Center located at Fort Polk, Louisiana. The collective combat-oriented training serves to certify the organization for worldwide deployment in support of contingency operations.

The Florida Youth Challenge Academy at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center graduated 144 young people from their resident training phase in December 2019. This month (January 2020) started a new class (Class 38), with approximately 200 at risk youth beginning their 5-month resident phase of the program.

**Representative Holly Raschein** thanked Major General James Eifert for the 70-acre parcel deal to assist with the encroachment issues at Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB). She noted that she sits on the House Appropriations Committee and can be a voice for funding for Florida's armories.

USSOUTHCOM, in conjunction with NAS Key West, is moving forward with efforts to replace the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force (JIATF) South's building in the city of Key West with a new structure hardened to withstand a category 5 hurricane. The final scope and cost estimates are a work in progress and engineers are working to accurately scope square footage and support requirements. All parties are meeting weekly to develop the DD Form 1391 and illuminate issues. The MILCON project, once finalized, will require Congressional programming and approval. Community support is key for housing and other aspects of personnel support.

Senator Rick Scott will be holding his military leadership meeting at JIATF South on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Rear Admiral Stan Bozin** briefed that the security forces at all naval bases will participate in on-base, annual training exercises from February 3<sup>rd</sup> to February 14<sup>th</sup>. Security precautions on the installations will be increased during these exercises.

Some good news on the implementation of the Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) at Mayport as some projects were approved on January 10<sup>th</sup>. These projects are ongoing.

Renovations continue at NAS Jacksonville as currently over 54,000 square feet of repairs are taking place right now.

NAS Jacksonville will be supporting the USS Eisenhower from January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 7<sup>th</sup> so there will be many more military aircraft flying around the Jacksonville area during this time.

The bases in the Jacksonville area are implementing changes as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has increased the allowance of people able to use the exchange facilities across the services. This will allow anyone with an identification card admittance on base to shop at the exchange and commissary.

The Blount Island Marine Corps team is looking ways to preposition forces as they change the footprint or scope of their missions. The TF will receive a much more detailed report on their visit to Blount Island Command in March 2020.

**Ms. Amy Gowder** reported that on December 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, the annual Interservice Industry Training Simulation Education Symposium (I/ITSEC) was held at the Orange County Convention Center. The event is the largest modeling, simulation and training (MS&T) convention in the world.

I/ITSEC 2019 Attendance Numbers:

- Exhibit Visitors: 5,800
- Conference Attendees: 4,700
- Exhibit Personnel: 6,900
- International Visitors: Over 1,984 attendees from 56 Countries
- Exhibiting Companies: 550 occupying 431 exhibit spaces in 191,800 net square feet

(NTSA is in the process of auditing their registration files to ensure complete accuracy. The numbers stated above are estimates only.)

The National Center for Simulation (NCS), Orlando Economic Partnership (OEP) and the University of Central Florida (UCF) leveraged the Department of Education (DOE) Grant to host a newly designed 20x20 exhibit booth. Visitor feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the booth effectively showcased the booth partners and conveyed that Central Florida is the epicenter of the MS&T industry. The 2019 additional booth partners were FIEA, Duke Energy, INCOSE and Associated Industries of Florida (AIF). Dozens of meetings were held by George Cheros and Dr. Neal Finkelstein, but here are a few of the highlights:

- Congressional Caucus - Congressional participants were Representative Stephanie Murphy (FL-7), Representative Jack Bergman (MI- 1) and Representative Bobby Scott (VA- 3). Representative Murphy highlighted the fact that George Cheros chairs her MS&T Advisory Board and expressed gratitude for the Board's contribution to her legislative efforts on our behalf.
- Lockheed Martin Corporation (LMCO) press conference and reception to announce the 2020 Airshow at Orlando Sanford International Airport. LMCO Vice President and General Manager, Amy Gowder, recognized the contribution and leadership of NCS.
- Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Sherry Gutch, City of Orlando Business Development Division Manager toured the exhibit hall with George Cheros, Captain Tim Hill (Commander NAWCTSD), Captain Dan Covelli (Executive Officer NAWCTSD), Dr. Neal Finkelstein and Casey Barnes (VP - OEP). The group also met with National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) President, Admiral James Robb.
- George Cheros and Dr. Neal Finkelstein represented NCS at the Leadership Dinner. Several NCS Board members attended and Dr. Randy Shumaker (UCF and NCS Board member) received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Finally, NCS outgoing Board Chair Brian Holmes served as 2019 I/ITSEC Conference Chair.
- George Cheros was a keynote speaker the Canadian Consulate's Annual Breakfast to introduce Canadian industry to their U.S. counterparts.
- George Cheros met with Mr. Fred Drummond, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Force Education and Training, to discuss the Army Research Lab presence and opportunities for continued growth and collaboration.
- Hank Okraski addressed and updated a large group of educators and on the NCS MS&T Certification Program as part of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) event hosted by The Corridor



and the upcoming Student Industry Capability Day on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Several years ago, TEAM ORLANDO and NCS developed quarterly Industry Capability Days, which provides an opportunity for emerging technologies to be showcased in the Partnership Complex to all branches of DoD. The event has been a tremendous success. For the first time in 2019, a special event was created to allow the area's high school students to showcase their MS&T capabilities. The second annual Student Industry Capability Day will be held on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The event is open to the public.

- George Cheros and Captain Tim Hill jointly briefed the current class of Leadership Orlando on the contributions of Team Orlando and NCS to the community and explained the opportunities for Central Florida based business to compete for defense-based MS&T contracts.
- George Cheros, Dr. Neal Finkelstein and NCS Board member USN Captain (Ret) Bill "Roto" Reuter were guest presenters to the European Training Simulation Training Association (ETSA) at a session hosted by the Orlando Economic Partnership at the Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes Resort on the margins of I/ITSEC. After the meeting George Cheros and Steve Wilkinson, ETSA CEO, mutually agreed that NCS and ETSA would be reciprocal members and look forward toward collaborating internationally going forward.
- NCS supported I/ITSEC STEM Committee coordinating STEM activities for I/ITSEC.
  - Monday – Florida High Tech Corridor Teacher Camp (60 -70 Teachers)
  - Tuesday – Filming live STEMConnect Floor Remote to Live Class-Rooms
  - Wednesday – Florida High Tech Corridor Middle School Robotic Class & NAWC-TSD MS&T Teacher Training (60-70 Teachers)
  - Thursday – 500 Student walk-around / ROTC classes

**Major General Richard Haddad** reported that at SOCOM, the Commander will be meeting with his Component and Theater Special Operations Commanders (TSOC) this week to review the Command's results of its Comprehensive Review on Culture and Ethics. They will also look at TSOC manning, once again.

Lieutenant General James Slife has recently taken command at AFSOC and has been very deliberate in his focus for the past six months. He's made it a priority to get to know the command at a granular level before handing out hard guidance and the way-ahead for the command. Just before the end of the year he released his strategic guidance, which lay out how they will transform the command from the "AFSOC we needed" to the "AFSOC we will need" to ensure they are the most valuable they can be for the nation and to align with the National Defense Strategy.

It was announced before the holidays that AFSOC will be the featured command at the EAA Air Venture Osh Kosh this summer. Osh Kosh is the nation's largest air show and is scheduled from July 20<sup>th</sup> through July 26<sup>th</sup> in Osh Kosh, Wisconsin.

The National Football League Pro Bowl game is on January 26<sup>th</sup> and AFSOC is providing the C-145 as a jump platform for the SOCOM Para commandos.

AFSOC is planning ceremonies to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Eagle Claw (the attempted rescue of the U.S. Embassy hostages in Iran) which takes place on April 24<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AFSOC which is May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

General Chappie James, an Air Force icon and Tuskegee Airman, was raised in Pensacola and would have turned 100 years old on February 11, 2020. There is a small committee planning events from Pensacola to Eglin AFB to recognize the general. These events include an educational forum at Eglin AFB's Armament Museum, events with the 479<sup>th</sup> Student Squadron on NAS Pensacola, a gala dinner and a proclamation ceremony at the Capital in Tallahassee.

At Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR), the biggest issue they are currently facing is the proposed land use change/development a few miles north of the range (the Triple Canopy Ranch property) which would allow development of a 1,000-unit RV park. Currently the approval hearing is scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup>. They've received strong support from the Department of Economic Opportunity in their response to the transmittal of the proposed land use change.

The range is currently hosting fifteen members of the Florida Wildlife Commission who are conducting small arms and land navigation training/qualification while at the same time, supporting Close Air Support training for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Squadron out of Homestead ARB.

Also, on January 24<sup>th</sup> through January 26<sup>th</sup>, the range is hosting a special alligator hunt for the children (ages 12-16) and grandchildren of permit holders. Participants are chosen by lottery and range staff conducts the hunt with the assistance of local alligator hunting guides.

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** congratulated Mr. Tom Neubauer on the increased funding allotted to Tyndall AFB in the Appropriations Bill.

He recently met with the Wing Commander at MacDill AFB to discuss the Florida Rock issue. He's also met with Ken Lawson, Executive Director of DEO and the Chief of Staff at DEP. Representative Chris Sprowls is working to have all parties meet in the very near future to come up with a resolution for this issue, then take to the Legislature for action during this Session.

He advised that the TF keep in close contact with Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, the State's Chief Resilience Officer as she is travelling the state, meeting people and developing relationships.

The DoD program called Public Schools on Military Installations has re-evaluated their list of about 60 schools across the country for which to provide funding. MacDill AFB's schools have moved up to number 20. Eglin AFB's schools are number 40 and the schools at NAS Key West are at number 42. Tyndall AFB (pre-hurricane) is listed much higher. This year this program received \$315 million from congress. They are hoping to receive funding in the amount of \$300 million next year and if Tampa receives more of that funding, they can use it toward MacDill AFB, Eglin AFB and NAS Key West. Tyndall AFB is being re-considered due to Hurricane Michael which should get them moved lower on the list to receive funding for those schools on base.

**Colonel Jim Heald** reported that soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, led a special operations task force in the country that earned their Green Berets three Silver Stars, seven Bronze Stars with valor and 17 Army Commendation Medals with valor plus 21 Purple Hearts. The awards ceremony was held on January 9<sup>th</sup> for their actions in Afghanistan between September 2018 and February 2019.

The 96<sup>th</sup> Test Wing's Annual Awards Ceremony will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Tri-County Partnership Initiative (TCPI) stood up a Childcare Facility Task Force in January 2019 to address the immediate need of childcare facilities in the tri-county area. Both Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field have wait lists of approximately 100 children; with newborns the hardest to place and the most expensive for which to care. A findings report is being finalized and will be provided upon completion. Kay Rasmussen will be serving on the Conquering the Child Care Challenge panel at the National Association of Defense Communities forum in San Antonio, Texas on February 10<sup>th</sup> through February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Executive Weapons System Review will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> through February 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) team will be traveling to Washington, DC for education and advocacy on February 23<sup>rd</sup> through February 26<sup>th</sup>. Priorities include the Military Mission Line (MML) as this is the last legislative cycle before the moratorium sunset; Next Gen Eglin to include MILCON for the Weapons Technology Integration Center (WTIC) and replacement of aging infrastructure; redesign and movement of the West Gate (MOU will be signed between Eglin AFB and the county (FDOT appears to be supportive); a new classified facility: Advanced Weapons Kill Chain Dominance Test Complex (AWKC-D); and the Eastern Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR) to include the Gulf Range Enhancement (GRE) and threat emitters.

The Air Force's Scientific Advisory Board will meet on March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Captain Keith Hoskins** briefed that on January 15<sup>th</sup> he attended the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space meeting at which he had the opportunity to hear the testimony of MG James Eifert

as he was unanimously confirmed. He thanked him for his leadership and admires his leadership philosophy on maintaining the force right, ready and relevant.

Some good news out of Santa Rosa County, as Leonardo was recently awarded a \$176.5 million contract which will create 50 new jobs and build a 100,000 square foot facility at the Whiting Aviation Park, adjacent to NAS Whiting Field. Whiting Field's primary mission is to provide training to all naval aviators in the Navy, Marine Corp and Coast Guard. They provide intermediate and advance training for helicopter pilots in those services, as well. This contract will provide the apparatus and infrastructure to manufacture a new state of the art trainer which is the TH-73A which will replace the TH-57. This aircraft will bring modern training capabilities to the war fighter as we look at more advanced and higher performing rotary wing and tilt rotor aircraft of the future. The initial contract will bring 32 of the helicopters to support the advanced training system. The total contract value, which extends beyond 2025, will be approximately \$648 million for procurement of 130 aircraft.

He applauded Senate President Bill Galvano and Senator Doug Broxson who, in the Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> Senate Session, honored the victims, survivors, families and first responders who were involved in the horrific events which took place at NAS Pensacola in early December. This was a true testament of how the community and the state honor our military and the heroism shown that day.

**Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** reported that Bay County was celebrating on December 20<sup>th</sup> when they learned about the additional \$2.4 billion Tyndall AFB would be receiving as the President signed the NDAA. He thanked Governor DeSantis and his team who worked closely with the CODEL and the White House on this issue. The additional funding brings them closer to the total building cost estimated at \$4.2 billion. The first public scoping session was held on December 10<sup>th</sup> in Bay County which heard about 100 positive comments about the need to bring the F-35 and the MQ-9 to Tyndall AFB.

The NDAA also included \$110 million for NAS Panama City as about 80% of its buildings were damaged in Hurricane Michael but were up and operating very soon after. This funding will go a long way in restoring NAS Panama City.

He discussed the issue of a strategic basing spousal employment license reciprocity program, which is important in the retention of our military members. At the Chamber of Commerce's First Friday event, Verizon made a national announcement as they are starting a job portability program which will allow a military spouse to be employed by Verizon but give them the ability to move around the country or world and continue to work for them from other locations. He's hopeful that this program catches on across the state. He showed a short video from CareerSource Gulf Coast highlighting military spouse employment issues.

**Representative Holly Raschein** asked for **Mr. Tom Neubauer** to share his ideas with her and the other Legislators on the TF and offered her help with this issue in the Legislature.

**Representative Thad Altman** highlighted a few recent launches from the Space Coast as on January 18<sup>th</sup> SpaceX will be testing its launch abort system for its crewed Falcon 9. A successful test will lead to a human rated flight in the near future.

The Boeing CST-100 Starliner had a successful launch over the holidays. Unfortunately, the Starliner didn't make it to the International Space Station because of a software glitch, but everything else in the mission was a 100% success and had a successful landing. The question remains if NASA will make them fly another mission before they allow a human rated flight to the International Space Station. That decision has not yet been made.

A Falcon 9 was launched at the beginning of this year and was the first launch under the new Space Force. It launched a satellite developed by SpaceX and they are now officially in business for launches under the Space Force.

#### *Florida Defense Alliance Update*

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair**, discussed that, regarding military spouses, the Military Friendly Guide is a great resource it's important to ensure it's being distributed to the right people who will get it into the hands of the servicemembers and their families. They are still working through all the legal ramifications of creating an FDA

Facebook page as it will be a much better platform to tell the story of Florida's military complex and ranges. Also, military spouses will be able to share those testimonials and programs back and forth on social media which will make a huge difference in spreading information quickly.

They need to make sure that our military communities and installations are attending the resiliency forums around the state with Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, making connections and learning how to lead the state and nation in that area.

The Defense Community Infrastructure pilot program, which was authorized at \$50 million, provides critical funding for off-base but adjacent community infrastructure projects for transportation, schools, hospitals, police, fire, emergency response, water, wastewater, telecommunications, electric, gas or other utility infrastructure owned by a state or local government. They need to make sure that they are sharing this information with communities and placing the right programs forward so they can receive funding. Coordination is key!

Regarding education, item #65 in the Military Friendly Guide reads:

**Florida public schools must accept military permanent change of station (PCS) orders that relocate a military family to a local military installation as proof of residency for all public-school authorized programs at the school. This allows registration of a student once orders are received rather than after the service member arrives and secures housing**

School boards are implementing additional procedures in which military families need a certified or notarized assigned lease before their kids can be enrolled in school. Legislative language needs to be cleaned up and this process made as smooth as possible because it's important when a military family from another state comes to Florida, they're not stymied by so many procedures needed to enroll their kids in schools.

Other issues include affordable housing, quality, affordable childcare and the development of crisis communication points of contact so that when an emergency arises, citizens know who to contact for information. Sentinel Landscape in Northwest Florida is moving forward as partners are working together on this issue.

They are working on coordinated message for their partners to use when attending conferences, forums and meetings and while travelling to Washington, DC as it's critical to maintain all of Florida's installations and missions.

#### *FDVA Update*

**Steve Murray, Florida Department Veterans Affairs (FDVA)**, discussed the role of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. He noted that Florida has the nation's third largest veteran population with over 1.5 million total veterans, which represent all generations. The mission of the FDVA is to advocate with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support. Their vision is that they are the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.

They have three FDVA offices and nine FDVA State Veterans Homes across the state. They are in the process of building two new nursing homes. The Ardie B. Copas State Veterans Nursing home is a 120-bed facility in Port St. Lucie which will open mid-2020. 60 of those beds will be reserved for dementia and Alzheimer's patients. A 112-bed at Lake Baldwin in Orange County which will be named for a Florida Medal of Honor recipient.

Legislative efforts for the 2020 Session include:

- Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program which provides veterans and their families with behavioral health care referral and care coordination services
- Healthcare Licensing Requirements for VA Doctors which will allow MDs and Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine employed by the VA who are licensed in other states to practice in private medical facilities in Florida.
- Veterans Treatment Courts to address standardization and funding for the court statewide.

- Homestead Tax Exemption proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to allow the same ad valorem tax discount on homestead property for combat-disabled veterans over the age of 65 or older to carry over to the surviving spouse of a veteran.
- Veterans Protection Act which would add “veterans” and defined in Sec. 1.01, Fla. Stat., to the state’s *White Collar Victim Protection Act*, Sec. 775.0844.

#### *Veterans Florida Update*

**Joe Marino, Executive Director of Veterans Florida**, briefed that the Veterans Florida mission is to attract and retain veterans and their families by connecting them to employment, training and educational opportunities; strengthen Florida businesses by educating them on the value and skill sets veterans bring to the workforce and providing training resources for their veteran hires; and enhance the entrepreneurial skills of veterans.

Veterans Florida was established under s. 295.21, F.S., and the Florida GI Bill, Florida Is for Veterans, manages transition, workforce, and entrepreneurship programs. Administratively, they operate under the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. They are managed by an independent board of nine, with the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker each appointing three members. They are staffed by twelve full time and four part time team members, two thirds of which are veterans, who run the daily operations and meet the mission of the organization and the legislative intent of the programs.

Since January 2016, they have assisted with the careers of over 2,500 veterans, workforce trained 608, provided workforce grants of \$1.8 million, provided entrepreneur training for 492 with revenue of \$25 million. Since July 2017 they’ve placed 34 veterans into jobs and since October 2018, they’ve trained 8 veterans for position in agriculture.

This Legislative Session they’ve requested \$500,000 for operations (an increase of \$166,000) and \$2.5 million for their VETS Program (an increase of \$800,000).

#### *Presentation of the Draft 2020 Progress Report and Work Plan*

**Ray Collins** briefed that the TF is statutorily required to submit a yearly Progress Report and Work Plan to the Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House by February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Task Force has traditionally based this report on the calendar year, but the staff has decided to change this report to a fiscal year basis as it would be more useful for the Legislature as they work on the State Budget. EFI legal counsel and the Office of the Governor have already approved this change.

He has revised past work plans to coincide with the fiscal year so this year’s plan will represent 18 months. Please send any further feedback to the Staff prior to January 24<sup>th</sup> as the report and plan must be submitted by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

The FDSTF and FDA have been asked to participate in the FDVA-led Governor’s Challenge to reduce the rate of suicide for servicemembers and veterans. **Ray Collins** will be the primary representative and **Beth Medina** will be the alternate. He will present the TF any information that arises from this panel.

#### *Military & Defense Update*

**Beth Medina** briefed that as the Staff’s job is to support and facilitate all the work done between the TF and the FDA, they are focusing on modernizing and upgrading some of their processes and establishing a network. They are developing an automatic newsfeed which will take the place of the articles included in the FDA newsletter and the FDSTF weekly update. This will roll out in the very near future.

They will update their presence on both webpages and are working on establishing or identifying a way to use the EFI Facebook page for families and non-member information. This will be a process as it must be appropriate and effective, while also being managed professionally.

They are working on a shared calendar or state map to provide information for their partners ensuring their network is informed on upcoming statewide, regional, local events and how to participate.

The 2020 Florida Defense Factbook and Economic Impact Study are now posted on both webpages. Thank you to EFI who is willing to support marketing efforts and will continue to contribute to their efforts in future marketing products.

Staff is working on a trip to Washington, DC in the spring. The Florida Washington Office has submitted some dates during which the TF may be the most effective:

- Last few days of March to the first few days of April (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- April 20<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>

Please check your calendars and let Staff know when works best for you as they'd like to initiate plans for this trip as soon as possible.

#### IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

**Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife**, announced that Defenders of Wildlife has been working with Eglin AFB and the U.S. Air Force on a proposal in support of a Sentinel Landscape for Northwest Florida. They had hoped that their partners in the Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior would open an application cycle, but they have temporarily decided to postpone and at this point they don't know when they'll begin accepting applications. At the Public Land Acquisitions and Management Conference held last fall, the first workshop for partners was held with 34 in attendance representing 22 different organizations. They continue to move forward and meet with partners to keep them engaged and involved.

Regarding land conservation, the State of Florida recently acquired a 4,000-acre conservation easement in the Nokuse Plantation off the flyaway out of Eglin AFB east toward Tyndall AFB.

**Deborah Keller, The Nature Conservancy**, announced that back in 2003 The nature Conservancy, along with Governor Jeb Bush and DoD created the Northwest Florida Greenway Project to protect 100 miles between the Apalachicola National Forest and Eglin AFB. This protects areas needed by the conservationists while at the same time protecting the areas the military needed for their airspace.

On December 20th, another parcel of land was protected along this corridor as The Nature Conservancy was able to secure the protection of 20,000 acres around Lake Wimico in Gulf County. This protects 86% of the shoreline of the lake and underneath Tyndall's flight path and low-level flight training areas. This acquisition was in excess of \$10 million and was paid for using funds which were given to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement, then The Nature Conservancy added \$120,000 to finalize the deal. They also assisted with the due diligence of surveys and worked all the background issues to make this happen over the past 17 years.

*The meeting adjourned at 11:51 AM EST*

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #81 on Thursday, February 20, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force held a publicly noticed meeting via Conference Call at 09:00 AM EST – 10:30 AM EST. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Senator Doug Broxson, Chairman  
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Representative Thad Altman  
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)  
Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret.)  
Amy Gowder, Vice President, Lockheed Martin Rotary and Missions Systems Company  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)  
Representative Mel Ponder  
Representative Holly Raschein

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)  
Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida

#### **Speakers Present:**

Katherine Anne Russo, Florida Washington Office

#### **Others Present:**

Katie Allan, Bay Defense Alliance (BDA)  
Chad Allison, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)  
Andre Anderson, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Jim Breitenfeld, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast  
Brooke Gilbert, Bay Defense Alliance (BDA)  
Debi Graham, Greater Pensacola Chamber  
Deborah Keller, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Andre Samuel, Enterprise Florida, Inc, (EFI)  
Tom Tolbert, Eglin AFB  
Roger Williams, Florida National Guard (FLNG)

#### **Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI  
Ray Collins, Executive Director, Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF)  
Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, FDSTF  
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #81  
Conference Call / WebEX  
AGENDA for February 20, 2020**

<b>CALL-IN NUMBER:</b>	<b>888.585.9008</b>
<b>CONFERENCE ROOM:</b>	<b>262-492-927</b>

<b>KEY:</b> <i>(I) = Information</i> <i>(D) = Discussion</i> <i>(A) = Action</i>
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- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 9:05 – 9:10 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
- 9:10 – 10:30 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:10-10:00 TF Member Reports
  - 10:00-10:05 Florida Defense Alliance Update Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - 10:05-10:10 Washington Office Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - 10:10-10:15 Grant Application & Approval Process Ray Collins **(I)**
  - 10:15-10:25 Florida Ethics & Sunshine Law Review Ray Collins **(I)**
  - 10:25-10:35 Mil & Def Update Beth Medina **(I)**
- 10:35 – 10:50 Public Comment..... Chairman
- 11:00 – 12:00 CLOSED SESSION..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

March 19, 2020	Jax / Blount Island	April 16, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
May 21, 2020	Tallahassee	June 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>
July 16, 2020	Cocoa Beach / NOTU	August 20, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
September 17, 2020	Key West / Army Dive School	October 15, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
November 19, 2020	Orlando / PEOSTRI	December 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>



**Ray Collins**, FDSTF Executive Director, *began the meeting at 09:00 AM EST.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome & Introductions

**Ray Collins** welcomed attendees and guests, proceeded with roll call then turned the meeting over to **Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer**. **Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** asked all guests to introduce themselves and reminded the TF the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of the Minutes*

*A quorum being present, Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer asked if corrections are needed to the January 16, 2020 minutes. Noting none, a motion was made by Colonel Jim Heald to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Amy Gowder, all are in favor and the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.*

*Task Force Grants & Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** reported on the status of several current TF grants. Highlands County Board of County Commissioners and Military Child Education Coalition have all turned in extensive reports showing their progress for this second quarter.

TF Grant #20-101, Clay County Development Authority – Camp Blanding Joint Training Center Installation Encroachment Acquisition: This project has been completed and the grant will be closed pending the final payment.

TF Grant #20-102, Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast – Assessment of critical infrastructure supporting Eastern Range space operations: The EDC Space Coast continues to work with Space Florida on the bridge assessment project.

TF Contract #19-214, Matrix Design Group: This project has been completed and paid in full.

She briefly discussed a potential project which will help define the term “military-friendly” in the state of Florida as Virginia presented the findings of their recent study at the ADC conference earlier this month. Staff is working on an RFP for this study which is anticipated to cost between \$60,000 and \$100,000.

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

*Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update*

**Beth Medina** reported for **Kellie Jo Kilberg**, reiterating some of the topics discussed at the recent ADC conference identifying discussions in the Resiliency and Supporting Service Members and their Families Sessions. She will be working with the FDA working groups to dive deeper into those discussions. She also attended the session during which the state of Virginia presented their Military-Friendly Assessment and supports moving forward with performing a gap analysis for the state of Florida.

*Washington Office Update*

**Katherine Anne Russo** reported that the Legislators have returned after the holiday break and the administration released its fiscal year 2020-2021 budget on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The overall request for DoD is \$705.4 billion demonstrating a small growth of approximately 0.1% compared to last year. This excludes disaster and emergency funding.

The budget includes notable space investments including \$15.4 billion for the Space Force and \$249 million for Space Command. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley will be testifying next Wednesday at 10 am on Capitol Hill in front of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) to discuss the budget.

Last week DoD released a \$3.8 billion request for border wall construction in response to a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) request made on January 15<sup>th</sup> for additional funding for 270 miles of the border barrier and other infrastructure. This was in addition to the \$3.6 billion from last year. One of the targeted items is National Guard and Reserves equipment. DoD stated that funds from the past two fiscal years remain unobligated, but concerns have been raised and the National Governors Association is releasing a statement in opposition. It is unclear whether Congress will intervene and many Democrats are looking to block the administration on this fund. She will be happy to provide a full list of the reprogramming requests to anyone upon request.

DoD has sent reports to all the states requesting their efforts regarding military spouse licensure. Florida's report was great as there were no recommended policy improvements and is considered a model state for implementation. The only recommendation was to consider compact approvals in addition to the nursing licensure compact.

She's recently worked with **Beth Medina** and **Ray Collins** to set up their first monthly Military Liaison Assistant (MLA) call with the CODEL earlier this month. The purpose of these calls is to get on track with the Delegation, identify opportunities to coordinate and highlight what's going on at the state level. They plan on continuing these calls the third Friday of each month.

The Washington office's current focus is on offshore drilling and she is working with **Beth Medina** on the F-35 basing decision.

Please don't hesitate to contact her if anyone plans to travel to or organize a trip to Washington, DC as she would be happy to help coordinate. Also please contact her about any bills she needs to have on her radar. She can be reached at [Katherine.Russo@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:Katherine.Russo@eog.myflorida.com).

**Colonel Jim Heald** mentioned that the Defense Support Initiatives Committee (DSI) will be sending a small group up to Washington, DC on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be meeting with Congressional Staffs and the Pentagon on Monday and Tuesday but would love to touch base sometime during their visit.

#### *Task Force Member Reports*

**CAPT Keith Hoskins** reported that Governor DeSantis was at the University of West Florida in Pensacola yesterday to announce the "Salute Our Soldiers" Military Loan Program (SOS) that will be offered to veterans and active duty military personnel throughout the state.

**Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** reported that NAS Pensacola continues to heal from the terrorist attack which has greatly impacted the influx of citizens on the base. They are working to resolve this issue as it has greatly reduced the attendance and revenue at the National Aviation Museum. Legislation is moving forward on the Blue Angels license plate which should be a stimulus to the museum and the National Flight Academy.

Currently six (6) bills are pending as the Legislature continues to keep Florida as the most military-friendly state in the nation. Bills include:

- Allowing students whose parents transfer into a new district to immediately be certified as residents.
- A homestead exemption which allows the spouse of a deceased veteran to continue to use the homestead exemption benefits, even when relocating.
- A Veterans Court bill dealing with mental illness, allowing judges to assign to the appropriate department

He reported concerns as Air Bus has challenged the recent Leonardo contract at the Milton Aviation Park at NAS Whiting Field.

**Representative Thad Altman** reported a change of command at NOTU as outgoing Captain Jason Wartell was replaced by Captain Benjamin Shoupe. The Space Coast has started this year with four successful launches. On the Legislative side, he briefed about a \$300,00 feasibility study to be conducted by the

Department of Transportation (DOT) to evaluate the benefits of widening the lots at the Port. This bill is currently in appropriations and will benefit both the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing and NASA.

**Representative Mel Ponder** reported that his district mourns the loss of the two 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces members recently lost overseas. He discussed the Patriots Pact bill (HB171, SB 372), a partnership between the Department of Education (DOE), Florida's University and College system, FDVA and the Florida Veterans Foundation. This bill is moving in both the House and Senate and provides veterans affordable education options and will also allow use of military service hours and certifications in the post-secondary world. He briefed on the Veterans Treatment Court bill, which puts standards in place for all circuits in Florida to expand and modify court options to help service men and women who are struggling and to receive the proper help.

**Major General Richard Haddad** reported that despite the information relayed to the Polk County Board of County Commissioners concerning the importance of the Avon Park Air Force Range, they voted 5-0 to allow the development of an RV park. This signals to the Air Force that the Range is not a priority in the community and could be problematic as the Air Force Board prioritizes ranges in future years.

What began as a typical reconnaissance patrol during a brisk November in Afghanistan quickly took a devastating turn for the worst. U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Chris Grove, a Special Tactics combat controller assigned as the 720<sup>th</sup> Special Tactics Group superintendent, delivered thousands of pounds of munitions, securing the safety of his joint and partner forces, and now he's receiving the Silver Star Medal.

The University of South Florida announced they entered a five-year, \$85-million contract with U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM), based at nearby MacDill Air Force Base. The contract is a task order agreement. Two of the tasks so far include a request for interns and a small, sandwich-sized satellite program.

Pentagon officials recently released a list of military treatment facilities and clinics that will no longer provide care to military retirees and active-duty families as part of a shift in focus to supporting active-duty readiness. MacDill AFB will be one of those facilities.

**Colonel Jim Heald** reported that in addition to the two 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces members recently killed, there were six others injured. President Trump and Congressman Matt Gaetz, along with many others, traveled to Dover AFB to honor the fallen as they returned to the United States.

He recently started working with the Okaloosa School District to update their process for inbound military dependents. The issue was lack of awareness of law change, use of 2017 version of District Form and an Elementary School that went rogue.

Okaloosa County and the USAF have signed a MOA for West Gate Renovation to prepare for westward expansion of the main base. This will use land already owned by Eglin AFB and will reflow State Road 85, Bobby Bond Road, Eglin Parkway and Lewis Turner to remove traffic lights and sharp turns, fix the west gate entrance, improve traffic congestion and improve force protection to current standards. The County will perform an Engineering Study and they anticipate an RFP to be released this summer for a period of performance of approximately nine months and will include public inputs and comments. The USAF will pay for this study out of escrowed airport lease funds. They anticipate the need for FDOT support for transportation construction and the need for MILCON.

The Fisher House Fund Raiser at Armament Museum was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> and was highly successful. The featured speaker was author of **Divine Soldier**, Jennifer Nelson, wife of Captain Nate Nelson, Congressman Gaetz's Director of Military Affairs in district. Jennifer is also a Caregiver Fellow for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

The Defense Support Initiatives Committee held its monthly meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Guests included Colonel Jon Wheeler Commander of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Wing and Command Chief CMS Alex Morgan. They updated that the second squadron of F-35s is on track. Assuming all goes as planned, twenty-four F-35s will start arriving in October 2021, dependent upon movement of F-22 schoolhouse with their associated T-38s.

The Innov8 and Fusion Gala was held on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by the Hsu Foundation (in conjunction with many others). The Under Secretary of Transportation and a delegation from Washington, DC traveled to Northwest Florida and were presented with STEM and entrepreneurial opportunities in the area.

There are concerns over U.S. Marine Corps MARFOR maneuvers as a human intelligence gathering exercise will be held in Crestview one weekend and Destin the next. The U.S. Marine Corps is in discussions with the city council without informing the 96th ABW/CC.

The DSI delegation will be in Washington, DC from February 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. They will have a full two days of meetings with Pentagon, Senate and House members and staff. The primary issues are Military Mission Line (MML), Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR) and the Gulf Range Enhancement (GRE) to include threat systems, NextGen Eglin and associated MILCON, and WTIC (actually part of NextGen Eglin).

**Ms. Amy Gowder** reported that the National Center for Simulation and Team Orlando hosted their 2nd Annual Student Industry Capability Day on February 20th in the Central Florida Research Park. High school and technical school teams of students demonstrated modeling and simulation projects they have been working on over this past school year or longer. These projects, involving game design, animation, visualization and simulation, use the same technology that is embedded in today's complex training systems for the military. The purpose of this student event is to demonstrate that these talented students have the skill-set necessary to enter our workforce as interns or into entry-level positions.

NAWCTSD/NAVAIR was selected as one of the five Tech Bridge locations. NavalX seeks to create better processes and ways of sharing information, so that all fleet units, acquisition offices, warfare centers and others can innovate and evolve faster and easier. A big part of this initiative is to spur rapid development of new innovative technologies including modeling and simulation.

The third annual Spark Tank Competition, which takes place at the Air Force Association's 2020 Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Florida on February 26, 2020. The top two winners from AFDW and two Air Force wild cards will receive \$2,500 from Airmen Powered by Innovation, funded travel to Florida and other resources to implement their projects, a crystal trophy and the chance to pitch the idea to world-renowned entrepreneur Mark Cuban and Air Force senior leaders.

The USSPACECOM Mission to Florida discussion continues and the Metro Orlando Defense Task Force supports Space Florida efforts to bring elements of USSPACECOM to Florida.

Lockheed Martin has created a \$100,000 grant program ("Lockheed Martin Invests: Orlando") that will award Orlando small tech companies with the money they need to pursue projects in areas like artificial intelligence, sensors and autonomy.

**Lt Col Bill Dudley** reported that the local counties in his area are launching a new program called Operation Fire Watch which helps to prevent veterans' suicides. This program has been underwritten and will be funded by Duval, Clay, Baker, Nassau and St. Johns Counties. It will be headed up by Brigadier General Michael Fleming (Ret.).

The temporary Community Base Outpatient Clinic in St. Johns County will be moving to its permanent location in mid-2021. The vacated facility will either be purchased by or long-term leased by St. Johns County and utilized as a homeless veterans' shelter.

The St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court graduated its 30<sup>th</sup> veteran out of the program on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**RADM Stan Bozin** discussed his concerns with not knowing what's going on in Washington, DC in relation to the budget process. He's aware of some changes requested by the U.S. Navy but he's not sure of how those changes will affect Florida.

**Roger Williams reported for MG James Eifert** briefing that MG Eifert regrets missing today's TF meeting but he's looking forward to being at the next TF meeting in Jacksonville in March.

The current Florida National Guard (FLNG) mobilization status includes a total of 380 deployed Soldiers and Airmen (377 Army and 3 Air). Current FLNG mobilization activity includes the return of their Special Operations Detachment-Central Command from the CENTCOM AOR to Fort Bragg, North Carolina in preparation for their return to Florida; deployment of their 290<sup>th</sup> Joint Communication Support Squadron from MacDill Air Force to the CENTCOM AOR; and upcoming deployment of their 146<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion to the CENTCOM AOR, with deployment ceremonies in Jacksonville on March 27<sup>th</sup> and Pensacola on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

He extended an open invitation for all to attend FLNG Appreciation Day at the Capitol on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He informed the group that the event will display FLNG equipment and capabilities, which will be located throughout the courtyard and rotunda area of the Capitol.

**Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** discussed that in early February in Las Vegas, AFWERX recently held a Temporary Logistics Housing Challenge to address the issue Tyndall AFB will face during the build process. The challenge will be how to admit 1,500 to 2,000 workers, plus materials, on and off the base during the construction period but many ideas were discussed with the hope of the implementation of some new processes when that time comes.

He recently spent a few days in Washington, DC to attend the State of the Air Force briefing. Secretary Henderson discussed issues such as education and schools, spouse employment, license reciprocity as well as the status of privatized housing.

The current focus in the Air Force is on the Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2) program to unify the communications of weapons systems across all branches.

#### *Grants Application and Approval Process*

**Ray Collins** provided a brief overview of the FDSTF grant program process and timeline. The entire presentation can be found here: <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-Presentations-2020.pdf>

#### *Florida Ethics and Sunshine Law Review*

**Ray Collins** provided the TF a detailed presentation on Florida's Sunshine Law, Public Records and Ethics Laws. The entire presentation can be found here: <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-Presentations-2020.pdf>

Each year staff emails out Form 1, Statement of Financial Interest, along with instructions, to applicable TF members in early May as they are due to the Florida Commission on Ethics by July 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

#### *Military & Defense Update*

**Beth Medina** discussed the ADC Conference Report emailed out recently which included takeaways and recommendations for Florida, which has been shared with the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG). Recommendations are as follows:

Performing an assessment and gap analysis of Military state/community programs using analytics to measure military friendly activities. Staff will submit an RFP to solicit a military-friendly assessment for the state of Florida at a cost of between \$60,000 and \$100,000, to be completed by fall 2020 for use in 2021's Legislative Session.

From the update on the Defense Critical Infrastructure Program (DCIP), Florida communities and bases should tee up projects now that can be submitted to be encumbered during the next few months. Projects likely to be approved are those that are most ready to be implemented immediately. Please send staff information on any community projects which might be eligible for the DCIP funding.

Regarding the estimated time when communities would be able to officially apply for the DCIP, staff is unsure as to when OEA will implement this program as they only provided a verbal update at the recent ADC conference. Staff will continue to monitor and advise as soon as this program is available.

She provided an update on the RFP for the video marketing campaign. The RFP is now closed with five responses which will be evaluated by a committee and be completed by Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. This video campaign is in concert with all the products and work done by the staff including the factbook, flyer, in-person communication, update of the websites, newsfeed, etc., as our communications strategy, almost all elements upgraded and implemented.

She discussed the Military Base Protection funding as staff is working to try and find a remedy or option to revert or reallocate the remaining \$3.7 million to the remaining Tier 1 and Tier 2 properties which would include the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR). Staff is asking to revert those funds from the three main properties to the remaining properties and the Tier 1 and Tier 2 list. This may not be the result or what's in the budget proposal, but staff will keep the TF informed as they are working to secure those funds for other properties to include APAFR.

Staff also advised that they send out the link to the RFP for the military-friendly assessment to the FDA members as soon as its available. It will also be available on the TF website and the Florida Administrative Weekly website.

#### IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

No public comments were made.

*The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM EST*

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #82 on Thursday, March 19, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force held a publicly noticed meeting via Conference Call at 09:00 AM EDT – 10:40 AM EDT. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Representative Thad Altman  
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)  
Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret.)  
Amy Gowder, Vice President, Lockheed Martin Rotary and Missions Systems Company  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)  
Representative Mel Ponder  
Representative Holly Raschein

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Senator Doug Broxson, Chairman  
Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida

#### **Speakers Present:**

Dave Dahl, US Navy Region Southeast  
Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Chair  
Chip White, Florida Housing Finance Corporation

#### **Others Present:**

Cindy Brown, Florida Senate  
Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville  
Kevin Duncan, Kennetic Productions Inc.  
Paul Hirsch, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast  
Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA)/FDA Vice Chair  
Chris Kennelly, Kennetic Productions, Inc.  
Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast  
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance  
Matt Schellhorn, NAS Jacksonville  
Roger Williams, Florida National Guard (FLNG)

#### **Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI  
Ray Collins, Executive Director, Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF)  
Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, FDSTF  
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #82**  
**Jacksonville, FL Conference Call / WebEX**  
**UPDATED AGENDA for March 19, 2020**

<b>CALL-IN NUMBER:</b>	<b>888.585.9008</b>
<b>CONFERENCE ROOM:</b>	<b>262-492-927</b>

<b>KEY:</b> <i>(I) = Information</i> <i>(D) = Discussion</i> <i>(A) = Action</i>
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- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome, Guest Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:05 – 9:15 US Navy SE Region Welcome Dave Dahl **(I)**
- 9:15 – 9:25 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
- 9:25 – 11:25 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:25-10:15 TF Member Reports
  - 10:15-10:25 Florida Defense Alliance Update Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - 10:25-10:30 Washington Office Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - 10:30-11:00 FL National Guard Installation & Infrastructure Issues Maj. Gen. James Eifert **(I) (D)**
  - 11:00-11:20 New Florida Military & Veterans’ Housing Initiative Chip White **(I)**
  - 11:20-11:30 Mil & Def Update Beth Medina **(I)**
- 11:30 – 11:45 Public Comment..... Chairman
- 12:00 – 1:30 CLOSED SESSION..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

April 16, 2020	Conf Call/Webex	June 2020	NO MEETING
May 21, 2020	Conf Call/Webex	August 20, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
July 16, 2020	Cocoa Beach / NOTU	October 15, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
September 17, 2020	Key West / Army Dive School	December 2020	NO MEETING
November 19, 2020	Orlando / PEOSTRI		



**Ray Collins**, FDSTF Executive Director, *began the meeting at 09:00 AM EDT.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome & Introductions

**Ray Collins** welcomed attendees and guests, proceeded with roll call then turned the meeting over to **Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer**. **Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** asked all guests to introduce themselves and reminded the Task Force (TF) the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

*US Navy Southeast Region Welcome*

Dave Dahl, US Navy Region Southeast, welcomed the TF, virtually, to northeast Florida on behalf of Rear Admiral Gary Mayes, Commander of Navy Region Southeast, Harrison Conyers, the City of Jacksonville and Rear Admiral Stan Bozin. He presented a short video which can be seen [HERE](#).

Navy Region Southeast is the Navy's largest region which makes up about 20 percent of the Navy. Their Navy installations range from Guantanamo Bay up to Tennessee and over to Texas. No other organization in the world interacts daily with as many environments as the United States Navy, on every ocean, every continent, in the air, beneath the sea, on mountains, in deserts, jungles, forests, from the poles to the equator. The Navy must be exemplary stewards of the environment to have the ability to train and achieve their mission. They continue to innovate and institutionalize environmental stewardship. The Navy recognizes the critical importance of protecting precious natural resources, while supporting the mission of national security.

The entire presentation can be viewed [HERE](#).

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of the Minutes*

*A quorum being present, **Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** asked if corrections are needed to the February 20, 2020 minutes. Noting none, a motion was made by **CAPT Keith Hoskins** to approve the minutes, seconded by **RADM Stan Bozin**, all are in favor and the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.*

*Task Force Grants & Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** reported on the status of several current TF grants. Included in the packets is a grant listing with summarized third quarter reports.

DTF #14-05, Economic Development Alliance of Bay County (BayEDA), Bay Technology Initiative has a contract amendment pending execution, as the end date for the contract is June 30, 2020 but may also need a further extension.

Kennetic Productions, Inc's contract for the video marketing campaign has been executed but as they will not have base access until after the coronavirus pandemic has passed, staff will be adjusting the contract which will be reflected in next month's report.

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

*Task Force Member Reports*

**Representative Thad Altman** reported that SpaceX has targeted May 2020 as the date for a human space flight to the International Space Station, which hasn't happened since July 2011. Two buildings at the Northrup Grumman facility in Melbourne were evacuated yesterday as one of their employees became the second case of coronavirus in Brevard County. The defense contractor industry remains concerned should the Governor issue a shelter in place order, that they be exempted as they cannot work from home due to cybersecurity issues. The appropriations bill to provide maritime access to the Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station has passed both houses and will now go to the Governor for his signature.

**Representative Mel Ponder** updated that the coronavirus has caused both Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field to cancel all public gatherings and meetings. Military personnel are prohibited from attending non-essential meetings and all on-base activities have been cancelled. Eglin AFB needs MILCON funding for their next generation redevelopment plan: building refurbishment, west side development, transportation infrastructure and reconfiguration to include traffic flow to move the west gate allowing for land for additional facilities. Okaloosa County has signed an MOA with Eglin AFB to conduct an engineering study.

**RADM Stan Bozin** discussed that NAS Jacksonville is moving forward with purchasing several land easements; 100 acres should be finalized by this spring. They continue to press environmental issues as they attempt to purchase additional land. The Triton hangar at NS Mayport has been completed however it will be while before operations move into that location. Shoreline work will begin at NS Mayport in mid-May and continue through the end of this year. Fixed wing operations will be restricted out of NS Mayport during this time as facilities are being upgraded and improved. Dredging has begun at Blount Island and he is hopeful the TF can reschedule their tour to see the operations at Blount Island Command in the near future.

**Brig Gen Chip Diehl** reported that Florida Rock is still an issue as there is a new development slated for that parcel. This issue is now at a heightened level and he thanked everyone for their support on this moving forward.

He discussed the Defense Health Agency Rightsizing Act which closes the military clinics at both Patrick AFB and MacDill AFB, among others, to military retirees and their families. He wanted the TF to understand the implications of this act, not only for central Florida, but for all veterans and their families. Congress will need to act in the next 90 days by either voting against or doing nothing and letting it get approved. A readiness inspection was recently completed at MacDill AFB, during which they did very well. The very popular, upcoming air show has been cancelled and all PCSs are on hold. The Wing Commander is also waiting to see when he can move as he had planned to leave in June.

**Ms. Amy Gowder** reported that the defense industry, including Lockheed Martin and their colleagues, are attempting to be deemed mission essential personnel as much of their work cannot be telecommuted, and it is essential that they continue their work on their important programs.

Many in the modeling and simulation community have been able to successfully work remotely for most of their business as most can perform their work virtually. Many are using their modeling and simulation models to track and communicate the impact of the virus in various areas and are using their expertise for the cause.

SpaceX had a successful launch on March 18<sup>th</sup> which brings the total number of launches to seven in 2020. There were only 18 launches in 2019, so the space launch community is progressing very well for this year.

**Major General Richard Haddad** reported that a female Air Force officer has completed a rigorous special warfare course and will move on to the next program within the Special Tactics Officer training pipeline, making her the first woman to advance this far within battlefield officer specialty training.

On February 29<sup>th</sup>, family, teammates and local community members commemorated the life and legacy of U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Dylan Elchin, a Special Tactics Combat Controller, with a bridge dedication at the Veterans of Foreign War Post 128, Rochester, Pennsylvania.

Due to the coronavirus, General Richard D. Clarke recently provided guidance to cancel the Retired SOF Senior Leaders' Conference this year. Also, many of the associated events in SOF Week are also cancelled: International SOF Conference, the CAPE Demonstration, the Gala and the Spouses' Conference.

**Colonel Jim Heald** discussed the Defense Support Initiative (DSI) delegation's Feb 23-26 trip to Washington, DC. Our priorities included: 1) Military Mission Line Moratorium Extension Language, 2) Gulf Range Enhancement \$30M funding increase for the 4<sup>th</sup> year of that project, 3) Repair by Replacement Language, 4) Weapons Technology Integration Center MILCON, and 5) Section 219 threshold increase language (increase current authority from \$6M to \$8M—last year attempted to raise it to \$10M but got no traction—AFRL survives

by this authority). From our list #3 through #5 are collectively part of NEXGEN Eglin. The West side expansion (previously discussed by Ponder) is also part of the that.

The DSI team had the opportunity to meet with the staffs of Sen Inhofe, Sen Rubio, and Sen Scott. We also met with staff's from CM Gaetz, CM Dunn, CM Diaz-Balart, CM Wasserman Schultz, Katherine Anne Russo from Governor DeSantis office, and in the Pentagon with DOT&E (director of Operational Test & Evaluation), ASD (Asst Secretary of Defense) for Sustainment, and TRMC (Test Resource Management Center). We did speak briefly with Senator Rubio in person about his support to the MML and his proposed amendment. The Amendment put forward by Sen Rubio/Scott to the American Energy Innovation Act was one of 150 amendments to that Act that collectively stopped the act from being voted on. Word from the professional staff from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee is that the Rubio/Scott amendment is DOA (hope that is not true). Reason is the Congressional Budget Office scoring of \$400 M for the 10 year extension plus it appears that there is a contingent of Gulf State Senators that want to block the amendment.

**Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** asked the current funding level for the GRE.

**Colonel Jim Heald** replied that they are asking for about \$8 million this year as the funding is normally in the \$30 million to \$35 million range. He added that for FY 2020, the GRE had \$5.5 million in funding and both the House and Senate have added to that to bringing it up to \$30 million, but the Conference Committee had it reduced. In the President's budget request for this year, the request is \$8.69 million, and they've asked for an additional \$30 million above that.

**Brig Gen Chip Diehl** asked to include the Avon Park Air Force Range as they work on range enhancements.

**Colonel Jim Heald** replied that they include all the ranges in Florida and include all the units who use them (not only Eglin AFB and Tyndall AFB).

**CAPT Keith Hoskins** reported that during the impact of the coronavirus, the leadership at NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field is working to ensure mission readiness and training. NAS Pensacola trains 60,000 active-duty military members in all services and it's important they maintain proper protocols to ensure they are supporting national security. They rely on great partnerships between the bases, the local communities with both Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties to ensure they are getting the support they need currently.

**Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** discussed that the Tyndall AFB rebuild is moving along well. Currently, the community is trying to identify partnership opportunities, recover the housing and resolve the infrastructure issues. In the upcoming months, they will be applying for a grant to assist with these issues.

Tyndall anticipates the need to house about 1,000 to 2,000 construction workers who will be involved in the rebuild, trying to resolve the issue of getting them on and off the base or build a camp on base.

To date, \$728 million was spent in 2019 and it's anticipated that \$328 million will be spent in 2020 for repairs. Once the EIS is complete at the beginning of next year, \$3 billion in new construction is fully funded as that money is included as part of the budget.

Starting spring of 2021, 42 projects are slated to be built at Tyndall to include:

- 6 new hangars
- 480 dorm rooms
- 120 new buildings

Out of the 867 homes that were on the base, 593 will be rebuilt and the rest will be demolished.

NSA Panama City will benefit from about \$96 million in MILCON for two projects: \$56.3 million for the P407 project and \$49 million to help accommodate potential new missions at the base.

*Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update*

**Kellie Jo Kilberg**, FDA Chair, reported on March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) reported another lease sale in the Gulf of \$93 million, with 22 companies participating in the auction for parts of area #254. They are doing two lease sales per year. Florida must be vigilant in protecting the Gulf Range and what it means to National Defense Strategy.

She has been working with Beth Medina to update and modernize the FDA Strategic Plan to include resiliency, family support, Space Force and other current issues. They will be organizing focus groups and bringing some new language into the Strategic Plan to present to the Legislature next year with proposed updates to our mission.

Due to the coronavirus, the FDA has changed the May 20<sup>th</sup> in-person meeting to a half day conference call/WebEx meeting with the other half concluding on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Our next in-person meeting will be in September in Tallahassee. Staff will send out additional information as it develops.

The video marketing campaign is currently on hold, but local partners can be working with the installations to see what videos may already exist and be able to hit the ground running with them once it starts up again.

At the last ADC meeting, there was much discussion on installation resiliency and how it pertains to National Security, local communities, industry and critical infrastructure. Everyone must be on the same page as it pertains to resiliency as it holds a different meaning to different people.

**Tim Jones**, FDA Vice Chair, asked the TF if it's feasible to allocate some funds to the FDA to update their Strategic Plan.

**Beth Medina** responded that the Staff is working with EFI on the possibility of using TF Administrative dollars from this year's budget for some funding for the FDA (in addition to the already provided travel funds). They are currently working on next year's budget and are in discussions with EFI on a potential grant for FDA funding.

**Colonel Jim Heald** asked **Kellie Jo Kilberg** if the FDA could be the mechanism and work with the ADC to send letters to the Florida CODEL in support of the Military Mission Line, like the recent initiative with DCIP?

**Kellie Jo Kilberg** responded that she would work with **Beth Medina** to make that happen.

**Vice Chairman, Mr. Tom Neubauer** suggested FDA members participate on a panel on the MML at the next ADC meeting in June in Washington, DC.

#### *Florida National Guard Installation & Infrastructure Issue*

**Roger Williams** called in on behalf of **Major General James Eifert**, providing a brief Florida National Guard (FLNG) Update.

Reported Florida National Guard (FLNG) is significantly involved in the State of Florida response to COVID-19, supporting common mission sets such as providing operations and planning and Emergency Support Function - 13 support to the Division of Emergency Management; Liaison Officer support to County Operation Centers and Operational Support to the State Logistics Response Center. As a new mission set, FLNG is preparing to support the Florida Department of Health with establishing and operating COVID-19 screening/testing sites.

Reported current FLNG mobilization status, which included the upcoming mobilization of the 146<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion and cancellation of their mobilization ceremony.

Advised that **Major General Eifert** appreciated postponement of his Installation and Infrastructure Issues presentation and that he looked forward to providing that information to the collective group in the future.

#### *New Florida Military & Veterans' Housing Initiatives*

**Chip White**, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, presented on the Salute our Soldiers Military Loan Program which assists both Veterans and active duty military personnel throughout the state to obtain affordable safe housing and stimulate more VA Program Loan originations. This program includes fee reductions, lower interest rates, down payment assistance, and exemptions for various mortgage programs.

The entire presentation can be found [HERE](#).

#### *Military & Defense Update*

**Ray Collins** discussed that Staff has revised the TF meeting calendar through May 2020 as the May 21, 2020 meeting has been changed to a conference call/WebEx meeting. The September TF meeting (in conjunction with the FDA), which was originally scheduled for Key West, will be moved to Tallahassee. This calendar is still subject to changes. The revised calendar can be viewed [HERE](#).

**Beth Medina** updated the \$2 million appropriation for the TF is included in the budget, approved by House and Senate.

The \$3.7 million in remaining funds for non-conservation land acquisition, that was identified to use for the Florida Rock issue, has been reverted, possibly to free up funds to aid in the coronavirus outbreak.

There will be an ADC/COVID-19 conference call on March 19<sup>th</sup> for those who are able to participate. Staff will keep everyone updated on happenings with ADC.

Representatives from Kennetic Productions, the company from Jacksonville who won the contract for the video marketing campaign are on the call. Although the campaign has been delayed, some administrative work can be done in the meantime as local partners should touch base with their installations so they can start immediately once they are able.

This year, Staff will be doing a much deeper dive into updating the Military Friendly guide working with the Governor's Office, the FDVA and the Department of Military Affairs to go over results by agency of the current legislative policies and programs to provide a complete assessment. This material will be discussed with the TF and the FDA and will be used to set up our needs for the FY20-21 Legislative Agenda.

#### IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

**Liz Miller**, DEO, updated that the deadline for the DRG and DIG grant applications has been extended by 30 days (The original due date was March 20, 2020).

*The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM EDT*

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #83 on Thursday, April 16, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) held a publicly noticed meeting via Conference Call at 09:00 AM EDT – 10:01 AM EDT. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Senator Doug Broxson, Chairman  
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Representative Thad Altman  
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)  
Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret.)  
Amy Gowder, Vice President, Lockheed Martin Rotary and Missions Systems Company  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)  
Representative Mel Ponder  
Representative Holly Raschein

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida

#### **Speakers Present:**

Lieutenant Colonel Jason Hunt, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)

#### **Others Present:**

Keith Ball, Society of American Military Engineers  
Jim Breitenfeld, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast  
Debi Graham, Greater Pensacola Chamber  
Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/FDA  
Elizabeth May, Society of American Military Engineers  
Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast  
Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance  
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Roger Williams, Florida National Guard (FLNG)

#### **Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI  
Ray Collins, Executive Director, Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF)  
Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, FDSTF  
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #83  
Conference Call / WebEX  
AGENDA for April 16, 2020**

<b>CALL-IN NUMBER:</b>	<b>888.585.9008</b>
<b>CONFERENCE ROOM:</b>	<b>262-492-927</b>

<b>KEY:</b> <i>(I) = Information</i> <i>(D) = Discussion</i> <i>(A) = Action</i>
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- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 9:05 – 9:10 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
  - Budget Update Marcy Sanders **(I)**
- 9:10 – 10:20 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:10-10:00 TF Member Reports
  - 10:00-10:05 Florida Defense Alliance Update Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - 10:05-10:10 Washington Office Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - 10:10-10:20 Mil & Def Update Beth Medina **(I)**
- 10:20 – 10:35 Public Comment..... Chairman
- 10:45 – 12:00 CLOSED SESSION..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

May 21, 2020	Conference Call	June 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>
July 16, 2020	Cocoa Beach / NOTU	August 20, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
September 17, 2020	Tallahassee   FDA	October 15, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
November 19, 2020	Orlando / PEOSTRI   FDA	December 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>

**Ray Collins**, FDSTF Executive Director, *began the meeting at 09:00 AM EDT.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome & Introductions

**Ray Collins** welcomed attendees and guests, proceeded with roll call then turned the meeting over to **Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson**. **Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** reminded the TF and guests that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting and offered his thoughts and prayers to the TF members and their communities.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of the Minutes*

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** asked for any corrections to the March 19, 2020 minutes. **Colonel Jim Heald** noted that he sent some revisions to his remarks to Staff for insertion. A motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer** to approve the minutes with the revisions, seconded by **Colonel Jim Heald**, all are in favor and the March 19, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.*

*Task Force Grants & Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** noted that the report included in the meeting packets does not include quarterly reports as grantees were given an extension until April 24, 2020 to submit their reports.

The Kennetic Productions, Inc. contract for the video marketing campaign has been executed and the first payment has been received. They are currently viewing other videos available online with staff and community representatives helping to identify base liaisons for them to work with once they can travel to the installations. Depending on the pandemic, this contract may need to be extended in the future.

TF Grant #14-05, Economic Development Alliance of Bay County – Bay Technology Initiative: this contract expires in June 2020 and as the TF does not meet in June, they will need to entertain granting an extension at the May TF meeting.

**Mr. Tom Neubauer** added that they were making good progress with the County but suspects they will need another few months' extension.

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

*Task Force Member Reports*

**LTC Jason Hunt reported on behalf of MG James Eifert**, providing a Florida National Guard (FLNG) Update.

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE: The FLNG has approximately 2,300 Soldiers and Airmen currently mobilized to address mission requirements across the State in support of Florida's COVID-19 response.

They are supporting the Community Based Testing Sites and as of close of business Sunday (April 12, 2020), the FLNG has collected over 46,500 COVID samples at 8 sites in Miami (3), Palm Beach (2), Orlando (1), Broward (1) and Duval (1). Soon they will support two additional "walk-through" sites in Pompano Beach and Fort Lauderdale.

Your Florida Guard personnel are also establishing 10 x Mobile Testing Teams to test citizens who may not be able to get to the drive-thru or walkthrough sites, like assisted living facilities. They have conducted 1,600 tests with expectations to rapidly and broadly expand this operation statewide. With a combined total of over 48,000 tests conducted.

Other missions include:

\* Screening personnel entering Florida at 7 airports



\* Augmenting State logistics operations at the State Logistics Resource Center (SLRC)

\* They've organized a 93-person team of medical professionals that will provide medical treatment/support at the Miami Beach Convention Center (MBCC) Alternate Care Facility currently being constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Lastly, they've had 6 guardsmen who were mobilized and 9 who were not mobilized, test positive for COVID, but all 15 are doing well, recovering and do not expect any long term complications to their health and readiness.

**MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT UPDATE:** The FLNG remains vigilant in supporting their federal mission responsibilities with 717 (687-Army & 30-Air) Soldiers and Airmen deployed globally in supporting national security objectives.

The DOD 60-Day Stop Movement Order in support of COVID-19 mitigation currently affects three of their mobilized organization. The 46th Signal Battalion that recently transitioned to their mobilization station at Fort Stewart, Georgia is awaiting movement to support their mission responsibilities in CENTCOM supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. Additionally, the 164th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and 1st Battalion 265th Air Defense Artillery Regiment are currently serving in EUCOM supporting the European Defense Initiative are being held in theater past their originally scheduled re-deployment date.

**CAPT Keith Hoskins** reported that there have been very positive movements by the leadership in Northwest Florida and the Department of the Navy at both NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field. They have taken several proactive steps to ensure the isolation of any of those sailors, soldiers, airmen and marines who have been impacted by COVID-19, setting aside separate barracks to support those individuals.

In community response, Naval Hospital Pensacola is prepared to support the local community, if that requirement is needed, due to potential outbreak or increased spread of COVID-19. They maintain a great partnership with all the local, community hospitals.

NAS Pensacola has taken many proactive actions as the hospitals, branch health clinics, pharmacies, the navy exchange, the gas station post office, commissary and childcare facilities remain open for business with some changes in hours. The fitness facilities remain closed.

**Mr. Tom Neubauer** discussed that both Tyndall AFB and NSA Panama City are requiring all members to work from home, except for mission essential personnel. He was on a call yesterday with the Air Force regarding the PCS moves as about 2,100 Air Force moves currently in process were stopped. The stop order is through May 9<sup>th</sup> but is expected to be extended until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Air Force Public Affairs Office announced that the Air Force's Thunderbirds and the Navy's Blue Angels will perform community flyovers across the country to thank first responders and healthcare workers.

The Air Force Academy will have its graduation ceremony on April 18<sup>th</sup> with no spectators physically present in order to comply with social distancing requirements.

Basic military training continues for the services but classes have been lessened to 450 instead of the usual 750. New troops will spend a few weeks in isolation before integrating into the class.

Regarding the Tyndall AFB rebuild, they are concerned with keeping the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process on track as the hearings that will take place will need to comply with meeting requirements and could slow down the process. The community has submitted a plan for consideration for the next public hearing in June to be held on the Gulf Coast State College campus using multiple rooms with supplemental video teleconferencing for presenters or all video teleconferencing for every attendee. This plan was submitted to the NEPA representative for approval in hopes to keep the rebuild on track.

The Air Force is anticipating some relief from the pilot shortage as some of those pilots considering leaving and joining the airlines are rethinking that since many have been furloughed and are looking at opportunities to rejoin the Air Force.

Today, Tyndall AFB Vice Comm Jeff Hawkins met with **People Magazine** to discuss the rebuild which will be in the magazine and on People.com.

**RADM Stan Bozin** discussed that the commissary and exchange remain open at NAS Jacksonville as does also the pharmacy at NS Mayport. All who enter are required to wear masks as they do their best to comply with social distancing requirements.

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** reported from MacDill AFB's Air Mobility Wing Commander that they have many mobility planes and airlifters currently flying missions in support of the COVID-19 response. Their area's two VA hospitals are fully operational and supporting the COVID-19 effort, as well.

MacDill AFBs Wing Commander is looking at capability once PCS moves are restored. The base is working with the community to find a way to get quality support to help move families at a pace they can support.

MacDill AFB is closely watching the DHA's Right Sizing Proposal which was introduced on February 19<sup>th</sup> affecting clinics at both Patrick and MacDill AFBs. Congress was to act within 90 days, but he believes that has now taken a backseat due to the coronavirus pandemic. He continues to watch this issue.

**Representative Thad Altman** asked for more information on this issue to present to their local CODEL to ensure this is on their radar.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing and the Range at the Cape are still open and launching. SpaceX had to reschedule this week's launch of its Starlink Satellite program due to high winds. This launch has been rescheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Lt Col Bill Dudley** reported that the main focus in St. Johns County is the care of homeless veterans as they have organized a concerted effort with many of the county support organizations to reach out to their homeless veterans for food, shelter and healthcare needs. They have partnered with many local organizations who are providing these services to them.

**Major General Richard Haddad** reported that as the recent outbreak of the deadly COVID-19 virus is impacting the world, Air Force Special Operations Command is adjusting how operations are conducted in order to protect Air Commandos.

A Special Tactics Airman involved in a fatal swim training incident has been identified. Airman First Class Keigan Baker, 24, an Air Force Special Tactics combat controller assigned to the Special Tactics Training Squadron, 24th Special Operations Wing, was found unresponsive after he went missing during a surface training swim at Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida on Thursday, March 19th. Baker was taking part in the Air Force Combat Dive Course run by Air Education and Training Command's Special Warfare Training Wing headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

A 137th Special Operations Wing Airman receives the Oklahoma Star of Valor. A truck engulfed in flames and a driver trapped inside. As each minute passed and the chances of survival diminished, the instinct and willingness of an Airman to act meant the difference between life and death. For his heroic actions, Staff Sergeant Benjamin Anderson, an air freight journeyman assigned to the 137th Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron, was awarded the Oklahoma Star of Valor in a ceremony on March 7, 2020 at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base in Oklahoma City.

A Special Tactics Medal of Honor recipient was honored with an Annex renaming. The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Medina Training Annex was renamed the Chapman Training Annex in honor of Special Tactics

combat controller Master Sergeant John A. Chapman on March 4, 2020. The ceremony was held on the 18th anniversary of his death and was attended by family, friends and fellow Airmen. In August 2018, Chapman was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest honor for his selfless actions in Afghanistan during the Battle of Takur Ghar on March 4, 2002 in support of Operation ANACONDA.

U.S. Special Operations Command and the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) are scheduled to host a virtual Special Operations Forces Industry Conference (vSOFIC) online on May 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. After canceling this year's annual SOFIC event in Tampa, NDIA and SOCOM developed a new online platform to enable special operations professionals and industry partners to learn, network and collaborate on new initiatives and capabilities needed in the future.

**Colonel Jim Heald** reported that Eglin AFB has daily "meetings" to discuss status and issues. Recently 96TW/CC imposed mission essential activity only orders.

- To further protect people and preserve mission capability, the 96TW/CC has declared all Eglin units execute Tier 1 (Secure and Sustain the Base) and Tier 2 (Real World and Contingency Ops) mission essential activity only. Tier 2 consists of priority missions to include Joint Urgent Operational Needs (JUON/UONs), Plan 70 (Quick Reaction Tests), and DPA (Deployment Preparation Activities) which have been pre-approved by 96 TW/CC.
- Effective 13 Apr 20, all Eglin units will execute Tier 1-2 Mission Essential activity only with the following exceptions:
  - Tier 3 activity that can be accomplished via telework is authorized and should continue
  - Formal training programs may continue only as necessary to maintain student production. For instance, 325 FW (F-22 training) is night flying for the next two weeks
  - Organizations may submit an Exception to Policy with justification to 96 TW/CC
- Everything on base is open or partial open except for Golf course. All hours are posted on Eglin Facebook page that Public Affairs updates.
- You must wear masks to enter any facility.
- For Contractors like the range contract, the TW (Government) recently approved the concept of "Ready State" for our contract's workforce, which means that employees who are placed in a "Ready State" will stay home, still receive full pay and benefits but are ready to come back to work the minute they are recalled (during normal work hours/schedule). Additionally, expect "Ready State" employees to change day by day based on mission requirements, so contractors need to stay flexible and remain in touch with your supervisor. This designation prevented large scale furloughs, loss of jobs, and impacts to the workforce's families. Totally in line with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).
- Government Proactive steps: COVID screeners rotated between common gathering facilities (such as BX, shoppette, commissary, and fitness centers) to monitor patrons for COVID-related symptoms; encountered 240 people, none were turned away
- The Eglin Hospital, Fort Walton Beach Medical Center and Twin Cities Hospital in Niceville are working closely and sharing lessons learned. Other hospitals may be involved, but these are the ones that were reported.

Hurlburt AFSOC and 7 SFG(A) are still performing their real-world missions on a daily basis but have curtailed non-essential activities (like a lot of the Public Affairs stuff).

Through the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County's Technology Coast Manufacturing and Engineering Network (TeCMEN), recently put out a request for a "Call to Action" on the Military Mission Line. TeCMEN did a virtual meeting last Tuesday where he and Kay Rasmussen gave the status update of our February Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) visit to Washington DC. During the TeCMEN presentation they asked for members to write letters to selected members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He can share the addresses of those they want to target and a draft letter to assist anyone who would like to help. As you are probably aware, this committee has jurisdiction over the GOMESA Act of 2006 and the Rubio/Scott amendments appear to be stuck in the committee.

**Representative Mel Ponder** reported that both Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field are on lockdown except for mission essential personnel. Recently Eglin AFB needed facemasks and reached out to Kay Rasmussen who partnered them with the local USO who were happy to make and supply the masks prior to their next supply delivery.

Regarding the Military Mission Line efforts, Kay Rasmussen has successfully facilitated an ongoing relationship with Oceana who supports this issue from an environmental standpoint, and they continue to assist with this effort.

A report from the Child Care Task Force was released in February to identify local childcare demands and possible solutions for both military and civilian families. This report made recommendations which are starting to progress as Congressman Gaetz and Senators Rubio and Scott have all sent letters to the Secretary of the Army highlighting this issue and asking for further assistance.

**Ms. Amy Gowder** reported that the modeling and simulation industry has been much less impacted by COVID-19 as most are working from home and should workers need to come to the labs, they are able to social distance. Recently the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division awarded one hundred million new contracts. They are extending contracts and awarding new contracts to enable the supply base and cash flow to continue.

The National Center for Simulation has created a scholarship relief fund campaign which will be launched on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, for contributions for college students majoring in a STEM field. Funds will be collected between now and June 30<sup>th</sup> to award students in the fall. They are also looking at ways to accelerate hiring, especially bringing in new local college graduates.

Lockheed Martin continues hiring in the Orlando area and has also been able to continue its productions. The Kennedy Space Center has limited some work but remains at stage 3.

Finally, she announced she has accepted a COO position at a Tier 1 aerospace and defense supplier on the West Coast and this will be her final TF meeting. She noted that it's been a true honor serving the state of Florida, the military and installations and is proud of the good work the TF has done and will continue doing. She wishes everyone the best.

**Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** reported that today is a critical time in modern history as the President rolls out a plan to get our citizens back to work.

State Legislators will, most likely, go into a special session once the curve flattens. Florida is unique as it has a rainy-day fund of about \$4 billion and is projected that \$4 billion to \$6 billion will be needed to impact the state. With the addition of federal funds Florida should be able to survive this pandemic if it doesn't worsen or have a second wave of infections.

#### *Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update*

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair**, discussed that both FDA working groups held conference calls in the month of March with much discussion on COVID-19. The next meetings will be via conference call. May 20<sup>th</sup> will be a call focusing on Mission Sustainment and will be a longer meeting with some panel discussions. June 17<sup>th</sup> will focus on Family Support with a deeper dive on where they are to include programs standing up to support military families. Families are dealing with lease issues with the delay of movement as many face extending current leases or having to pay an additional rent payment as they've already signed a lease in anticipation of a move. The working group is looking at both state and federal programs to assist with that issue.

#### *Washington Office Update*

**Beth Medina** noted that **Katherine Anne Russo** would not be calling in to the meeting and updated that the members are out until May 4<sup>th</sup>. She will keep providing updates and coordinating with the

CODEL offices as they have been providing individual updates offline as they are received, and Staff will work to keep providing those updates to the TF as they come in.

#### *Military & Defense Update*

**Beth Medina** discussed that Staff is focused on staying connected with the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the FLNG and the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA). We continue bi-weekly phone calls to ensure everyone is on the same page as we move forward.

Staff is staying linked to the State Emergency Operations Center in support of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 13 which supports the military and run by the DMA, the FEMA DCOs and the officers from NORTHCOM. Staff is also staying in contact with ESF 8, the health and medical function as there was an issue this past week where a contractor was seen in a local community facility who tested positive for COVID-19 and this information was not shared with the base. The Public Health Emergency Officer (PHEO) on base had reports from coworkers and then had to confirm the patient's status and contact tracing. One request was that Staff coordinate a list of all the military installations' PHEOs to share with the ESF 8 representatives, which was completed last week in hopes it will help all the installations connect more efficiently moving forward.

Staff has been participating in the weekly Association of Defense Communities' (ADC) town halls and are sharing those with our members and our communities. Each town hall is by topic, tomorrow's is supporting the National Guard. Presentations are primarily done by communities outlining their lessons learned and best practices.

The budget at both the Federal and State levels will need to be reevaluated as the military budget has been moved forward for getting detailed language for the next NDAA. This will be on a new timeline and Staff will keep the TF informed as it evolves.

Staff has been working on a state point of contact for the Gulf Range. This effort has been split into two sections. The first is diagramming the networks, they key actors and the stakeholders, putting together an action plan and working through the process. Staff hopes to have this effort completed by the end of this fiscal year. This is an administrative cost and will be relatively small, but we'll be taking some of the administrative funds that will not be spent on traveling or meetings this fiscal year and put it towards this plan. Colonel Heald's suggestion of a letter-writing campaign is good one, as these are the types of efforts that will help the FDA and the TF plug into this overall action plan. Those efforts must continue every time there is an article published with incorrect information, WE must continue to address those and take every opportunity to get the message to the right people.

#### IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

**Elizabeth May, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)**, thanked the TF for the opportunity to participate in the meeting and she and **Keith Ball** look forward to being more engaged.

*The meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM EDT*

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #84 on Thursday, May 21, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) held a publicly noticed meeting via Conference Call at 09:00 AM EDT – 10:39 AM EDT. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Senator Doug Broxson, Chairman  
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Representative Thad Altman  
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)  
Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.  
Representative Mel Ponder  
Representative Holly Raschein

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret.)  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)

#### **Speakers Present:**

Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Katherine Anne Russo, Florida Washington Office  
Colonel (Ret) Dwayne Jarriel, Florida Department of Military Affairs  
Ian Crelling, Bay County Board of County Commissioners  
Glen McDonald, Gulf Coast State College  
Kathleen Ferguson, The Roosevelt Group  
Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville, Military Affairs and Veterans Department  
Matt Schellhorn, NAS Jacksonville/NS Mayport

#### **Others Present:**

Katie Allen, Bay Defense Alliance  
Chad Allison, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)  
Keith Ball, Society of American Military Engineers  
Jim Breitenfeld, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Cindy Brown, Florida Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space  
Diana Caldwell, Florida Senate Military Affairs  
Debi Graham, Greater Pensacola Chamber  
Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/FDA  
Elizabeth May, Society of American Military Engineers  
Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast  
Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance  
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance  
Kay Rasmussen, Defense Support Initiatives Committee Okaloosa County  
Ramon Sellers, Bay Defense Alliance  
Jana Wibberley, Bay Defense Alliance  
Roger Williams, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife

The Florida Channel

**Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI

Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, FDSTF

Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #84  
Conference Call / WebEX  
AGENDA for May 21, 2020**

<b>CALL-IN NUMBER:</b>	<b>888.585.9008</b>
<b>CONFERENCE ROOM:</b>	<b>262-492-927</b>

<b>KEY:</b> <i>(I) = Information</i> <i>(D) = Discussion</i> <i>(A) = Action</i>
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- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 9:05 – 9:10 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
- 9:10 – 10:20 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:10-10:00 TF Member Reports
  - 10:00-10:05 Florida Defense Alliance Update Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - 10:05-10:10 Washington Office Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - 10:10-10:15 Task Force Strategic Plan Update Ray Collins **(I)**
  - 10:15-10:20 Mil & Def Update Beth Medina **(I)**
- 10:20 – 11:15 FY 2019 - 2020 Out-of-Cycle Grant Application Presentations .....Chairman **(I) / (D)**
- 11:15 – 11:30 Public Comment..... Chairman
- 12:00 – 12:45 CLOSED SESSION..... Chairman **(D)**
- 1:00 – 1:15 OPEN SESSION – Voting on grant proposals..... Chairman **(A)**

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

June 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>		
July 16, 2020	Cocoa Beach / NOTU	August 20, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
September 17, 2020	Tallahassee   FDA	October 15, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
November 19, 2020	Orlando / PEOSTRI   FDA	December 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>



**Beth Medina**, Vice President of Military & Defense Programs, *began the meeting at 09:00 AM EDT.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome & Introductions

**Beth Medina** welcomed attendees and guests, proceeded with roll call then turned the meeting over to **Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson**. **Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** reminded the TF and guests that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of the Minutes*

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** asked for any corrections to the April 16, 2020 minutes. Noting none, a motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer** to approve the minutes, seconded by **Brigadier General Chip Diehl**, all are in favor and the April 16, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.*

*Task Force Grants & Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** reported on some current FDSTF grants:

TF Grant #14-05, Economic Development Alliance of Bay County – Bay Technology Initiative: BayEDA is close to finalizing project completion ownership which is a crucial step in the completion of this project. The Grantee believes they may be able to complete this step by June 30<sup>th</sup>, however, if they are not able to do this the contract will expire before the FDSTF meets again. Staff is recommending the extension of this contract through 9/30/2020.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** asked for a motion to extend TF Grant #14-05 to September 30, 2020. A motion was made by **Brigadier General Chip Diehl**, seconded by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, all are in favor of the extension of TF Grant #14-05 to September 30, 2020.*

TF Grant #19-105, Gulf Coast State College: this project has been completed and the final report has been submitted as of March 27, 2020. This grant will be closed pending the final payment.

TF Grant #20-101, Clay County Development Authority: The North Florida Land Trust has closed on all properties and taken ownership. This project has been completed.

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

*Task Force Member Reports*

**Mr. Tom Neubauer** discussed several leadership changes at Tyndall AFB as in June, Colonel Brian Laidlaw, Commander of the 325<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing will be replaced by Colonel Greg Moseley. Lieutenant General Marc Sasseville, Commander of AFNORTH will also be replaced in June. Tyndall AFB has several group Commanders turning over, as well. At NSA Panama City, Captain David Beck has replaced Commander Aaron Peters for the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division. Several senior positions at the Warfare Center have also changed as Technical Director Ed Stewart has accepted a job as the Chief Engineer for Marine Corps Systems Command at Quantico and the Acting Director of the Warfare Center is Robert Walker. There are several upcoming changes in the Air Force as General Charles Brown has advanced through hearings to be the next Chief of Staff for the Air Force and Kenneth Braithwaite has advanced to be the next Secretary of the Navy. Other senior leaders leaving this summer are General David Goldfein, the Air Force's Chief of Staff, NORAD/NORTHCOM Commander General Terrance O'Shaughnessy and Air Combat Command Commander General Mike Holmes.

The community partnership steering group meeting has recently adopted four projects for Tyndall AFB covering the areas of healthcare, law enforcement, education and spousal employment.

The draft Economic Impact Study for the beddown of three squadrons of F-35 and MQ-9 wing should be published in the next few weeks.

The demolition of 322 facilities at Tyndall AFB have been approved and as of this week 76 of those have already been demolished.

The primary requirements for the Tyndall Rebuild Accommodation Village (TRAV) has been accomplished paving the way for a housing solution to support the construction crews who will come in the next months.

This week the Air Banner Battle Manager Schoolhouse at Tyndall AFB will be dedicated by General David Goldfein to General Lori Robinson who retired as Commander of NORAD/NORTHCOM in in 2018.

**Colonel Jim Heald** reported that at Eglin AFB, effective April 27, 2020 commanders resumed limited Tier 3 Mission Essential activities with the intent to achieve full Tier 3 mission essential posture by May 4, 2020.

Effective 4 May 2020, commanders resumed all unit Tier 3 mission essential activities.

"Max telework" will continue for all of Team Eglin. Tier 3 activity that can be accomplished via telework is authorized and should continue.

Base access will continue for Mission Essential personnel and Official Business only, as defined in 96 Test Wing/CC "Public Health Emergency Order – Restriction of Movement", extended through May 11, 2020.

96 Test Wing/CC "Restriction of Movement for Essential Services and Activities" (order for military members to adhere to FL Executive Order 20-91, "Safer at Home") remains in effect.

All current Public Use Facilities (CDC, gyms, DFACs, etc.) limitations remain in effect.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, combined 96 Test Wing/53rd Wing Flyover of two F-15s and two F-16s flew over four area hospitals to honor medical personnel and first responders.

Also on May 14<sup>th</sup>, an F-22 from 325 Fighter Wing, 43rd Fighter Squadron crashed at approximately 0915 AM on Eglin Range during training sortie. The pilot ejected and unharmed.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, an F-35 from 33 Fighter Wing crashed during landing at approximately 2130 PM on Eglin during training sortie. The pilot ejected and is unharmed.

DSI is in contact with Oceana to protect the Military Mission Line as a meeting is scheduled for May 27th. Intended result is to be proactive on OPED articles rather than reactive.

**Representative Mel Ponder** reported that he was at the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center the day of the flyover and the hospital CEO and many of the frontline medical staff who could come out were very encouraged.

The community recently held a town hall attended by about 50 people, led by Nathan Sparks from the Economic Development Council, to share ideas between the community and the military leadership regarding COVID, including results and impacts, prospective needs and next steps. The leaders who participated noted items to watch are impacts on future budgets for local municipalities and school systems, concerns for overwhelming the moving industry once PCS orders are lifted, childcare needs, lodging facility needs, re-employment opportunities, future assistance opportunities and business apprenticeships opportunities.

**Major General Richard Haddad** reported that members from the MC-130J Commando II assigned to the 67th Special Operations Squadron, CV-22B Osprey assigned to the 7th Special Operation Squadron and Special Tactics Airmen from the 321st Special Tactics Squadron conducted an airborne operation in April over the North Sea to test and evaluate three core mission sets: global access, precision strike and personnel recovery.

The Air Force will test a 60-kilowatt laser on an AC-130J gunship in 2022. The weapon won't be powerful enough to kill, but it will give the gunship less than lethal options for dealing with enemies on the ground. The AC-130J still has plenty of offensive firepower including 30-millimeter guns and an onboard howitzer.

According to General Stephen Wilson, Air Force Vice Chief, the Air Force is monitoring the Mission Capable rates which are increasing despite pandemic and contrary to most opinions. They will continue to monitor.

**Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** reported that the FBI has released its final report on the shooting at NAS Pensacola last December. They found the assailant had been in contact with Al Qaeda since 2012. Senator Rick Scott is reviewing the training for foreign nationals who come to train in the U.S. as this is a sensitive issue that has to do not only with training but also the sale of equipment to foreign countries.

At NAS Whiting Field, Leonardo has survived a protest on their contract to provide new training helicopters for the Navy. This is a great win for the Navy and for Santa Rosa County.

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** reported that this summer will also bring command changes to MacDill AFB as their Wing Commander, Colonel Steve Snelson, will be going to Andrews AFB and has relinquished command to the Vice Commander Benjamin Robins as the new Commander will not arrive until late summer.

MacDill AFB has recently broken ground on a new KC-135 simulator bay, a \$3 million project.

He continues to track the DHA right sizing, active-duty only proposal for healthcare (affecting facilities at MacDill AFB, Patrick AFB and SOUTHCOM in Florida) noting that he's heard from the Wing Commander that due to COVID, this proposal has been placed on hold for two years. He implored **Representative Thad Altman** to check with the leadership at Patrick AFB to see if they'd heard the same.

**Roger Williams** briefed on behalf of **Major General James Eifert**, providing a Florida National Guard (FLNG) Update.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE:** The Florida National Guard currently has approximately **2,200 Soldiers and Airmen** mobilized across the State supporting **110 Active Missions** as part of Florida's COVID-19 response effort. Their major mission sets include:

- Operating **29 Community Base Test Sites** | Administered approximately **200,000 Test**
- Operating **13 Mobile Testing Teams** | Administered approximately **34,400 Tests** | at **331 Locations**
- Supporting **7 Airport Screening Operations**
- Providing **Medical Professionals** to the **Miami Beach Convention Center Alternate Care Facility**
- Operating **5 Food Distribution Sites**
- Supporting **State Logistics Resource Center** and **Logistic Staging Area** operations
- Supporting multiple State and County **Operations, Planning and Liaison** requirements

**MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT UPDATE:** The Florida National Guard currently has **506** (477 Army & 29 Air) **Servicemembers** representing five organizations deployed globally, supporting our nations National Defense Strategy. Additionally, their mobilization pipeline continues to grow with **10 Organizations** consisting of approximately **737 Servicemembers** scheduled for deployment throughout the remainder of this year. As part of those scheduled deployments, they will provide assets to the Department of Homeland Security in support of the Southwest Border mission.

**ORGANIZATION OPTEMPO UPDATE:** As with their federal and state counterparts, they continue to implement a phased approach in returning to normal "Steady State" operations. Their Soldiers, Airmen and Civilian employees have served admirably during these challenging times to ensure they have remained responsive in their state responsibilities, prepared to support their federal responsibilities, and efficient in maintaining their daily operational responsibilities, all while ensuring they maintain a safe operational environment through maintaining established mitigation guidelines.

**FACILITIES BRIEFING UPDATE:** Major General Eifert looks forward to rescheduling his facilities presentation soon and having the opportunity to share our current infrastructure challenges and future vision for facilities improvement, unit location realignment and organizational growth.

**Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** thanked the Florida National Guard for their hard work and efforts across the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**RADM Stan Bozin** reported that the Navy has continued their training and operational events during the COVID-19 pandemic, although many personnel are telecommuting, it has not impacted the overall operational status of the bases.

VUP-19, the squadron that flies the TRITON, is doing early operation capability on the west coast, moving forward and hoping for good results. Operational capability will be in 2022 or 2023.

Some good news is that the City of Jacksonville last week closed on the first 100 acres of their encroachment project. This is a five-year deal.

**Representative Holly Raschein** reported that this Saturday the Makos from the 482<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing will be doing a flyover over 34 South Florida hospitals. This will be a wonderful event as everyone will be watching from their boats.

**Representative Thad Altman** reported that he will contact Patrick AFB and investigate the issue brought up by **Brigadier General Chip Diehl**.

Last week the U.S. Space Force had a successful launch as they launched the X37B space plane into orbit from Cape Canaveral AFS.

On May 27th, SpaceX will launch the first humans into space from American soil since 2011 on their Falcon 9 rocket. This will be an historic launch as it will mark the first-time humans will be launched into space by a commercial company.

*Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update*

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair**, discussed the FDA meeting from the day prior. The first presenter was from Space Florida to give us an update on new criteria for the Space Force Headquarters basing and how local communities could participate.

Next there were presentations from two panels. The first panel was a Cyber Panel and was moderated by **Tim Jones** of the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance. They heard about different cyber programs across the state. The National Center of Simulation shared their Cyber programs and how modeling and simulation saves time, money and lives. Space Florida updated us on cyber assets around the state and how their short-term and long-term goals will grow cyber assets. They heard about UWF and Tampa Bay Defense Alliance's partnership to address the security clearance timeline and how UWF is working to have students begin the process while they are still in school. DEO provided an update on the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment for Cybersecurity Training and Awareness Program. This will be key for defense contractors and lawyers/accountants/vendors who work with military installations and defense contractors.

The second panel was on Resiliency and Encroachment which was moderated by **Rick Miller** of the South Florida Defense Alliance. They heard from Whiting Field and their DCIP wastewater project proposal. This is a shovel ready project with the appropriate matching funds. The presentation on Bugg Spring informed us of the importance of the Bugg Spring facility to national security. The next presentation showed how the partnership works to address encroachment challenges between Navy Region Southeast and the landowners around the Pinecastle Range. This also featured how they leverage state funds with federal funds to accomplish their encroachment program. The final presentation was from the Coast Guard 7<sup>th</sup> District – Miami discussing the encroachment challenges they are facing with development from tall condos next to their facilities. The sightline from the condos over the Coast Guard facilities is a national security issue. During the session from around the state, communities were asking for assistance from the state with local governments that go ahead

with developments after the installations have voiced their concerns that the developments will impede their missions or are a national security concern.

The University of Central Florida presented information on the National Security Innovation Network Program – Hacking for Defense (H4D). This is a semester long course at top tier research universities. This is where DOD leaders have opportunity to collaborate with talented students' teams to develop innovative solutions.

**Liz Miller** with DEO provided an update on the DRG and DIG grant programs. The total need for DIG grants is \$4.4 million with approximately \$2 million awarded last year.

Finally, the communities have pivoted on how they are doing their meetings and communications to address the needs, challenges and opportunities for their military installations, missions and people. The partnerships are important as they move forward. State programs like Florida Forever, Non-Conservation Lands, Family Farms and Rural Lands, Florida Defense Task Force Grants, Florida Defense Infrastructure Grant programs are leveraged with federal dollars to make a difference in retaining and protecting our military installations and missions. There is currently one Sentinel Landscape Designation in the state and hopefully, there will have two more in the coming years where additional funds can be leveraged from other agencies.

The next FDA conference call meeting will be on June 17, 2020 at 9:30 AM EDT, focusing on family support.

#### *Washington Office Update*

**Katherine Anne Russo** reported that Congress has mainly focused on the COVID-19 pandemic since mid-March as they have passed several economic stimulus packages into law. Recently the House passed a partisan \$3 trillion package called the HEROES Act last week, but it will not become law as Senate leadership and the administration would like to wait and see the impact of the previously passed packages. It could be several weeks before movement is made on another COVID-19 package.

The House has not been in regular Session as they've only returned to Washington, DC for several COVID-19-related floor votes since mid-March. The Senate is back in Session with limited staff, focusing largely on nominations. The Senate Armed Services Committee has voted to advance the nomination of the next Navy Secretary this week, among other nominations.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Congressman Richard Shelby expects to send the Committee Chairman their official allocations for the FY 2020-2021 spending bill as the Senate returns from the Memorial Day break. The Committee has anticipated marking up ten of the twelve annual spending bills. The markup will likely start the third week of June.

Homeland Security and MILCON VA spending bills are unlikely to advance out of Committee due to remaining concerns on border wall construction.

Total defense funding is expected to increase by \$2.5 billion.

Regarding the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the Senate is expected to begin markup on June 8<sup>th</sup> and the House Chairman has indicated that he wants to move in concert with the Senate. The goal is to bring the bill to the floor before the July 4<sup>th</sup> recess.

Last week, the Air Force released its new process for deciding the location of the U.S. Space Command Headquarters. Those nominations are due by June 30<sup>th</sup> and require the Governor's endorsement. A decision will not be made officially by the Air Force until after the election, potentially in January of next year.

She has been working with Beth Medina on a focused plan to address the issue of the Gulf Range Moratorium in this Congress and will have more to share soon.

## *Military & Defense Update*

**Beth Medina** discussed that Staff is focused on the following:

- They are working with several organizations and with Florida's Washington, DC office on a way forward on the Gulf Range Legislation.
- They are in support of Space Florida and are working closely with them as communities self-nominate and are supporting their competition against criteria for military support.
- They are working with the Dept of Veterans Affairs on the Governor's Suicide Prevention Challenge and developing a statewide strategic plan, looking at some programs already in place in Tampa and Jacksonville.
- They shared the announcement of the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) implementation for which there is \$50 million available this year from DoD. They are aware of many military communities who intend to apply for this grant which goes along with the need to integrate every aspect and avenue of funding for our military communities.
- They continue to work on the strategic plan to lay out a clear roadmap for our volunteer members, military installations, the TF to clearly show how they'll achieve the overall state and Governor's goals. This plan will be very transparent and work to ensure the public is aware of the importance of the military.
- The video marketing campaign will be kicking off soon as it's been on hold with the COVID-19 response. A film crew will be reaching out to the installations to film short, impactful, intense videos capturing the missions and readiness our military installations, as well as show the nature of the integrated military communities across the state.

### IV. Agenda Item IV: FY 2019 - 2020 Out-of-Cycle Grant Application Presentations

Grant presentations were made by:

- Florida Department of Military Affairs, requesting \$200,000 for the acquisition of 70-acres of former Homestead Air Reserve Base property from Miami-Dade County
- Bay County Board of County Commissioners, requesting \$420,000 for a Bay County Infrastructure Assessment supporting Tyndall Air Force Base
- City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department, requesting \$500,000 for encroachment protection/compatible land use for NS Mayport, NAS Jacksonville and OLF Whitehouse

Presentations can be seen on the [Florida Defense Support Task Force website](#).

### V. Agenda Item V: Public Comment

**Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance**, commented regarding the Florida Department of Military Affairs grant proposal in Homestead and offered that this project is supported and viewed very favorably by County Commissioners and local officials.

*The meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM EDT*

*The meeting reconvened at 1:00 PM EDT*

VI. Agenda Item VI: Voting on Grant Proposals

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Senator Doug Broxson** asked for a motion to approve the funding of the FY 2019-2020 Out-Of-Cycle grants listed below. A motion was made by **Rear Admiral Stan Bozin**, who moved that the Florida Defense Support Task Force award the Florida Department of Military Affairs, Bay County Board of County Commissioners, and the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department a total of \$722,400.00 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The motion was seconded by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, all are in favor and the funding is approved.*

*The TF voted to award the following grant requests:*

- *Florida Department of Military Affairs for \$129,000*
- *Bay County Board of County Commissioners for \$270,900*
- *City of Jacksonville for \$322,500*
- **Total Grant Money Awarded is \$722,400**

*The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM EDT*

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #85 on Thursday, July 16, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) held a publicly noticed meeting via Conference Call at 09:04 AM EDT – 11:15 AM EDT. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Representative Thad Altman, Chairman  
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)  
Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)  
Representative Mel Ponder  
Representative Holly Raschein  
Senator Tom Wright

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret.)

#### **Speakers Present:**

Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Jim Kuzma, Space Florida  
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)

#### **Others Present:**

Katie Allen, Bay Defense Alliance  
Chad Allison, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)  
Bryan Ayers, Marine Corps Installations East, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina  
Jim Breitenfeld, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Cindy Brown, Florida Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space  
Eli Converse, Office of Senator Tom Wright  
Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast  
Brooke Gilbert, Bay Defense Alliance  
Debi Graham, West Florida Defense Alliance  
Paul Hirsch, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast  
Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Buck MacLaughlin, Avon Park Air Force Range  
Elizabeth May, Society of American Military Engineers  
Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast  
Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance  
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance  
Steve Murray, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA)  
Jennifer Renner, Florida House Veteran and Military Affairs Subcommittee  
Andre Samuel, Enterprise Florida, Inc.  
Roger Williams, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
The Florida Channel



**Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI

Ray Collins, Executive Director, FDSTF

Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, FDSTF

Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #85  
Conference Call / WebEX  
AGENDA for July 16, 2020**

<b>CALL-IN NUMBER:</b>	<b>888.585.9008</b>
<b>CONFERENCE ROOM:</b>	<b>262-492-927</b>

<b>KEY:</b> <i>(I) = Information</i> <i>(D) = Discussion</i> <i>(A) = Action</i>
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- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 9:05 – 9:10 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
  - Budget Update Marcy Sanders **(I)**
- 9:10 – 10:20 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:10-10:00 TF Member Reports
  - 10:00-10:05 Florida Defense Alliance Update Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - 10:05-10:10 Washington Office Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - 10:10-10:30 Space Command Update Jim Kuzma **(I) / (D)**
  - 10:30-10:40 Aerospace and Defense Online Platform Liz Miller **(I)**
  - 10:40-10:45 Legislative Update Ray Collins **(I)**
  - 10:45-10:50 Proposed Task Force Meeting Schedule 2020-2021 Ray Collins **(I) / (D)**
  - 10:50-10:55 Task Force Strategic Plan Update Ray Collins **(I) / (D)**
  - 10:55-11:05 Mil & Def Update Beth Medina **(I)**
- 11:05 – 11:15 Public Comment..... Chairman
- 11:25 – 1:00 CLOSED SESSION..... Chairman **(D)**

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

September 17, 2020 Tallahassee   FDA	August 20, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
November 19, 2020 Orlando / PEOSTRI   FDA	October 15, 2020	Conf Call/Webex
	December 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>

**Ray Collins**, Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF), *began the meeting at 09:04 AM EDT.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions

**Ray Collins** welcomed attendees and guests, proceeded with roll call then turned the meeting over to **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman**. **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** noted that that this was a special day as the Apollo 11 blasted off 51 years ago on this day. He next thanked former TF Chairman **Senator Doug Broxson** for all of his hard work and contributions as Chair and reminded the TF and guests that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law. He also noted an addition to the agenda as Staff will provide information on the Draper Centrifuge project after the Aerospace and Defense Online Platform presentation.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of the Minutes*

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for any corrections to the May 21, 2020 minutes. Noting none, a motion was made by **CAPT Keith Hoskins** to approve the minutes, seconded by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, all are in favor and the May 21, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.*

*Task Force Grants & Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** briefed that this report includes the third quarter reports as fourth quarter reports are due this week and will be reflected on next month's grants report. The contracts approved for year-end have all been executed and have been included for review. Reports for these grants will not be included until after the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021.

She reported on the Kennetic Productions, Inc. contract noting that the first video from NAS Jacksonville has been completed with others soon to follow.

*Budget Update*

**Marcy Sanders** discussed that at the end of FY 2019-2020 the TF encumbered \$1,980,463.14, leaving \$19,536.86 unencumbered. Staff is currently working with EFI accounting and contracting to clarify what portion of that number should be encumbered under the salaries and benefits program and will report back next month on those findings.

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

*Task Force Member Reports*

**RADM Stan Bozin** reported that both NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport continue their missions during the COVID-19 crisis as three ships have recently returned from deployment. NAS Jacksonville is supporting the Carrier Airborne Warning Squadron 120 operating in the local area so there are increased flight operations that are currently ongoing.

NAS Jacksonville expects to provide support for the Republican National Convention. To what extent is currently unknown.

Cecil Field's 10-year lease major land acquisition waiver was approved by the General Services Administration which will allow the Fleet Readiness Center SE from NAS Jacksonville to move some of their inventory over to their 288,000 square foot hangar facility to allow for necessary improvements at NAS Jacksonville and keep it a viable, long-term facility for the Navy.

Many MILCON projects at NS Mayport are ongoing and have not met with any delays due to the pandemic.

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** reported that MacDill AFB is locked down during COVID-19, is checking all entrants at the gate and enforcing masks while on base. Their Wing Commander has left to take over at Andrews AFB and the Vice Commander has stepped into that role until the end of August when the new Wing Commander will arrive.

The Air Force Chief of Staff is changing command on August 6<sup>th</sup> as General David L. Goldfein is being replaced by General Charles Q. Brown, which is exciting as General Brown is a Tampa native and good to know they have an ally in Washington, DC.

Tampa's two local VA Hospitals have just announced they are cancelling all routine appointments through the end of this year. Check the hospitals in your area to see if they are implementing the same policy.

**MG James Eifert** provided a Florida National Guard update:

**COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE:** The Florida National Guard currently has approximately **1,350 Soldiers and Airmen** mobilized across the State supporting **43 Active Missions** as part of Florida's COVID-19 response effort. Our Major mission sets include:

- Operating **28 Community Base Test Sites** | Administering **780,339** test to date
- Supporting **State Logistics Resource Center** and a **Logistical Staging Area**
- Supporting multiple State and County **Operations, Planning and Liaison** responsibilities

**MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT UPDATE:** The Florida National Guard currently has **427** (397 Army & 30 Air) **Servicemembers** representing five organizations deployed globally, supporting our nations National Defense Strategy. Additionally, our mobilization pipeline identifies **11 Organizations** consisting of approximately **866 Servicemembers** scheduled for deployment throughout the remainder of this calendar year.

**REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION PREPARATION:** The Florida National Guard continues to working with federal, state and local authorities in preparation to provide two to three thousand mission-specific personnel and appropriate equipment resources in support of Republican National Convention activities being held in Jacksonville, 24-28 August.

#### **FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:**

- **114<sup>th</sup> Space Control Squadron Ribbon Cutting.** The Florida Air National Guard, 114<sup>th</sup> Space Control Squadron, located at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, has recently occupied their new \$7.1 million facility. We are currently planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony for 21 August to celebrate the new facility.
- **HQ FLANG, Detachment 2 (CV-22) Reorganization.** The Florida Air National Guard, Detachment 2 (CV-22) unit, located at Hurlburt Field, will transition to the 249<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron in support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operation Wing, effective 1 August. We are currently planning an activation ceremony for 28 August to recognize the historic event.
- **Space National Guard Component.** We continue to advocate, at all levels, for the establishment of a Space National Guard component to ensure effective command, control and communication for our Florida Air National Guard Space assets. We encourage your support in this initiative.

#### **FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:**

- **Panama City Armory Construction Funding.** The Florida Army National Guard, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Cavalry Squadron, located in Panama City, has secured matching state funds to support the construction of a new Armory. Their previous facility was destroyed beyond repair by Hurricane Michael.

- **Homestead Air Reserve Base.** Florida National Guard leadership continues to work with Miami-Dade County and Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) leadership to finalize the transition of a 74-acre plot of land that FDSTF provided a grant for security fencing.

**Mr. Tom Neubauer** discussed that both Tyndall AFB and NSA Panama City continue to be on full lockdown with full telework in response to COVID-19 however work is ongoing. NSA Panama City will attempt a 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in September.

Last week was the final public hearing for the draft Environment Impact Statement for the Tyndall AFB rebuild which will authorize up to four squadrons of F-35s and an MQ-9 Wing. The public comment closure date is on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and they expect a decision by January 2021 which will free up all the MILCON for construction for mission-specific projects.

The new Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force is JoAnne Bass, who is the first woman in history to serve as the highest-ranking non-commissioned member of any military service.

**Colonel Jim Heald** reported that Eglin AFB is heavily into the summer change of command cycle with lots of squadron and group commanders changing already. Just to name some of the Colonels: 96 Operations Group Commander is now Colonel Doug Crevision; 96 Medical Operations Squadron Commander is Colonel Michelle Anton, 96 Cyberspace Test Group Commander is Colonel Mike Dooley, and the 96 Mission Support Group Commander is Colonel Ken Black. So far, they have only been able to do virtual welcomes, but hope to do face-to-face in the fall.

33FW had their 24<sup>th</sup> Khobar Towers Memorial Ceremony on June 25<sup>th</sup> to remember the 19 Air Force members (12 Nomads) who died in Saudi Arabia during Southern Watch when a truck was blown up outside of their high-rise apartment building on June 25, 1996.

COVID-19 Response: Brigadier General Cain decided to revert to a mission essential posture with maximum telework on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> due to the spikes in COVID-19 cases in Florida. He really is stressing that the base is in good shape but needs help from the community to implement similar measures. His people are expressing concern the general public does not take the COVID-19 threat as seriously as the base does. Some good news, the Air Force has allowed Squadron Commanders to make the decision on vacation travel approval to allow Air Force members to travel now (with restrictions). Finally, the most recent of the weekly messages reminds us that the disease is preventable if you are conscientious in doing several simple things: wash your hands thoroughly and often, wear masks, social distance to a minimum of 6 feet, and gather only in small groups. Again, the community needs to help.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Intrepid Spirit Center opened in its new facility built with a grant from the Fisher Foundation. Previously, the Invisible Wounds Center had opened in temporary facilities. The official ceremonial grand opening is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the first facility on an Air Force Base and one of ten nationwide.

As part of the Air Force review of racial disparity feelings, Brigadier General Cain and staff have been conducting open discussions with his workforce. Efforts were underway to get voluntary participation in the IG face-to-face interviews conducted yesterday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, at Eglin AFB by the IG. Goal was to talk not only about any perceived racial disparity, but also about personal thoughts on potential solutions.

And the test mission does go on. Just a couple of test highlights:

- 53<sup>rd</sup> Wing now has the capability to fly a 4-ship of F-16Cs with the newest radars, the AESA APG-83. These new radars are derived from F-32 and F-35 radars and are very powerful.
- The newest Negative Pressure CONEX-Lite was approved for use in less than 90 days. It (and its full-scale cousin) can transport and isolate patients with highly infectious diseases. The larger model works in C-5s and C-17s; the Lite works in C-130s. From concept to full integration, testing, and certification took less than 90 days.

Finally, they will be receiving an update from Brigadier General Cain and the new 1 SOW Commander, Colonel Jocelyn Schermerhorn, at a virtual EDC Business Leadership Council Meeting this afternoon.

**CAPT Keith Hoskins** briefed that last week NAS Pensacola's Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) held their change of command and retirement as Rear Admiral Kyle Cozad retired after serving in the U.S. Navy for 35 years. He is replaced by Rear Admiral Peter Garvin, who is the 20<sup>th</sup> Commander of NETC.

Pensacola is one of the eight communities in the state that met the minimum requirements for Space Command Headquarters and has the recommendation of the Governor. They have assembled a group consisting of local leaders, stakeholders, elected officials, economic development leaders, military leaders and representatives from the West Florida Defense Alliance to begin building their strategy moving forward.

NAS Whiting Field continues to buffer land around their outlying fields and main base. These efforts are ongoing as they've had tremendous progress in their continued efforts to enhance mission sustainment.

The West Florida Defense Alliance has been watching the Congressional Committees as they markup budgets and the lines of funding are not promising for the cyber missions on Corry Station. Any support would be greatly appreciated.

**Senator Tom Wright** remarked that he's honored to be a part of the TF, is looking forward to working with everyone and being an integral part in the Legislature with Chair Altman. He is available for anyone who needs his help and is looking forward to learning how he can support the mission of the TF.

**Major General Richard Haddad** reported AFSOC continues to deal with issues derived from COVID-19.

1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Wing Commander, Colonel Jocelyn Schermerhorn, is not only the first female commander but the first non-pilot as she is a navigator/combat systems officer.

Staff continues to engage on race relations to better understand the issues of the past and deal with the challenges of the future.

At SOCOM, the SEALs are testing their first dry combat submersible and are also looking to ensure that artificial intelligence is incorporated in all requirements. The Special Operations Commander has said that coders are needed, that operators are no longer the most important part of their missions and emphasized the need of cyber operations.

Avon Park Air Force Range has been closed to all but mission essential requirements since the COVID-19 outbreak. The only training during the early part of this year was F-16s out of Homestead ARB and AC-130s out of Hurlburt Field. Operations have increased during the last month.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> APAFR held a virtual change of command as Lieutenant Colonel Steve Thomas took command from Lieutenant Colonel Dale Stark who joined the air combat command staff. In conjunction with the virtual change of command, the Airfield opened for the first time after a year of renovations at a cost of \$10 million. This week HH-60 Pave Hawks from the 41<sup>st</sup> Rescue Squadron are practicing their combat search and rescue operations and next week the 75<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron of A-10s will be practicing agile combat operations.

**Representative Mel Ponder** reported that the Tri-County Partnership in Okaloosa County signed an MOU for Eglin AFB's west gate redesign and has selected HGR for engineering work on that gate.

Colonel Connor, Commander of the Hurlburt Civil Engineering Squadron, reached out to the Tri-County Partnership community leaders to request assistance with energy resiliency and a resiliency work group has since engaged to address this issue.

The Tri-County Partnership leadership is considering standing up a new work group to address military personnel resiliency focusing on suicide, COVID-19, veteran care, etc.

**Colonel Jim Heald** and General Gordon Fornell, partnering with Oceana, remain heavily involved with the Military Mission Line.

**Representative Holly Raschein** reported that she stands ready to help MG Eifert and the NG with the Blackhawk project. She has been working with Miami-Dade Mayor Jimenez and Larry Ventura from Homestead ARB, but with the surge of COVID-19 in Miami-Dade County, projects have been placed on hold.

She has been recruited by the U.S. Army to be directly commissioned into the Civil Affairs branch as a Captain. She is currently training and obtaining security and medical clearances and is honored to have been selected.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** reported that this TF meeting was supposed to be held in Cocoa Beach on the Space Coast and that he would love the opportunity to host any TF Members at any time to show the exciting programs currently happening in his community. He is excited about all the goings on in relation to space such as the programs at NOTU, Northrup Grumman and the Omega rocket, DLA and the Atlas 5, SpaceX and launch pad 39B where Apollo 11 took off 51 years ago.

The KSC Visitors Center is now open but numbers are down as people are wary of traveling. This time of year, visitors should reach the 5,000 to 7,000 per day range but are close to 400-500 daily, with higher numbers on launch days. The Center is taking precautions such as taking temperatures, requiring masks and having limited tours.

#### *Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update*

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair**, discussed that the FDA's Strategic Plan has been finalized and Staff is working on the final approval. The mission and vision statements have both been updated and will require some Legislative action as we move closer to session. This plan is strategically focused and goals have been narrowed down to make the most impact. They look forward to sharing as soon as it's approved.

FDA will soon have a new Family Support Working Group (FSWG) Chair. They will make the announcement once all recommendations and approvals have been finalized. They are creating a coordinating committee to assist the FSWG Chair as family issues have become so prevalent they feel they need to provide additional support for the Chair.

They are looking forward to seeing the installations' videos as they are completed as they continue to work on telling Florida's military story.

Mission sustainment continues to be a main focus as they are always looking at those issues ranging from resiliency on utilities, climate change and rising seas. Mission sustainment is part of their Strategic Plan, as well.

As they moved away from the focus on BRAC, the Strategic Plan is now focused on mission sustainment, resiliency, family support. It's important to communicate with each other and be innovative and forward thinking in looking ahead, knowing what is happening at DoD and in Washington, DC to be proactive instead of reactive.

#### *Space Command Update*

**Jim Kuzma, Space Florida**, provided a presentation on the U.S. Space Command headquarters basing announcing the eight Florida cities who have met the requirements as set by the Air Force and have been endorsed by Governor DeSantis:

- City of Jacksonville
- City of Pensacola
- Hillsborough County – Tampa
- Miami-Dade County
- Orange County
- Palm Bay – Melbourne – Titusville
- Pinellas County

- Seminole County

Candidate locations should be announced by November 2020. The entire presentation can be seen [HERE](#).

#### *Aerospace and Defense Online Platform Update*

**Liz Miller, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)**, apologized that she cannot give an update on the Aerospace and Defense Online Platform as it is currently out in open procurement and she's been assigned to participate on the evaluation team, so she cannot comment on it until the procurement has closed.

She announced that DEO was recently awarded a grant from DoD through the Office of Economic Adjustment to roll out a cyber security training awareness program across the state of Florida. The kickoff meeting for this program will be held virtually in September. Please reach out to Liz if you are interested in participating in this program.

The DIG and DRG grants awarded through DEO are currently under leadership review, then will go to the Governor's office for their recommendations. Once the Governor's office has completed their review the awards will be announced.

#### *Draper Centrifuge Project Presentation*

**Ray Collins** briefed on the Draper Centrifuge Project sent out via email to the TF via email earlier this week. Draper is an organization which runs the only centrifuge in the U.S. capable of testing rocket and missile electronics. That facility is currently in Massachusetts (near Hanscom AFB and MIT) but is 70 years old and in need of replacement. Draper wants to build the replacement facility on the Space Coast on land Space Florida is helping them get in their Exploration Park. They are asking the U.S. Economic Development Administration for a grant to cover part of the cost of the construction and are looking for letters of support from state and local entities endorsing this project as being good for national defense and good for the state. To that end, they are asking for a letter of support from the TF. They also confirmed that they are not asking for a grant or any other sort of financial support from the TF, just endorsement that this is a good idea.

The Staff has discussed this, and we've also described it to members of the TF with whom we've talked since we learned of this and we see only benefits to doing this, no downside. We've drafted a letter of support for the project and if unanimously supported by the TF, Staff will send it out immediately.

**Ray Collins** will contact all TF members not present at today's meeting to confirm their support of this project, in order identify unanimous support by the TF in the drafted letter.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to send out a letter in support of the Draper Centrifuge project from the TF once Staff has contacted all TF members not present at today's meeting to ensure unanimous or majority support. A motion was made by **Senator Tom Wright**, seconded by **RADM Stan Bozin**, all are in favor and the motion is approved.*

*Legislative Update*

**Ray Collins** updated on some 2020 military friendly legislation:

**CS/HB 197** – The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (signed June 20, 2020; took effect July 1, 2020): This law amends F.S. 39.01, adding the provision that the absence of a service member due to a deployment or anticipated deployment may not be considered as abandonment or used as a factor in making such a determination.

**CS/HB 171** – Postsecondary Education for Certain Military Personnel (signed June 23, 2020; took effect upon signing): This act amends F.S. 1004.096 requiring the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to adopt a uniform set of rules to award academic credit for college degrees and technical training certification based on service members' and veterans' prior military training and experience.



**CS/CS/CS/SB 662** – Education and the Military (signed June 23, 2020; took effect July 1, 2020): This law amends F.S. 1003.05, changing the provision that military parents with a set of Permanent Change of Station orders may enroll their children in schools in the district where the installation was located, to broaden that to allow them to enroll their children in any school district as long as they have orders to a military installation within the state. The bill also adds the provision that beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Junior ROTC credit for students will be an additional factor considered by the Department of Education when calculating school grades.

**CS/CS/HB 205** – Unlawful Use of Uniforms, Medals, or Insignia (signed June 23, 2020; takes effect October 1, 2020): This act amends F.S. 817.312 adding the provision to an existing law on stolen valor that misusing a military uniform or decorations for the purposes of obtaining employment or seeking election to a paid public office is now a violation of law.

**CS/CS/HB 1249** – Transfer of Tax Exemption for Veterans (signed June 29, 2020; took effect July 1, 2020): This act amends F.S. 196.011 adding the provision to an existing law requiring that veterans or their surviving spouses who are entitled to receive ad valorem exemptions on property taxes for one property, may receive a pro-rated reimbursement of taxes paid on any property they buy between January 1 and November 1 of any year.

**HB 1193** – The Occupational Freedom and Opportunity Act (signed June 30, 2020; took effect July 1, 2020): This is a wide-ranging act that amends the licensing requirements for numerous trades and professions. One specifically military and veteran focused provision amends F.S. 322.57 and requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to waive the CDL skills test for honorably discharged veterans whose Military Occupational Specialties were equivalent to a commercial vehicle driver and who have been discharged from the military within the past year. There are many other licensing changes that might also benefit specific military servicemembers, veterans or family members, but those changes are not military or veteran focused.

*Proposed Task Force Meeting Schedule 2020-2021*

**Ray Collins** provided a draft outline of TF meeting dates for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021, to be held on the third Thursday of each month:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
July 16, 2020	Conference Call	
August 20, 2020	Conference Call	
September 17, 2020	Tallahassee	<b>FDA / State Stakeholders</b>
October 15, 2020	Conference call	
November 19, 2020	Orlando	PEO STRI / <b>FDA</b>
December 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>	
January 21, 2021	Panama City Beach	NSA Panama City
February 18, 2021	Conference Call	
March 18, 2021	Tallahassee	<i>Session</i>
April 15, 2021	Conference call	
May 20, 2021	Tallahassee	<i>Session / Grants / FDA</i>
June 2021	<b>NO MEETING</b>	

*Task Force Strategic Plan Update*

**Ray Collins** updated that he's been having closed session working groups with TF members to edit the Strategic Plan. The first paragraph was completed two weeks ago, the second paragraph will be edited in today's closed session and the third paragraph will be worked on in an upcoming session. Once editing has been finalized the Strategic Plan will be reviewed by EFI leadership and will be released upon approval.

## *Military & Defense Update*

**Beth Medina** discussed that Staff is working on the following:

The FDA Strategic Plan is in its final draft and moving through the approval process. This Plan will become part of what becomes a contract with DEO, supporting clear deliverables and the Governor's three priorities.

Regarding the Gulf Range protection legislation, there are amendments proposed in the Senate's version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Staff just received an update from Oceana that the letter submitted by **Colonel Jim Heald** and **General Gordon Fornell** for DSI members and the letter that military retirees signed onto was shared, is in an article today and will be in our newsfeed. Please feel free to share those items as our team is getting better about engaging the network and sharing information and activities.

Staff is creating a Gulf Range web page that is in the final steps of approval. It will feature studies, Oceana materials, the congressional budget office analyses, current legislation, letters and templates used by the DSI and other ways to help. This will be an open site to share across all communities.

Regarding the Space Command Headquarters, we are waiting for the questionnaires from the Air Force to the approved communities to be received and expect that the communities will be the first to let us know they've gotten them. Please let Staff know if we can help in any way. She shared that Space Florida legislative representatives believe that Florida has the reputation of being on the same page for military and defense, with regards to the Space Command Headquarters and we want to stay on that same page, sharing information with the videos and letters. We want to support every single community as we keep Florida the most military friendly and supportive state and a great location for any mission.

The videos for NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport have been completed and production team is ready to travel to Blount Island and Camp Blanding so we should have those ready to share in the next few weeks. Please let us know if you have questions from your local communities or bases.

Some small wins in respect to the critical Gulf Range issue include:

- DEO's cyber training grant
- An MOU will soon be signed between the FDA and the Florida System of State Universities and Colleges and the National Security Innovation Network which will establish a unique talent pipeline between Florida's universities which have graduate programs with students who want to experience the defense industry and work on military bases. We hope to have this MOU approved for the coming school year and have military mentors from bases and the defense industry who identify projects for grad students in cyber or any number of technical programs, for students to apprentice or intern in the defense industry or on bases and keep these brilliant minds working in Florida for the growth expected in the future.

IV. Agenda Item IV: Agenda Item V: Public Comment

No public comments were made during this meeting.

*The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM EDT*

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #86 on Thursday, August 20, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) held a publicly noticed meeting via Conference Call at 09:00 AM EDT – 11:10 AM EDT. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Representative Thad Altman, Chairman  
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)  
Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret.)  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc.  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)  
Representative Holly Raschein  
Senator Tom Wright

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida  
Representative Mel Ponder

#### **Speakers Present:**

Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Katherine Anne Russo, Florida's Washington, DC Office  
Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife

#### **Others Present:**

Marc Adler, Chief of Staff, Enterprise Florida, Inc.  
Katie Allen, Bay Defense Alliance  
Chad Allison, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)  
Bryan Ayers, Marine Corps Installations East, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina  
Jim Breitenfeld, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Eli Converse, Office of Senator Tom Wright  
Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast  
Kathleen Ferguson, The Roosevelt Group  
Jeff Fritz  
Debi Graham, West Florida Defense Alliance  
Sarah Hayenga, Homestead Air Reserve Base  
Paul Hirsch, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast  
Lt Col Jason Hunt, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Wayne Justice, Canaveral Port Authority  
Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast  
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance  
David Park, Venture Capital CA  
Jena Saul, Leslie Saul & Associates  
Jamal Sowell, Secretary of Commerce, President & CEO, Enterprise Florida, Inc.  
The Florida Channel

**Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI

Ray Collins, Executive Director, FDSTF

Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, FDSTF

Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #86  
Conference Call / ZOOM  
AGENDA for August 20, 2020**

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 850 298 6640**  
**PASSCODE: Aug@20**  
**OR**  
**DIAL IN #: (646) 558 8656**  
**PASSCODE: 046252**

**KEY:**  
*(I) = Information*  
*(D) = Discussion*  
*(A) = Action*

- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 9:05 – 9:15 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
  - Proposed TF FY 2020-2021 Budget Marcy Sanders **(I) / (D)**
- 9:15 – 11:10 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:15-10:15 TF Member Reports
  - 10:15-10:25 Florida Defense Alliance Update Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - 10:25-10:35 Washington Office Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - 10:35-10:45 Gulf Range Way Forward Discussion Beth Medina **(I) / (D)**
  - 10:45-10:55 NW Florida Sentinel Landscape Update Kent Wimmer **(I)**
  - 10:55-11:00 Upcoming Task Force Activities and Meetings Ray Collins **(I)**
  - 11:00-11:10 Mil & Def Update Beth Medina **(I)**
- 11:10 – 11:25 Public Comment..... Chairman
- 11:25 Adjourn..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

September 17, 2020 Tallahassee   FDA	October 15, 2020 Conf Call/Zoom
November 19, 2020 Orlando / PEOSTRI   FDA	December 2020 <b>NO MEETING</b>
January 21, 2021 Panama City Beach   NSA Panama City	February 18, 2021 Conf Call/Zoom
March 18, 2021 Tallahassee ( <i>Session</i> )	April 15, 2021 Conf Call/Zoom ( <i>Session</i> )
May 20, 2021 Tallahassee   FDA ( <i>Session</i> )	June 2021 <b>NO MEETING</b>

**Ray Collins**, Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF), *began the meeting at 09:00 AM EDT.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions

**Ray Collins** welcomed attendees and guests, proceeded with roll call then turned the meeting over to **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman**. **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** noted that the meeting is being televised by The Florida Channel, gave a brief summary of the TF and its missions.

Staff showed a video from NAS Jacksonville which will be part of the upcoming video catalog of Florida's 20 military installations along with other topical and regional videos from around the State. **Major General Richard Haddad** added that these individual videos should include the importance of how each installation fits into our National Security.

**Ray Collins** reminded the TF and guests that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of the Minutes*

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for any corrections to the July 16, 2020 minutes. Noting none, a motion was made by **Senator Tom Wright** to approve the minutes, seconded by **Brigadier General Chip Diehl**, all are in favor and the July 16, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.*

*Task Force Grants & Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** briefed on a few of the current TF grants:

DTF #20-100, Military Child Education Coalition has been extended to July 31, 2021.

DTF #20-102, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast has been extended to October 31, 2021.

She discussed the grant applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021, reminding the TF that those presentations would have been heard and voted on in May but were delayed due to budget issues. Staff suggests hearing and voting on these grant applications at the September TF meeting. The applicants the TF chose to present are:

- Clay County Development Authority, asking for \$500,000
- Polk County, asking for 500,000
- Orlando Economic Partnership, asking for \$390,000
- South Florida Progress Foundation, asking for \$203,280
- Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners, asking for \$88,500
- **Total \$1,681,780**

Staff informed the TF that none of the above grants are time sensitive, can be back-dated and discussed that DEO has not yet announced the awards for FY2020-2021 Defense Infrastructure Grants (DIG) and Defense Reinvestment Grants (DRG). **Liz Miller** from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) added that the Governor's office should be announcing DIG and DRG grant awards in the next week to 10 days. She noted that DEO was required to reduce the total amounts awarded by 10%.

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** reminded the TF of the importance of funding military children's educational programs and asked that they continue to do so.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to hear the above grant application presentations at the September 2020 TF meeting. A motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, seconded by **Rear Admiral Stan Bozin**, all are in favor and the motion is passed.*

#### *Budget Update*

**Ray Collins** updated the TF on the guidance of their budget per Florida Statute 288.987 (7):

The department shall contract with the TF for expenditure of appropriated funds, which may be used by the TF for...

- economic and product research and development
- joint planning with host communities to accommodate military missions and prevent base encroachment
- advocacy on the state's behalf with federal civilian and military officials
- assistance to school districts in providing a smooth transition for large numbers of additional military-related students
- job training and placement for military spouses in communities with high proportions of active duty military personnel
- promotion of the state to military and related contractors and employers
- military spouse employment assistance and programs for military children

The TF may annually spend up to \$250,000 of funds appropriated to the department for the TF for staffing and administrative expenses of the TF, including travel and per diem costs incurred by TF members who are not otherwise eligible for state reimbursement.

Staff discussed the comparison of the final budget from FY 2019-2020 to the proposed budget of 2020-2021. In addition to the \$250,000 administrative allowance, the TF has remaining \$1,750,000 which will include expenses for analyses and studies, in-person meetings, printing of this year's Military Friendly Guide, out-of-cycle activities and this year's grant program. The TF does have the flexibility to make changes to this budget during the year, as they see fit.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to approve the FY 2020-2021 budget. A motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, seconded by **Colonel Jim Heald**, all are in favor and the budget is approved.*

### III. Agenda Item III: New Business

#### *Task Force Member Reports*

**Representative Holly Raschein** reported that South Florida is still working some MILCON projects and Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) is standing by and working with Miami-Dade County and the Florida National Guard on the Blackhawk project.

**Captain Keith Hoskins** briefed that Congressman Matt Gaetz recently had a productive meeting with base leaders at during his recent visit to NAS Pensacola. His support is greatly appreciated.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, NAS Pensacola partnered with NASA as the SpaceX Dragon returned from its mission and splashed down in the Gulf. It was a wonderful display of the capabilities of NAS Pensacola which provided support to NASA for that event and is an ideal place for future splashdowns.

The Coast Guard Cutter Diligence recently returned to NAS Pensacola. It was a proud moment when the program was initiated to provide the necessary backing for strategic laydown to bring those ships to NAS Pensacola as they now have four Coast Guard Cutters stationed there. There's an opportunity in the future to bring in MILCON dollars to expand port opportunities to support the Coast Guard in the future and to expand their footprint in Northwest Florida.

Milton Aviation Park recently had a groundbreaking as Leonardo will be bringing in 130 helicopters to Santa Rosa County and exemplifies the great partnership in Northwest Florida between the military and industry. This partnership is necessary in the training and readiness of future naval, marine and coast guard aviators. The proximity of that facility will provide quick ease to service, maintenance and delivery of those helicopters to NAS Whiting Field.

**Rear Admiral Stan Bozin** reported that all bases continue to deal with protocols due to COVID-19 and they've had quite a few virtual ceremonies. Regarding the F-35s, he reminded the TF of the importance of obtaining buffer zones to have the opportunity to bring more aircraft and military presence to Florida. Finally, his son is taking command of a submarine in Connecticut.

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** reported that MacDill AFB continues to be on lockdown due to COVID-19. They've had some changes of command as new Wing Commander Colonel Ben Jonsson is on board as well as Mission Support Group Colonel Jason Loschinsky. He thanked the TF for their support relative to the Space Force Headquarters initiative as both Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties are in the running. He continues to watch the issue of the Defense Health Agency's (DHA) Right Sizing proposal, which was released in February 2020, was supposedly put on hold for two-plus years due to the COVID outbreak, but recently the Secretary of Defense released an article saying they continue to look for the \$2 billion cut in funding provided by this program to be put towards other DoD priorities. Both MacDill AFB and Patrick AFB, along with SOUTHCOM Headquarters Clinic, are the only three installations in Florida on this list of closings. It appears to be back on the scope, and he is continuing to watch this issue closely. If anyone finds any further details on this issue from the CODEL to the Governor's Office, please share that information to continue to support those bases.

**Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley** briefed that Northeast Florida continues to deal with the COVID-19 situation which has impacted many normal activities in which they are usually engaged at this time.

**Lieutenant Colonel Jason Hunt** briefed on behalf of **Major General James Eifert**, providing a Florida National Guard (FLNG) Update.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE:** The Florida National Guard currently has approximately **1,250 Soldiers and Airmen** mobilized across the State supporting **44 Active Missions** as part of Florida's COVID-19 response effort. Our Major mission sets include:

- Currently we are operating **27 Community Base Test Sites** | Administered **1,155,140** tests to date
- Supporting **State Logistics Resource Center** and a **Logistical Staging Area**
- Supporting multiple State and County **Operations, Planning and Liaison** responsibilities
- The Florida National Guard continues to receive 100% federal funding (502f) in support of COVID response activities; we anticipate federal funding will be available through December.

**MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT UPDATE:** The Florida National Guard currently has **374** (344 Army & 30 Air) **Servicemembers** representing five organizations deployed globally, supporting our National Defense Strategy. Additionally, our mobilization pipeline identifies **11 Organizations** consisting of approximately **866 Servicemembers** scheduled for deployment throughout the remainder of this calendar year.

130 Airmen from the 202<sup>nd</sup> Red Horse Squadron out of Camp Blanding are deploying mid-September to the CENTCOM AOR

9 Personnel from the C-12 Aviation Detachment out of St. Augustine are deploying to AFRICOM AOR mid-September.

And 25 Personnel from the 1153<sup>rd</sup> Financial Management Support Detachment out of St. Augustine are deploying to the CENTCOM AOR in mid-September as well.



## FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:

- **125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing Transformation F-35 Lightning II.** The Florida National Guard and 125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, based in Jacksonville, is excited to announce their selection to receive the next allocation of the newest generation fighter aircraft, the F-35 Lightning II. The Wing is postured to immediately begin the transformation process of replacing their current F-15 C/D aircraft, with initial fielding of the F-35 set for 2024.
- **114<sup>th</sup> Space Control Squadron Ribbon Cutting.** Our 114<sup>th</sup> Space Control Squadron, located at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, will conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony this Friday, 21 August, to celebrate the opening of their new \$6.5M MILCON operations facility located on the Morrell Operations Center complex. The 114<sup>th</sup> Space Control Squadron is a Florida Air National Guard asset that is direct support of the Space Force mission, providing offensive and defensive counter-space and space situational awareness.
- **249<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron (CV-22) Activation.** Our Florida Air National Guard, will conduct an activation ceremony on Friday, 28 August for our new CV-22 Squadron, the 249<sup>th</sup> Sepcial Operations Squadron.

## FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:

- **164<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Brigade NCR Validation and Deployment.** Our 164<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Brigade is in the process of validating operational readiness in support of their upcoming deployment to Washington D.C. to lead the National Capital Region air defense mission.
- **Florida Army National Guard, Mega Annual Training Activities.** The Florida Army National Guard is conducting a Mega Annual Training period, at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, to offset canceled annual training events resulting from COVID response requirements. Mobile Training Team courses in Air Assault, Pathfinder, Rappel Master, Senior Gunner, Expert Infantryman/Expert Soldier and Urban Rifle Marksmanship have been coordinated to maintain the readiness of Florida National Guard.

**With all of the great things going on in your Florida National Guard, we still have many challenging priorities ahead, that we continue to ask for your help with, which include:**

- Statewide facility/infrastructure issues that I look forward to briefing you on during our September meeting.
- Establishing a Space National Guard component to solidify an organizational structure that will provide an appropriate command, control, resource, and leadership network for our National Guard space organizations.
- Leveraging right and relevant Army and Air organizations that will enhance Florida National Guard capabilities to support our state and federal missions.

**Major General Richard Haddad** reported at AFSOC, a Special Tactics Airman was awarded the nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star Medal, during a ceremony at Pope Field, North Carolina, on August 14, 2020. Master Sergeant John Grimesey, a Special Tactics Combat Controller with the 21st Special Tactics Squadron, 24th Special Operations Wing, was recognized for his efforts in Afghanistan in 2013. He not only saved the life of a fellow special operations troop but called in multiple airstrikes while being under attack by the enemy.

AFSOC Unfiltered podcast released a new episode. With the George Floyd situation, dialogue is occurring across the nation and the military is no exception. The AFSOC CC has begun a series referred to as **Unfiltered**. He has found the discussions quite enlightening and is sure they will have a positive effect for the future of AFSOC, our military and our nation.

**Listen here:**

<https://www.facebook.com/COMAFSOCOOfficial/>  
[www.youtube.com/AirCommandos](http://www.youtube.com/AirCommandos)

At SOCOM, the Virtual Retired SOF Senior Leaders' Conference begins this morning and he will be transitioning to this meeting once the TF has adjourned.

**Colonel Jim Heald** reported that Eglin AFB 96<sup>th</sup> Test Wing Commander Brigadier General Scott Cain's main priority is the Military Mission Line. Eglin is still working COVID-19 responses and the base is still locked down with many still teleworking. They continue testing as on August 5<sup>th</sup> at AFSOC, the HH60W combat helicopter did its first refueling off an HC130J.

Natasha Williams, 96<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron Key Spouse, recently won the Air Force's Key Spouse of the Year. The award recognizes an individual in the Air Force Key Spouse program, who makes a difference in Air Force families. Natasha has been a Key Spouse since 2018 and said her commitment to the unit's approximately 480 Airmen and spouses comes from a passion to serve others. In her Key Spouse role, she encourages resiliency, unit engagement and connects squadron members to a vast array of resources as needed.

On August 14<sup>th</sup> Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) members met with staffers from Congressman Matt Gaetz's Office to discuss the area's priorities. They met with Scott Davidson is a retired Army officer who is the new Director of Military Affairs and Andrew Ertl, a former Marine, is the Military Legislative Assistant in his Washington, DC office.

On August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, the 96<sup>th</sup> Med Group hosted a blood plasma drive specifically trying to obtain COVID-19 antibodies to protect future patients.

**Mr. Tom Neubauer** discussed changes of command at Tyndall AFB as Lieutenant General Kirk Pierce has replaced Lieutenant General Mark Sasseville as the Commander of the First Air Force AFNORTH. Lieutenant General Pierce previously served as the Vice Commander for the Air National Guard and Lieutenant General Sasseville has gone to Washington, DC to serve as Vice Chief of the National Guard Bureau. On August 28<sup>th</sup>, the Air Combat Command will change as the incoming will be Lieutenant General Mark Kelly who replaces Lieutenant General Mike Holmes. Lieutenant General Kelly is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff of Operations supporting the Air Force Chief of Staff and the Secretary. NSA Panama City has found a new Technical Director in Dr. Peter Adair.

Recently, DoD had made a request to industry and academia to build a low-cost ventilator system with off-the-shelf materials that could be produced very quickly. The Warfare Center entered that contest, which had over 200 submissions, as their engineers created a product which cost less than \$300 and placed top 5 in the competition.

The Tyndall AFB Economic Impact Study was completed, and the public comment period ended on August 3<sup>rd</sup> with all positive comments from the public and no substantial questions so AFCEC has projected a regular decision for delivery sometime in January 2021. Once that is delivered and signed by the Air Force it will trigger a release of funds for the rebuild of Tyndall AFB and will change the landscape there considerably as the rebuild begins with the \$4 billion in funding. The missions continue and the base is functioning as it should with the help of Eglin AFB.

**Senator Tom Wright** remarked that he recently traveled to Tallahassee and met with Beth Medina and Ray Collins for TF briefing. He now has a much better handle on what's involved, and he looks forward to being of service as a TF member. He will be meeting with **Major General Eifert** tomorrow, along with **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman**, and is looking forward to this event, representing the TF and himself as a Florida State Senator.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** reported that on August 18<sup>th</sup>, SpaceX launched another Starlink satellite on the Falcon 9. Starlink is a satellite constellation being constructed by SpaceX to provide satellite

internet access. The constellation will consist of thousands of mass-produced small satellites in low-earth orbit working in combination with ground trans receivers. SpaceX also plans to sell some of these satellites to the military.

The United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 541 rocket will be a part of NASA's Mars 2020 Mission program returning to Mars. The Atlas 5 delivered the Perseverance Rover to a hyperbolic escape orbit on its seven-month journey to Mars. The mission lifted off from Space Launch Complex 41 located at Cape Canaveral AFS on July 30<sup>th</sup>. This mission will provide NASA and the JPL with crucial knowledge and understanding of the red planet.

The United Launch Alliance team, the Delta 4 heavy rocket team will launch the NROL 44 mission for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). Liftoff will occur from Space Launch Complex 37 at Cape Canaveral AFS on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The Heavy is the largest of the Delta 4 fleet and is the nation's proven heavy lifter delivering high-priority missions for the U.S. Air Force NRO and NASA. This is a very exciting launch to see in person so please let him know if anyone is interested in coming to the Space Coast to watch.

#### *Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update*

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair**, discussed that the September 16<sup>th</sup> FDA meeting has been changed from an in-person meeting to a virtual Zoom meeting. She is currently working on the agenda for the September meeting. The FDA will be having several half-day meetings over the next six months for more in-depth conversation and engage more with members. The September meeting will feature a panel on Family Support and discuss the Gulf Range. Moving forward meetings will focus on rising seas, climate change, education, encroachment and FDA's role in supporting the 8 communities in the running for Space Command Headquarters. Post-election the FDA will focus on communications with elected officials by making calls and visits to offices to keep the issues front and center.

The Association of Defense Communities recently published the *Military Community Assessment* performed by the Air Force which will be used for future basing decisions. This report does not show Florida as being the military-friendly state we believe it to be as on licensing portability Florida was ranked as moderately supportive; the quality of education is ranked in the lower third percentile (60% academic, 20% school climate, 20% service offerings); Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, South Carolina and Utah were listed as the top 5 states. This gives the FDA an opportunity to acknowledge where improvement is needed, look at those states and see what they're doing and the changes needed to move Florida up in the rankings on this survey.

This information was dated in some cases as Beth Medina continues to work this ensuring that all data given to the Air Force is current and provides an opportunity for better communication. It's also important to keep up with what's going on in Washington, DC as they could have caught the fact the Air Force was using dated information if they'd known this study was ongoing. Better communication is needed to showcase all the great programs in Florida and continuing to their promotion. **Senator Tom Wright** offered his assistance.

**Beth Medina** added that there was an equation from multiple studies which were used particularly on the evaluation on the education portion and some of that data is dated and is applied differently from state-to-state. The Bay Defense Alliance wrote an excellent white paper and the Department of Education (DOE) is looking at how the materials presented could skew Florida based on how information is reported. Many organizations are now looking at how we can submit more up-to-date criteria.

**Mr. Tom Neubauer** noted that the Bay Defense Alliance sent a list of questions to the Air Force on August 14<sup>th</sup> about how the data was used and how the state measures were decided. They expect to have a conference call with the Air Force, the Florida DOE the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>, to discuss how the data was gathered and where the gaps lie.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for an update to the issues on this study be placed on the agenda for the September TF meeting with an update from **Mr. Tom Neubauer** on his meeting the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Kellie Jo Kilberg** added that the data was taken from public education information released by the states (no private or charter schools).

**Senator Tom Wright** added that in last session the Legislature addressed the issue of reciprocity on spouses' licenses as servicemembers move into Florida, which the Air Force was most likely unaware. They also placed \$500 million into the budget for school systems which will dramatically change the reports on public schools. This raised the per capita per student to the \$200 range.

#### *Washington Office Update*

**Katherine Anne Russo** briefed that as of now both chambers of Congress have departed Washington, DC for the August recess as negotiations have stalled for the fifth coronavirus package. The House is scheduled to return on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to vote on, and likely pass, a bill focused on the U.S. Postal Service. This is largely in response to highly politicized election conversations. Following this one vote the House will be on recess until September 14<sup>th</sup> and the Senate is scheduled to return September 8<sup>th</sup>.

During recess GOP Senators are expected to introduce a skinny COVID package in response to the House Postal Service Bill as an effort to tie economic relief to postal funding which the Administration seems willing to support. There is still division within the Senate as to how much additional COVID aid is needed. The initial Senate proposal was roughly \$1 trillion while the House-passed bill was roughly \$3 trillion. Negotiations are ongoing at a high level trying to find a middle ground. Immediate Senate action is highly unlikely at this point.

The House has passed the majority of its bills for the fiscal year that began October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Senate has yet to move any of their bills as Senate Republicans want to reach an agreement with Democrats before starting the process, which means it's more likely there will be a Continuing Resolution (CR) to continue government funding through the election or possibly into next year. There's a chance that the next COVID package could be tied to that CR.

Both chambers passed their versions of the NDAA earlier this summer bicameral committee staff conversations began this past week but it's still unclear whether it will be a formal conference this year. If so the vote on conferees will occur in late September which will be more of a formality after the completion of most of the negotiations. Her office worked closely with Congressional offices to try to get moratorium extension language included. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful but will continue looking for opportunities to address this issue. Senator Scott's language recognizing the importance of the Gulf was included.

Her office reached out to the White House immediately after the recording of the President's comments on offshore drilling in Florida were released and conversations with the Administration are ongoing as this is a priority for across the board for the state.

The NDAA is likely to be signed this year as usual but realistically, between the pandemic and the election not a lot will move other than that and government funding on the Hill before the end of the year.

Her office worked with the Administration to maintain 100% funding for deployment of the National Guard's response to the coronavirus in Florida through the end of the year. Most other states and territories will have to cover 25% of their National Guard costs, so that is a big win for Florida.

She's been working with **Beth Medina** on how to combat the negative picture depicted in the Air Force Assessment discussed earlier and will continue working with Staff and the TF to right the conversations to better reflect our strengths and capitalize on opportunities to improve. We can improve communication in Washington, DC, so please feel free to reach out to let her know how she can help.

### *Gulf Range Way Forward Discussion*

**Beth Medina** briefed that the protection of the Gulf Range is the Governor's second priority as he's asked the FDSTF and FDA to focus on this issue in addition to the other top three priorities of the Space Command Headquarters and the rebuild of Tyndall AFB. Neither house had language in their NDAA bills that were passed, there was Gulf Range modernization funding raised in the Senate's version and there is proposed language available so Staff will continue to look for every possible way to keep working this issue. We still need to keep looking for every opportunity to make the issue and status known and share the importance of the Gulf Range and protecting it from oil drilling.

Some successes are as follows:

- Florida's Gulf Range Protection Plan Web Page, which can be found on FDA's website [HERE](#). This site will provide a status to anyone who is interested of where we are and what work is ongoing as well as shared efforts. This site can share information from members so please reach out to the Staff with anything to submit.
- The recording of an interview with President Trump as he announces there will not be any drilling in the Gulf of Mexico was played and can be found on the above web page.

Please feel free to forward any information that can be posted on this page as work continues to progress as we feel the urgency and cannot wait until the expiration of the moratorium.

**Colonel Jim Heald** asked if there has been movement from the Senate appropriations side of the NDAA to place the oil drilling ban into law? **Beth Medina** is unaware of any language at this time and discussed the possibility of hiring someone to assist **Katherine Anne Russo** in the Washington, DC office, to help her with these important issues. Staff will follow-up with Katherine Anne and provide an update at the September TF meeting.

### *NW Florida Sentinel Landscape Update*

**Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife**, briefed that the U.S. Air Force has asked the Defenders of Wildlife to help facilitate the development of a partnership in support for designating Northwest Florida as a Sentinel Landscape. This is a federal designation by the Departments of Defense, Interior and Agriculture. This designation would help coordinate land and habitat conservation programs to better focus the federal resources where opportunities overlap. Additional resources can be allocated and prioritized among those three agencies along a designated area.

Defenders of Wildlife has learned that tentatively, the federal Sentinel Landscape partnership will be accepting applications, or pre-proposals, in November and December 2020. They are reaching out to their partners such as the TF, FDA and DEO to remind them they will be submitting an application. A large part of this effort will be a pre-proposal submitted to provide background information on the Sentinel Landscape to include a fact sheet, map and will also include letters from partners specifying what they will do to help support and make this Sentinel Landscape successful.

The last round of Sentinel Landscape applications was in 2017 and the bar has been raised since then so they're talking to partners now, briefing them on how this program supports the missions of Florida's military bases.

Once the application date is announced, the Defenders of Wildlife will be working with their partners, asking for letters of support to use in their pre-proposal. With that strong package they feel they will be invited to present a full proposal in early 2021 and hope by next summer to have the next group of designated Sentinel Landscapes. Designation will bring additional resources to the panhandle to better protect base missions, threatened endangered species and working farm and forest landscapes surrounding Florida's installations.

### *Upcoming Task Force Activities and Meetings*

**Ray Collins** thanked TF members for responding to his ask for the top priorities for local bases and communities in each of their areas. Next week he and **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** will be meeting to discuss these issues along with any others that might come up unexpectedly. They will be developing a work plan for the Fiscal Year for when the TF should deal with each issue. Upcoming at the September TF meeting is grant presentations/voting on grants for FY 2020-2021 and **Major General Eifert's** presentation on the state of the National Guard Armories.

Each year the TF is required to look at the Military Base Protection Program inputs received from the base commanders and rank them in tiers as to what is the most important and urgent, then send that to DEO as they work with DEP to provide funding to purchase those lands to buffer the bases from encroachment. This will occur in October 2020 instead of the usual November timeframe.

He expects to have input from NASA and Kennedy Space Center with information on what NASA and the military do in mutual support of each other on the Space Coast.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will be providing an update on what projects they have ongoing around military bases

### *Military & Defense Update*

**Beth Medina** discussed that despite social distancing and teleworking, Staff continues to be very busy and is working on the following:

**Video Marketing Campaign:** Funding for the video marketing campaign is from the FY 2019-2020 budget for 20 installation videos plus additional regional and topical videos, and a state video for a total of 35 videos. Due to the limits on access to the installations, we've had to adjust from the original plan to start with the installation level up through the regions to the state and address the important topics. Three (3) installations have already been filmed but it's not prudent to continue struggling through the access issues. It's important to jump on the most important topic, the protection of the Gulf Range, so the schedule with Kennetic Productions has been re-ordered and the next video produced will be on the protection of the Gulf Range, followed by some of the topical videos such as encroachment to include Sentinel Landscapes and other partnerships, and Florida's military-friendly nature. Staff will be reaching out to the Bay Defense Alliance, the Tri-County Defense Support Initiatives and the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce to begin planning a working session and interviews for those people who are experts on these topics. Staff will schedule a meeting in the upcoming few weeks with those community sponsors in those areas.

**U.S. Space Command Headquarters:** Staff continues to support Space Florida and the eight (8) communities in the running for Space Command Headquarters as they are currently filling out questionnaires which are due on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Staff has assisted Space Florida in drafting a statewide context of what we can provide as a backdrop for their local/regional information. Most recent discussion has been on the Air Force support to military families assessment. We are working with the office of the Air Force's that created the assessment, the installation leaders, the offices responsible for the base decisions, as well as with our agencies and government to ensure our response is correct and we provide the correct, updated data. We are working through how our communities will be assessed and ensure we're portraying the most competitive, current information.

**Base Commanders Meeting:** The Governor's Base Commanders Meetings are part of Florida's success story and part of what makes its defense support so successful. **Lieutenant Colonel Jason Hunt** will be meeting with Staff on September 4<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee to discuss the planning of a virtual Base Commanders Meeting and transitioning the planning of all future Base Commanders Meetings to EFI Staff. These meetings cover topics like the FDOT project and the Military Base Protection program and it's important to get the meeting scheduled and on the calendar to continue conversations with the base commanders and the state agency heads.

**Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the FDA, Florida System of State Universities and the National Security Innovation Network:** This MOA is very close to signing and will create a network for graduate students to work in the defense industry, in Florida's defense contracting companies, on installations as support to our military. The goal is to encourage students graduating from our universities to stay in Florida and work for the military and defense industry who need them and will grow with them

**Military-Friendly Review:** Staff is tabulating all agency POCs, getting direct contact information and contacting each agency to update all Florida programs, benefits and policies to support our military Service Members, Families and Veterans. This information will be integrated into the combined agency effort with the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) to develop an electronic site for resource providers or individuals to navigate. This site is intended to be more interactive and link the resource provider directly to the individual looking for assistance. This effort is tied to the Governor's Challenge on Suicide Prevention, involving the FDVA, the Fire Watch and Hillsborough County 2-1-1 call line.

**Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP):** On August 10th, DOD made the announcement that the Office of Economic Adjustment heard 16 applicants for the new pilot program Defense Community Infrastructure Program grants and selected 16 Tier one projects to award the full \$50 million available. Florida had two communities who submitted but were not selected: Whiting Field and Tampa. We will watch to see the success of these first grants and advocate this program continue to be funded.

IV. Agenda Item IV: Agenda Item V: Public Comment

**Liz Miller, DEO,** updated on the awards for the DIG and DRG grants which should be announced within the next week to ten days.

DEO is rolling out the Cybersecurity Training and Awareness program to help support small and medium-sized defense industries prepare for the new CMMC requirements to continue to be cyber compliant. DEO has awarded a subcontract to work with FloridaMakes and will kick off this statewide program in a virtual conference, co-hosted by Associated Industries and Workers Compensation Institute. The Cybersecurity Forum will take place virtually on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Register [HERE](#) for this event.

The Defense and Aerospace portal is wrapping up the review phase of the RFP posted two weeks ago. The announcement of the winning bid will be announced on August 24<sup>th</sup>. This portal provides a platform to enable small and medium-sized businesses the ability to access and bid on DoD contracts.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** announced that the September 17<sup>th</sup> TF meeting has been changed from an in-person meeting to a virtual Zoom meeting. This meeting will begin at 9:00 AM EDT.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to adjourn FDSTF Meeting #86. A motion was made by **Senator Tom Wright**, seconded by **Colonel Jim Heald**, all are in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 11:10 AM EDT.*

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #87 on Friday, October 2, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) held a publicly noticed meeting via Zoom/Conference Call at 09:05 AM EDT – 11:57 AM EDT. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Representative Thad Altman, Chairman  
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)  
Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret.)  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc., (Ret.)  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)  
Representative Mel Ponder  
Representative Holly Raschein  
Senator Tom Wright

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida

#### **Speakers Present:**

Pamela Berkowsky, South Florida Defense Alliance  
George Cheros, National Center for Simulation  
Josh Cockrell, Clay County Development Authority  
Dr. Neal Finkelstein, National Center for Simulation  
Erica Grancagnolo, Santa Rosa Economic Development Commission  
Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Buck MacLaughlin, Avon Park Air Force Range  
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance  
Shannon Ogletree, Santa Rosa Economic Development Commission  
Katherine Anne Russo, Florida's Washington, DC Office  
Gaye Sharpe, Polk County  
Crystal Sircy, Orlando Economic Partnership  
Steve Williamson, South Florida Defense Alliance  
Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife

#### **Others Present:**

Marc Adler, Chief of Staff, Enterprise Florida, Inc.  
Chad Allison, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)  
Jim Breitenfeld, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Paul Catlett, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center  
Eli Converse, Office of Senator Tom Wright  
Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville  
Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast  
Aaron Dienger,  
Debi Graham, West Florida Defense Alliance  
JJ Harris,  
Sarah Hayenga, Homestead Air Reserve Base



LTC Jason Hunt, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Steve Murray, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA)  
Dave Murzin, Okaloosa County  
Matt Schellhorn, NAS Jacksonville  
Roger Williams, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
The Florida Channel

**Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI  
Ray Collins, Executive Director, FDSTF  
Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, FDSTF  
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #87  
Conference Call / ZOOM  
AGENDA for October 2, 2020**

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 850 298 6640**  
**PASSCODE: Oct@02**  
**OR**  
**DIAL IN #: (646) 558 8656**  
**PASSCODE: 650570**

**KEY:**  
*(I) = Information*  
*(D) = Discussion*  
*(A) = Action*

- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 9:05 – 9:10 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
- 9:10 – 12:15 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:10-9:15 Washington Office Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - 9:15-10:05 TF Member Reports
  - 10:05-10:10 Florida Defense Alliance Update Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - 10:10-11:50 FY 2020-2021 Grant Application Presentations Chairman **(I) / (D)**
    - 10:10-10:25 Polk County
    - 10:30-10:45 Orlando Economic Partnership
    - 10:50-11:05 South Florida Progress Foundation
    - 11:10-11:25 Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners
    - 11:30-11:45 Clay County Development Authority
  - 11:50-12:00 Mil & Def Update Beth Medina **(I)**
- 12:00 – 12:15 Public Comment..... Chairman
- 12:30 – 1:30 CLOSED SESSION.....Chairman **(D)**
- 2:15 – 2:30 OPEN SESSION – Voting on grant proposals.....Chairman **(A)**

**Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

October 15, 2020	Conf Call/Zoom	December 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>
November 19, 2020	Orlando / PEOSTRI   FDA		
January 21, 2021	Panama City Beach   NSA Panama City	February 18, 2021	Conf Call/Zoom
March 18, 2021	Tallahassee ( <i>Session</i> )	April 15, 2021	Conf Call/Zoom ( <i>Session</i> )
May 20, 2021	Tallahassee   FDA ( <i>Session</i> )	June 2021	<b>NO MEETING</b>

**Ray Collins**, Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF), *began the meeting at 09:04 AM EDT.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions

**Ray Collins** welcomed attendees and guests, took attendance of the TF members, asked those guests in the meeting telephonically to please email **Michelle Griggs** to advise of their attendance, then turned the meeting over to **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman**. **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** welcomed TF members and guests, noted that the meeting is being televised by The Florida Channel, went briefly over the agenda and reminded attendees that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of the Minutes*

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for any corrections to the August 20, 2020 minutes. Noting none, a motion was made by **Lieutenant Colonel Bill Dudley** to approve the minutes, seconded by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, all are in favor and the August 20, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.*

*Task Force Grants & Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** briefed on a few of the current TF grants:

DTF #14-05, Economic Development Alliance of Bay County (BayEDA) – Bay Technology Initiative would like to extend their grant to December 31, 2020.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to extend the BayEDA grant to end on December 31, 2020. A motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, seconded by **Senator Tom Wright**, all are in favor and the motion is passed.*

DTF #20-100, Military Child Education Coalition has their contract amendment execution pending. The new term of the contract ends July 31, 2021.

DTF #20-102, Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast has their contract amendment execution pending. The new term of the contract ends October 31, 2021.

III. Agenda Item III: New Business

*Washington Office Update*

**Katherine Anne Russo** briefed that the pandemic, election and supreme court nomination are driving most of the conversations currently in Washington, DC. This week the Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) which the President signed shortly thereafter, avoiding a government shutdown on Thursday. This CR provided funding for the government through December 11<sup>th</sup> of this year at the FY 2020 funding levels of \$1.4 trillion. It also included several authorization matters to include health, transportation and veterans' programs which were set to expire. Both the House and the Senate have said they'd like to pass a bipartisan appropriations package by the December 11<sup>th</sup> deadline. Securing an agreement on FY 2021 spending bills in a lame duck session after the election would be an enormous lift.

Negotiations are ongoing between the Democrat leadership and the administration currently on a new COVID package. At this point a bipartisan deal remains possible but not likely. The White House released a \$1.6 trillion proposal earlier this week which Speaker Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin continue to discuss. While those negotiations are ongoing, the House passed its own \$2.2 trillion version of the package yesterday, noting that all Republicans voted NO on that House package, so it's purely a symbolic effort and the bill will go nowhere in the Senate. The push to get something

done this week stems from members leaving Washington, DC to return to their districts to campaign for the election. The House leaves town today and won't return until November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Senate is expected to be in session next week and won't return until November 9<sup>th</sup>. Members could get called back early to vote on a COVID package if they do reach a bipartisan agreement, but the odds of that happening continue to dwindle.

The FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report is expected to come out after the November election, potentially in mid-December which will be interesting with the government funding set to expire on December 11<sup>th</sup>. She will continue to watch this closely and keep the TF updated.

Thank you to the TF and everyone on the call for their commitment and work to extend the offshore drilling moratorium. She was thrilled to see everyone's efforts come together including the Governor's engagement with the President and Secretary Burnhardt to result in great news. She is hopeful that Senator Scott's language on the importance of the Range will stay in the conference report but is unclear at the moment.

### *Task Force Member Reports*

**Captain Keith Hoskins** briefed that the Pensacola Region recently engaged with NAS Pensacola Commander Captain Tim Kinsella to discuss the significant damage the base suffered from Hurricane Sally. They are currently in the recovery phase and continue to clean up some of the destruction that occurred. Captain Kinsella is excited for the opportunity to regroup and reimagine their base as they reconstruct and continue to serve the sailors, soldiers, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen at NAS Pensacola. He is thankful for the opportunity to provide updates and garner support from the TF.

Captain Kinsella continues to be engaged with Senator Doug Broxson to support enclave efforts to allow access to the museum and other public visiting areas at NAS Pensacola while also securing those areas where active duty servicemembers, their families and contractors reside.

NAS Whiting Field is currently under contract with Leonardo to deliver 130 training helicopters to upgrade from the TH-57s. Santa Rosa County's Economic Development organization continues to work with Space Florida and Triumph Gulf Coast to create incentives to expand that operation which has already brought 50 new jobs to the area. Leonardo will be delivering the first helicopter to NAS Whiting Field in January 2021.

**Colonel Jim Heald** reported that thankfully Eglin AFB did not sustain as much damage from Hurricane Sally as the Pensacola area. They had water damage in 125 facilities, 60+ downed trees and 18 culverts/bridges washed out on Range Roads. With 724 square miles of range space, one can expect some damage. As of now the damage is coming in at less than \$2M, but assessments are still ongoing.

COVID-19 Response: Brigadier General Cain is reviewing the local off and on base statistics. Due to the reduction in cases, he is reviewing a directive to be released early next week which should reduce some of the COVID restrictions on base.

The Crestview Wellplex is a proposal sponsored by Congressman Matt Gaetz that has the potential to address the Child Development Center shortfall for the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (A). The proposal is under review and is still at an early stage of planning. If implemented it could lessen the daily drive times for the soldiers who live in the northern part of the county, but have their children taken care of at main base Eglin CDCs.

OSD/PA Direction of Active Duty NON-support FDA/FDSTF Video Effort. They have pivoted to using retired military and civilian experts for our video support. They are also trying to get a copy of the OSD/PA memo.

Significant Test Event – Vermilion Stallion and Apollyon (combined tests) was a large-scale Northern Command-sponsored event including 70 industry teams, 65 government teams from all services, 35 military weapons systems, 30 geographic locations and 4 test ranges. The 96 Test Wing units were responsible for testing the Advanced Battle Management System network and how the aircraft, ships, space and ground systems communicated with it. Some highlights included a deployable Integrated Air Defense System from the

National Capital Region that employed the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System with two Sentinel radars, the Fire Direction Center and the mobile Joint Air Defense Operations Center. It successfully shot down a simulated cruise missile that was launched and controlled from Tyndall AFB. During the threat of the two tropical systems in the Gulf, \$23M worth of national defense equipment from Santa Rosa island was evacuated to higher ground in less than 24 hours and then after the tropical threat subsided, was redeployed and fully operational in 48 hours. Other successes with these tests included employing an AIM-9X from an MQ-9 Reaper against a simulated cruise missile.

**Mr. Tom Neubauer** discussed that General Mark Kelly, the new commander of the Air Force's Air Combat Command, visited Tyndall AFB this week to look over the rebuild. He learned about the 44 MILCON projects encompassing 120 facilities. 247 of the 480 facilities have been demolished and they're expecting about 3,000 craft labor workers to come in for the rebuild and have built a Tyndall Rebuild Accommodation Village (TRAV) to accommodate the first 300-500 of those workers on base.

Thank you to **Beth Medina** and **Ray Collins** for their quick response to the Air Force's report on support for military families. It resulted in moving Florida from amber to green in the area of spousal employment because of the legislation the TF has helped to pass over the years.

Thank you to the Governor, everyone in Northwest Florida and throughout the state for the moratorium on oil drilling in the Gulf as General Kelly also recognizes the importance of this issue for all of Florida's bases, especially Tyndall AFB.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM **Captain Keith Hoskins** will speak at the AFA on the subject of Protecting Your Defense Economy.

**Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley** briefed that the progress is coming along nicely on the building of the new community-based, outpatient VA clinic in St. Augustine. The clinic should be completed by mid-summer 2021 for occupancy and will be named after Private Leo C. Chase, Jr., the first soldier from St. Johns County killed in the Vietnam War. Senator Rubio's office has reported that the bill has passed through the Senate then later in the week was approved by the House and sent to the President's office for signing.

**Lieutenant Colonel Jason Hunt** briefed on behalf of **Major General James Eifert** providing a Florida National Guard (FLNG) update.

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE: The Florida National Guard currently has approximately 1,041 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized, supporting 43 Active Missions as part of Florida's COVID-19 response effort. Our steady-state mission sets include:

- o Currently, we are operating 22 Community Base Test Sites | Administered 1,314,242 tests to date
- o Supporting State Logistics Resource Center and a Logistical Staging Area
- o Supporting multiple State and County Operations, Planning and Liaison responsibilities
- o The Florida National Guard continues to receive 100% federal funding (502f) in support of COVID response activities; we anticipate federal funding will be available through December.

HURRICANE SALLY RESPONSE UPDATE: The Florida National Guard currently has approximately 28 Soldiers mobilized, supporting 4 Active Missions as part of Florida's Hurricane Sally recovery efforts. Our steady-state mission sets include staffing the Tallahassee Logistics Staging Area (LSA) and deploying Logistics Support Teams (LST) to the affected area.

MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT UPDATE: The Florida National Guard currently has 544 (414 Army & 130 Air) Servicemembers representing 6 Organizations deployed globally, supporting our National Defense Strategy. Additionally, our mobilization pipeline identifies 8 Organizations consisting of approximately 655 Servicemembers scheduled for deployment throughout the remainder of this calendar year.

#### FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:

- The Florida Air National Guard completed their inaugural “Leader Development Program” course the week of September 21-25. The training will provide a variety of leadership tools and perspectives for current and future mid-level Florida Air National Guard leaders. The program, initiated by Florida Air National Guard senior leadership, will focus on providing Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) that will enhance commander and senior-enlisted leader capabilities through an interactive learning environment.

#### FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 265<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment Ribbon Cutting. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 265<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment, will conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, 16 October at 1000, in celebration of opening their new \$21.7M (\$18.9M-Federal & \$2.8M State), 76,708 square foot Readiness Center, located in Palm Coast at the Flagler County Airport. The facility will serve as the permanent location for an air defense (avenger) battalion headquarters, along with two subordinate batteries, Battery C (avenger firing battery) and Battery D (Maintenance Battery), comprising approximately 260 soldiers.
- Florida Army National Guard Officer Candidate School Graduation. Our 211<sup>th</sup> Regional Training Institute, Officer Candidate School, will conduct a graduation ceremony for Class-59 on 17 October 2020 at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. Class-59 will produce fifteen highly motivated second lieutenants for integration into junior officer positions throughout our Florida Army National Guard organizations.

**Major General Richard Haddad** briefed that AFSOC activated the first Florida Air National Guard (FLANG) CV-22 squadron as the 294th Special Operations Squadron (SOS) was activated during a ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Florida on August 28, 2020. The 249th SOS is the first Florida Air National Guard squadron home to CV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft.

Special Tactics unit surpasses 6,900 days of combating war in Middle East. In the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks which marked the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, U.S. service members saw an increased spike in deployments that has ultimately sustained its high tempo for nearly two decades. For the men and women of the 17th Special Tactics Squadron, since their initial response to the global war on terrorism in October 2001, there have been no breaks in deployments and combat operations for over 6,900 days in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Freedom’s Sentinel and Resolute Support.

AFSOC announces first ever Civilian Development Program selectees as Air Force Special Operations Command completed its first ever Civilian Development Program board July 15, 2020 at the Joint Operations Planning Center at Hurlburt Field and selectees were announced August 11, 2020. The civilian development team reviewed 26 applicant packages competing for seven different courses and programs.

At SOCOM, Rear Admiral H. W. Howard III relieved Rear Admiral Colin P. Green as Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC) during a recent change of command ceremony.

Staff Sergeant Vincent P. Marketta, 33, of Brick, New Jersey and Staff Sergeant Tyler M. Shelton, 22, of San Bernardino, California, members of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment died August 27<sup>th</sup> from injuries sustained during an aircraft mishap while conducting aviation training on San Clemente Island, California.

In an effort to expound upon the U.S. Special Operations Command's priority of advancing international partnerships, four Canadian chaplains attended the SOF Chaplaincy Spiritual and Moral Resiliency course held at the Joint Special Operations University on MacDill AFB. The course prepares students in the context of their spiritual and theological worldview within a pluralistic environment, to evaluate the elements of spiritual readiness to create a holistic model of well-being for the SOF warrior. It has a particular focus to mitigate suicidality, PTSD, moral injury and other SOF peculiar stress related conditions encountered by USSOCOM service members and their families.

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** discussed that MacDill AFB has opened up and loosened many of their COVID guidelines. Everyone must still wear masks but the golf course is open as well as many of the support facilities around the base.

He urged the TF to support and work with their Congressional delegations to continue the good progress of building schools on military bases. The Public School on Military Installation program is doing well, receiving good markups in the NDAA and received \$270 million in the appropriations process, so with continued support there could be schools built on MacDill AFB, Eglin AFB, NAS Key West and possibly Tyndall AFB this fiscal year.

**Rear Admiral Stan Bozin** reported some good news out of NS Mayport as the USS Delbert Black, which was just commissioned on September 26<sup>th</sup> at Port Canaveral has moved to NS Mayport. They are beginning to restore areas with erosion issues stemming from Hurricane Irma and continue with helicopter operations despite no fixed wing operations.

The COVID-19 factor is still pretty significant at NAS Jacksonville. Some facilities are open but only for active-duty and reserves.

NAS Jacksonville just awarded a contract for \$2.74 million to repave the main road going through the installation. The road is 1.6 miles in length and the repaving should be completed by January 2021.

Regarding the space issue at Fleet Readiness Center SE, DoD and OSD have looked at allowing a long-term lease to expand over at Cecil Field as currently they are leasing 136,000 square feet in four different facilities, and that lease expires in July 2022. They have agreed on a 10-year lease to build a new facility to house 288,000 square feet. This has been approved and the estimate to completion is 2023-2024 which will allow the Fleet Readiness Center to upgrade, modernize and offload some of that workload long-term.

**Senator Tom Wright** remarked that he will be attending the ribbon cutting ceremony on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the Florida National Guard Palm Coast Readiness Center.

He has been working with Miami-Dade Senator Manny Diaz to assist the FLNG in securing approximately 70 acres of land. They have been working with the local authorities and leadership who originally told them there wasn't any way to secure this property, but now have turned around and are moving forward on this land. He is on hold to assist MG Eifert and the FLNG as needed.

Incoming Senate President Walton Simpson has allowed him to continue to Chair the Senate's Military, Veterans and Space Committee so if he can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact him.

**Representative Holly Raschein** reported that the City of Homestead, under threat of a \$13 million lawsuit, is about to legislatively amend the Homestead Airport Zoning Ordinance and grant residential property rights to the landowners in HARB's southwest APZ 1. This change will roll back base protections that have been in effect for over 28 years. HARB submitted a Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) proposal this year due to the forthcoming incompatible residential development rights on the property. However, it will take many months to see if the HARB REPI proposal is selected and funded. If selected, required processes, including property appraisals, will take many months. Therefore, the AF has requested the City toll the agreement until such a time that these processes can take place and an actual price can be offered. However, the landowner is not willing to wait and wants their development rights restored now. If this is allowed to happen, the property owner will not be obligated in any way to sell their newly restored property rights to the Air Force, essentially letting them walk away and leaving the Air Force incompatible development rights in APZ1. HARB desires the City council to either convince the landowner to toll the settlement agreement, or to fight the lawsuit.

The Florida Army National Guard (FLARNG) at HARB is still working to acquire the land north of the current base boundary transferred over for expanded operations. Phase I Environmental Assessment nearing completion. The land acquisition effort has become intertwined with discussions pertaining to establishing a fixed base operator development at HARB. As a result, the October 6th agenda for the Miami-Dade Board of

County Commissioners includes an item which seeks to give the County Mayor or the Mayor's designee negotiating authority "to expeditiously effectuate a joint use agreement with the United States of America to allow for a fixed base operator development at the HARB". This negotiating authority for the FBO would presumably also allow for negotiations pertaining to the land the FLARNG seeks to acquire.

The HARB Military Base Protection Program (MBPP) application package was submitted to DEO. Approximately 100 acres were removed from this year's application due to a Declaration of Restrictions proffered to HARB which will require the approximately 100-acre property to comply with the Homestead Airport Zoning Ordinance.

For NAS Key West, the MILCON for the replacement of JIATF South Headquarters is tracking for 2023, on which she will continue to keep the TF updated.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** reported on the first all-woman meteorological crew to be hired to forecast the weather for the recent Falcon 9 launch. The Air Force's 45th Space Wing's first all female weather team: Melody Lovin, Hanna Mulcahey, Arlena Moses, Major Emily Graves, Jessica Williams and Captain Nancy Zimmerman. The Air Force made it clear that they were not hired because they are women, but because they were the best for the job.

The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute, located at Patrick AFB, deals with programs developed by DoD as early as 1971 on equal opportunity, race relations and diversity training. He commends those in our armed services who make us a leader as no society comes close to the amount of diversity, inclusion and talent gleaned by looking at the power of diversity and giving equal opportunities is one of the things that makes us have the greatest defense program in the world.

#### *Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update*

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair**, briefed on discussions held at the FDA meeting held earlier in the week. The meeting began with a family support panel. **Jack Ballantyne** from the Military Child Education Coalition presented on the Purple Star Schools designation program which recognizes campus that support military-connected students. **Wendy Layton** with the Blue Star Family organization discussed connecting military spouses to civilian neighbors and their current survey that was sent out to all families looking for top issues and stressors for active-duty military, National Guard and reserve families. **Teri Wanamaker**, NAS Jacksonville SLO and new FDA Family Support Working Group Chair discussed how during this time of COVID, military children enrolled in Florida Virtual School which makes it easier for them to transfer and continue in the virtual school with no delay in learning. She provided an update on Senate Bill 662, which addressed the language from Senate Bill 620 to include the entire state, not just by county, when the military receives their PCS orders. She highlighted military-affected girls ages 11-18 and the challenge by Congressman Rutherford for the Pace Center for Girls to create a program for these girls and the issues they face.

**Beth Medina** and **Rick Miller** discussed the Gulf Range Protection Plan program, acknowledging that they can't rest on the good news from the recent Presidential Executive Order and are looking at what they can do to ensure a more permanent ban on drilling in the Gulf.

The FDA Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2025 was introduced. They have three large goals with many objectives and over the next six months they will be working with regional partners to discuss the Strategic Plan and define the activities that will help ensure the Plan is being fulfilled.

The next Mission Sustainment Working Group Zoom meeting is on October 22, 2020.  
The next Family Support Working Group Zoom meeting is on October 29, 2020.

**Beth Medina** will discuss later in this meeting the MOA recently signed between the FDA, the Florida State University System and the National Security Innovation Network. This MOA is important and several of our partners have already reached out to help implement that program.



The Association of Defense Communities (ADC) summit series is going on currently. The first session discussed the importance of resiliency and how communities and installations should be addressing the opportunities and challenges of resiliency.

Minutes for this year's Florida Defense Alliance Meetings can be found here:  
<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Minutes-2020.pdf>

#### *FY 2020-2021 Grant Presentations*

Clay County Development Authority has requested **\$500,000** for the purchase fee and/or less than fee interest in property(ies) within the approved Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) around Camp Blanding Joint Training Center (CBJTC) to buffer CBJTC from incompatible land development and encroachment, by using matching funds from the Florida Defense Support Task Force and the DoD REPI Program.

Polk County has requested **\$500,000** to be used to match \$500,000 of available Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) Program funding secured by the APAFR staff. The combination of FDSTF and REPI funding will enable the purchase of a fourth conservation easement over the remaining available acres of FX Bar Ranch in accordance with APAFR's on-going strategic and proactive encroachment prevention plan.

Orlando Economic Partnership has requested **\$390,000** to strengthen and grow the Modeling, Simulation & Training (MS&T) Industry cluster and better harmonize it with non-defense related sectors for emerging opportunities for greater collaboration, cooperation and business development (e.g., medical/healthcare, education, transportation, manufacturing, homeland security, digital media, gaming and entertainment).

South Florida Progress Foundation has requested **\$203,280** for a Quad County Military Installation & Personnel Resilience Study that will evaluate both physical and social factors at all Defense Department and U.S. Coast Guard installations within Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties.

Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners has requested **\$88,500** to strengthen and enhance the quality of life for our military families within their local community (FDSTF 2016 Strategic Plan Goal) through development and implementation of a program to provide a variety of targeted outreach materials on career academy options in Santa Rosa County schools. The program would focus on supporting military families relocating to Santa Rosa County.

All presentations can be found on the Task Force's website:  
<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-Presentations-2020.pdf>

#### *Military & Defense Update*

**Beth Medina** discussed that Staff continues to be very busy and is working on the following:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is updating their 5-year plan which Staff will send out the TF and FDA for review. **Ray Collins** has scheduled FDOT to present at the October 15<sup>th</sup> TF meeting to provide additional information and updates. [Correction noted by Ray that this is scheduled for November meeting.]

Staff, along with the Bay Defense Alliance and Bay County have been working to get Florida's information to the Air Force to ensure we are portrayed correctly in any future assessments. The FDA will be meeting with representatives from the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission this month to reconnect with that program. Kellie Jo Kilberg mentioned the implementation of the Purple Star program in Florida's schools and asks to please keep your eyes open as we try to stay in tune with Florida's education system.

Staff continues to support the Governor's challenge. A 2-1-1 At Your Fingertips webpage will be soft launching this month which will provide resources from the 2-1-1 perspective helping veterans, servicemembers and their families in vulnerable positions. In the future we're hoping to expand this site to include ALL of the military-friendly benefits incorporated within our Military Friendly Guide, as well as the Attorney General's Consumer

Protection Guide and the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Guide. We hope to transition to this more modern format soon. An app for smartphones is planned, as well.

Staff is working with Hillsborough County and representatives from their Military Student Transition Program on a local community video to be shown nationwide at the ADC Summit Series. We're excited to highlight the success of this program during this highly attended event.

IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

No guests/attendees wished to make a public comment at this time.

*The meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM EDT*

*The meeting reconvened at 2:15 PM EDT*

VI. Agenda Item VI: Voting on Grant Proposals

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to approve the funding of the FY 2020-2021 grants listed below. A motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, who moved that the Florida Defense Support Task Force award the Clay County Development Authority, Polk County, the Orlando Economic Partnership, the South Florida Progress Foundation and the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners a total of \$1,250,000 for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 grant cycle, subject to further discussions and restrictions. The motion was seconded by **Colonel Jim Heald**, all are in favor and the funding is approved.*

*The TF voted to award the following grant requests:*

- *Clay County Development Authority for \$500,000*
- *Polk County for \$500,000*
- *Orlando Economic Partnership for \$110,000*
- *South Florida Progress Foundation for \$70,000*
- *Santa Rosa County Board of Directors for \$70,000*
- **Total Grant Money Awarded is \$1,250,000**

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to adjourn FDSTF Meeting #87. A motion was made by **Senator Tom Wright**, seconded by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, all are in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 2:20 PM EDT.*

This meeting was recorded by The Florida Channel and can be found here:

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10-2-20-florida-defense-support-task-force/>

## **Final Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Florida Defense Support Task Force**

### **Minutes for the Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting #88 on Thursday, October 15, 2020**

The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) held a publicly noticed meeting via Zoom/Conference Call at 09:00 AM EDT – 12:01 PM EDT. For Agenda: See Page 2

#### **Task Force Members Present:**

Representative Thad Altman, Chairman  
Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, Vice Chairman  
Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, USN, (Ret.)  
Brigadier General Chip Diehl, USAF, (Ret.)  
Major General James Eifert, USAF, The Adjutant General (TAG) of Florida  
Colonel Jim Heald, InDyne, Inc., (Ret.)  
Representative Holly Raschein  
Senator Tom Wright

#### **Task Force Members Absent:**

Lieutenant Colonel William Dudley, USAF, (Ret.)  
Major General Richard Haddad, USAF (Ret.)  
Captain Keith Hoskins, USN, (Ret.)  
Representative Mel Ponder

#### **Speakers Present:**

Tabitha Biehl, Polk County Board of County Commissioners  
Trey Carlson, NASA  
Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Buck MacLaughlin, Avon Park Air Force Range  
Teri Wanamaker, NAS Jacksonville

#### **Others Present:**

Mike Aller, FloridaMakes  
Chad Allison, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)  
Jim Breitenfeld, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Bob Buehn, State of Florida Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) Commissioner  
Courtney Cannon, NASA  
Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)  
Dave Dahl, Navy Region Southeast  
Debi Graham, West Florida Defense Alliance  
Paul Hirsch, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast  
Tim Jones, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/Florida Defense Alliance (FDA)  
Elaine LaJuenesse, Eglin AFB  
Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast  
CAPT Chris Middleton, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
Liz Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)  
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance  
Dave Murzin, Okaloosa County  
Gary Pheabus, Campaign of Michelle Salzman, District 1  
Bruce Ritchie, POLITICO  
Michelle Salzman, Candidate for Florida House District 1  
Matt Schellhorn, NAS Jacksonville

Roger Williams, Florida National Guard (FLNG)  
Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife  
The Florida Channel

**Staff Present:**

Beth Medina, Vice President, Military & Defense, EFI  
Ray Collins, Executive Director, FDSTF  
Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Grants Manager, FDSTF  
Michelle Griggs, Executive Assistant, EFI



**Florida Defense Support Task Force -- Meeting #88  
Conference Call / ZOOM  
AGENDA for October 15, 2020**

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 850 298 6640**  
**PASSCODE: Oct@15**  
**OR**  
**DIAL IN #: (646) 558 8656**  
**PASSCODE: 305187**

**KEY:**  
*(I) = Information*  
*(D) = Discussion*  
*(A) = Action*

- 9:00 – 9:05 Welcome, Roll Call, Introductions..... Chairman **(I)**
- 9:05 – 9:15 Old Business..... Chairman **(A) / (I) / (D)**
  - Approval of Minutes Chairman **(A)**
  - TF Grants and Contracts Status Marcy Sanders **(I)**
  - TF Budget Update Marcy Sanders **(I)**
  - Polk County Grant Request Follow-Up Q&A Buck MacLaughlin **(D) / (A)**
- 9:15 – 11:35 New Business..... Chairman **(I)**
  - 9:15-10:05 Task Force Member Reports Kellie Jo Kilberg **(I)**
  - 10:05-10:10 Florida Defense Alliance Update Katherine Anne Russo **(I)**
  - 10:10-10:15 Washington Office Update Trey Carlson **(I)**
  - 10:15-10:35 NASA/KSC – NASA-Military mutual support T. Wanamaker/B. Medina **(I) / (D)**
  - 10:45-11:15 Education Update Ray Collins **(I) / (D) / (A)**
  - 11:15-11:20 HARB Encroachment Protection Letter of Support Ray Collins **(I) / (D)**
  - 11:20-11:25 FDSTF Strategic Plan Beth Medina **(I)**
  - 11:25-11:35 Mil & Def Update
- 11:35 – 11:45 Public Comment..... Chairman

Reminder – Upcoming Meeting Dates:

November 19, 2020	Zoom Meeting/Conf Call	December 2020	<b>NO MEETING</b>
January 21, 2021	Panama City Beach   NSA Panama City	February 18, 2021	Zoom Meeting/Conf Call
March 18, 2021	Tallahassee ( <i>Session</i> )	April 15, 2021	Zoom Meeting/Conf Call ( <i>Session</i> )
May 20, 2021	Tallahassee   FDA ( <i>Session</i> )	June 2021	<b>NO MEETING</b>

**Ray Collins**, Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF), *began the meeting at 09:00 AM EDT.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome, Roll Call & Introductions

**Ray Collins** welcomed attendees and guests and asked those guests in the meeting telephonically to please email **Michelle Griggs** to advise of their attendance, then turned the meeting over to **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman**. **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** welcomed TF members and guests, noted that the meeting is being televised by The Florida Channel and reminded attendees that the meeting is governed by the Sunshine Law.

II. Agenda Item II: Old Business

*Approval of the Minutes*

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for any corrections to the October 2, 2020 minutes. Noting none, a motion was made by **Brigadier General Chip Diehl** to approve the minutes, seconded by **Rear Admiral Stan Bozin**. All are in favor and the October 2, 2020 meeting minutes are approved.*

*Task Force Grants & Contracts Status*

**Marcy Sanders** briefed that there are no substantive changes to the contracts report since the last meeting. The quarterly reports are due tomorrow which will be presented at the November meeting. Staff is working on contracting the grants that were approved at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> TF meeting and the status of those will be provided in your November meeting report.

*Budget Update*

**Marcy Sanders** reminded the TF members that Enterprise Florida closes its quarter the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month after the state's quarter and that is when all reporting is due, which is why some months the budget report is not included in the meeting books. The last quarter is now closed so TF members will receive the budget report via email with a different, side-by-side format, comparing the previous fiscal year to the current fiscal year. The only grant to date that has been paid is DTF #20-201, Clay County Development Authority. Payments for this current year have been made against ADMIN only. Also, staff shows as encumbered the full local grant budget of \$1.25 million and reflects an amount of \$375,000 in out-of-cycle grants which is ready to be encumbered for the remainder of the year as new applications are considered.

*Polk County Grant Request Follow-Up Q&A*

**Buck MacLaughlin**, Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR), was available to answer questions regarding encroachment pertaining to their recent grant request, which arose from the last TF meeting. Questions specifically focused on the recent county-approved RV park, the impact it will have on the Range and if that needs to be resolved prior to awarding the grant. Buck provided several maps showing the location of the RV park and discussed the issues with training which will certainly arise due to the location of the park now called Canopy Oaks RV Park. This park will have 1,000 units and is slated to open on December 28, 2020. While the developer agreed to provide warning to any customer, Buck's biggest concern is noise complaints which will start the review process that could force the altitude to be raised and take away from the airspace structure and intent of transitioning from low-altitude navigation to low-altitude target attack on the Range. The leaders at APAFR will continue to fly as published by the FAA and will deal with any fall-out should and as it comes.

**Colonel Jim Heald** asked if it was possible for the Air Force to place ads or PSAs informing the public of the potential noise hazards to mitigate the mission impact?

**Buck MacLaughlin** answered that the APAFR is currently working with the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) who have acquired a grant from the DoD Office of Economic Opportunity to conduct a

Compatible Use Plan (CUP) and through that process they plan on educating the local community and government on the concerns that this type of development would have on their missions. The landowner for this RV park agreed to notify their occupants that the area is subject to low-flying military aircraft. Buck will follow-up with the Air Force legal department on the specifics of others also notifying the public, especially in those low-flying areas.

APAFR has seen remarkable progress through the Sentinel Landscape program and through Avon Park's REPI program as they've had one of the most successful Air Force REPI programs over the last 10 years. They are focusing on areas north of the Range but have made great progress in terms of insulating the remainder of the APAFR from incompatible development.

**RADM Stan Bozin** asked if the TF provides the grant to purchase the currently requested grant for land what impact will the RV park have on this land and other lands that the Range purchases in the future?

**Buck MacLaughlin** answered that the RV park is only about 400 acres in the northern area, so there is still room for tactical navigation to avoid that specific area, if needed. Their intent, per the FAA, is to continue to fly in that area until the noise complaints get to the point they are prohibitive. That northern area is not open for acquisition, but they are trying to mitigate any encroachment or mission sustainment issues through the CUP and through working with the county in terms of land use and zoning regulations. The type of encroachment from the RV park will not shut down APAFR and if that type of development spreads and becomes a trend for the area, then that may be an impact to the Range's airspace. APAFR has a similar airspace structure to the south so overall capability of the range will currently be preserved even with the RV park; the issue really is more one of capacity.

He pointed out the area on the map for which they've requested grant funding to purchase. This is a separate and distinct priority area to the west and is the remaining area of Arbuckle State Forest that would lose protection if future actions equate to incompatible development. The landowners are willing to sell at this time. It's a large enough parcel to pursue acquisition and they feel they can close very quickly.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** summarized that giving notice to the public is a good idea and asked if the county has committed to doing that once they received the development order? He also asked if **Buck** would send Staff a copy of all the criteria the RV park has agreed to in relation to their location near APAFR?

**Buck MacLaughlin** answered, yes, that was part of the negotiations at the approval hearing. He will follow up with the county as the opening date of the park approaches to ensure that the conditions agreed upon are monitored and enforced. He also agreed to forward Staff copies of all agreed-upon conditions approved by the RV park.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** requests all documents about the development agreement between the landowner and the local jurisdiction be sent to the Staff for review by the TF members to vote on the Polk County grant at the next meeting.

**Tabitha Biehl, Polk County Parks and Natural Resources Division**, stated that another month should not be an issue, however waiting any longer may for the landowner to go another purchase route. She thanked the TF for their interest and support on the project.

The TF and Staff discussed the motion made at the October 2, 2020 TF meeting about the grant funding, based on answers to additional questions posed by TF members, specifically focusing on the Polk County and South Florida Progress Foundation grants.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** discussed having a land use report that chronicles all the encroachment issues and all the land use restrictions of all of Florida's bases. They can see what the local governments have done with restrictions and notices and have a much better feel about this project. It makes sense that the TF have a basis of information for all the bases and the general land use around them.

**Beth Medina** updated about the EFI, TF and FDA website redesign which recently began. Within those new pages there will be a specific page on encroachment and how we're protecting our lands. On that page Staff hopes to have an interactive map so it's possible to track and be aware of issues in each county.

Staff clarified that the TF is moving forward with contracting the four grants (Clay County, South Florida Progress Foundation, Orlando Economic Partnership, Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners) approved in the October 2, 2020 TF meeting, including South Florida Progress Foundation to include in their contract they are to coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources. The approval to move forward on the contract for the Polk County grant will occur by the November 19, 2020 TF meeting.

### III. Agenda Item III: New Business

#### *Task Force Member Reports*

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** thanked **Representative Holly Raschein** and **Representative Mel Ponder**, who are terming out and will be leaving the TF this November, for all their hard work and dedication to the TF. It has been a great pleasure and honor to work with them and they will be dearly missed. We wish them the best as they move forward.

**Representative Holly Raschein** reported that it's been her true honor to serve on such an esteemed body. She thanked **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** for his leadership and the Staff and is looking forward to discussing the issue at HARB later in the meeting.

**Major General James Eifert** provided an update from the Florida National Guard (FLNG).

**COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE:** The Florida National Guard currently has approximately **1,069 Soldiers and Airmen** mobilized, supporting **46 Active Missions** as part of Florida's COVID-19 response effort. Our steady-state mission sets include:

- Operating **20 Community Base Test Sites & 5 Mobile Testing Buses**
- Administered **1,480,670 Tests** to date
- Supporting **State Logistics Resource Center** and a **Logistical Staging Area**
- Supporting multiple State and County **Operations, Planning and Liaison** responsibilities
- The Florida National Guard continues to receive 100% federal funding (502f) to support COVID response activities; we anticipate federal funding will be available through December.

**MOBILIZATION/DEPLOYMENT UPDATE:** The Florida National Guard currently has **857** (727 Army & 130 Air) **Servicemembers** representing **9 Organizations** deployed globally, supporting our National Defense Strategy. Additionally, our mobilization pipeline identifies **3 Organizations** consisting of approximately **291 Servicemembers** scheduled for deployment throughout the remainder of this calendar year.

#### **FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD ISSUES OF INTEREST:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 265<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment Ribbon Cutting.** Our 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 265<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment, will conduct a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, 16 October at 1000, in celebration of opening their new \$21.7M (\$18.9M-Federal & \$2.8M State), 76,708 square foot Readiness Center, located in Palm Coast at the Flagler County Airport. The facility will serve as the permanent location for an air defense (avenger) battalion headquarters, along with two subordinate batteries, Battery C (avenger firing battery) and Battery D (Maintenance Battery), comprising approximately 260 soldiers.
- **Legislative Appreciation Days.** We will conduct our annual Legislative Appreciation Days at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center on Tuesday (10 November) and Thursday (12 November). The days will mirror each other with presentations, tours, and displays highlighting Florida National Guard capabilities, activities and initiatives.



**Colonel Jim Heald** reported that on September 3<sup>rd</sup> several officers and enlisted members of the 20<sup>th</sup> Space Control Squadron moved over to the U.S. Space Force.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> Brigadier General Cain announced that Eglin AFB has moved into Health Protection Condition Bravo Plus (HPCON B+) meaning COVID issues in the community are down from “substantial” level to a “moderate” level. Allowable gathering sizes have been increased from 10 to 50 people. Visitors can now come on base much more easily than in the past, but maximum telework is still recommended.

The Cliff Long Memorial dedication in Crestview was also held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Cliff Long was the leader of a local MAC for over 60 years and received every possible civil award from the DoD and the Air Force through his civic contributions.

Kennetic Productions recently filmed their area at the Air Armament Museum, which went very well.

The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Air Armament Symposium will be held virtually on October 27<sup>th</sup> as 800 attendees cannot gather safely at this time.

**Mr. Tom Neubauer** updated on the rebuild of Tyndall AFB as the Base of the Future. Over the past two years Tyndall has been tearing down 247 of its 484 buildings and last Tuesday was a turning point as they broke ground on a new project, a \$17 million Air Battle Manager Simulator Facility. This building is designed to withstand 160 mile per hour wind speeds and a 19-foot storm surge. These groundbreaking will be more frequent as there are 44 MILCONS programmed and 120 facilities to be built soon. Also, across the bridge the Shoal Point housing is being torn down to make room to build the Tyndall Rebuild Accommodation Village (TRAV) to house up to 3,500 workers coming onto Tyndall to work on the rebuild.

Kennetic Productions also visited Bay County recently as they spent the day at Gulf Coast State College doing interviews for their video.

**Senator Tom Wright** remarked that Amendment 6 (which he sponsored) is on the ballot which allows the surviving spouse of a disabled/combat wounded veteran to keep the tax exemption/discount on their home after the veteran passes away, until the spouse remarries or also passes. Please promote this amendment and vote yes.

The PTSD program in Florida is now studying 16 veterans suffering from PTSD with funding for them to have 40 hyperbaric chamber treatments which have shown to help cure PTSD. Other states are following Florida's lead and once the study is complete, prior to the next Legislative Session, he plans to ask for additional funding from the National Veterans' Association.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** reported that the 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing/U.S. Space Force will be launching the ULA Delta 4 heavy rocket with classified spy satellite cargo for the U.S. National Reconnaissance Office. This rocket is the largest of the Delta 4 family as the heavy version features three common booster cores mounted together to form a triple body rocket. The Delta 4 is the preferred vehicle for those very large payloads. This launch has been delayed several times and he is hopeful it will be a go for the next scheduled dates of October 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> around midnight. He is also hopeful the TF can meet again soon in person and that one of their meetings can be centered around a launch at the Kennedy Space Center.

#### *Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Update*

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair**, briefed that the FDA is in the process of having their regional meetings with alliance partners to discuss action items and how they fit into the new FDA Strategic Plan. They are looking at opportunities and challenges ahead and what might lead into legislation.

FDA's new Family Support Working Group Chair, **Teri Wanamaker**, is on today's meeting agenda to discuss Purple Star Schools and how to incorporate that program in Florida.

She recommends a session in the January TF meeting on funding available at the federal, state and local levels and how local communities can leverage and maximize those dollars, so everyone is on the same page.

#### *NASA/Kennedy Space Center – NASA-Military Mutual Support Presentation*

**Trey Carlson, NASA**, presented to the TF the many events happening at NASA and the Kennedy Space Center (KSC). KSC is a multi-use spaceport supporting operations by Boeing, NASA, SpaceX, Lockheed Martin, Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC), Blue Origin, Firefly Aerospace and Space Florida. There are many proposed launches over the next five years and their programs including Commercial Crew, Launch Services, Exploration Ground Systems, Gateway and Exploration, Research and Technology. The SpaceX Demo-2 Mission which launched from KSC on May 30<sup>th</sup> sending two U.S. astronauts into space, to the International Space Station. The two-man crew returned to Earth on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, splashing down into the Gulf of Mexico, just off of Pensacola.

He discussed other topics, such as:

- The Boeing Orbital Flight Test, December 2019
- The upcoming Artemis project
- EGS Elements Progressing
- SLS Booster Segments
- Vehicle Assembly Building Platforms
- SLS Core Stage
- Mission Launch at Pad 39B
- The Artemis 1 Launch Vehicle Stage Adapter Arrival in July 2020
- Artemis 1 Firing Room Simulations at KSC Launch Control Center
- Gateway Deep Space Logistics
- Launch Services Program Manifest
- Mars 2020 Perseverance Launch in July 2020
- Mars Perseverance Rover
- Exploration, Research & Technology Programs

#### *Education Update*

**Teri Wanamaker, NAS Jacksonville**, presented on the Purple Star School Program. A Purple Star School is an educational institution committed to supporting the unique educational and social-emotional needs of the military connected student. It recognizes the frequency of PCS moves and its impact on military connected children. Approximately 200,000 students transition to a new school each year. Purple Star Schools support the transitioning student with a campus identified military liaison, a dedicated military family webpage, student-led peer-to-peer support, professional development and additional criteria determined by the State. The primary goal of a Purple Star School is to ensure that staff can help manage the challenges military-connected children face when moving between schools with different cultures, curricula, standards, course offerings, schedules and graduation requirements.

The Purple Star School initiative encourages states to develop a certification program that qualifying schools as friendly to, and familiar with, the unique education and social-emotional needs of military-connected children.

States can launch a Purple Star School designation program Legislatively or administratively.

Purple Star Schools require a campus-identified military liaison which can be a coach, teacher, administrator, nurse or counselor, to walk the halls and interact directly, on a regular basis, with military students. Families surveyed said this was most important. Schools are required to have a dedicated military family webpage, a student-led, peer-to-peer transition support program, professional development for school staff and additional

activities determined by the state such as an advisory board, community endorsement and a partnership with school liaison officer.

When implementing this program, it's important to include all counties and school districts, not just those where military installations are located. It was suggested that the Staff and FDA work with the Secretary of Education to shape the program for Florida to then present to the Legislators for implementation into Florida's schools. It was also suggested to discuss this program with Florida's College Chancellor.

**Beth Medina** added that she, **Kellie Jo Kilberg** and **Teri Wanamaker** recently met with **Bob Buehn**, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commissioner (MIC3) and found there is already support for this program from DOE and the K-12 Schools, as well as **Eric Sherman**, the DoD Liaison for our area.

**Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked what steps can be taken to move this initiative further. **Beth Medina** informed him that FDA's Family Support Working Group is working on the framework for a Florida program in the form of legislative or policy wording to be reviewed by partner organizations across the state to be presented prior to the next Legislative Session. **Kellie Jo Kilberg** added that Florida's Purple Star Schools will be more inclusive with the addition of the National Guard and Coast Guard. The program will be unique to Florida but can also be modified for other states to use as a model for their programs. **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** would like this legislation teed up for this Session.

All presentations can be found on the Task Force's website:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-Presentations-2020.pdf>

#### *HARB Encroachment Protection Letter of Support*

**Ray Collins** briefed on the encroachment threat to Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) brought to the TF's attention by **Representative Holly Raschein** at the last meeting involving an influential homeowner who has lived in Homestead for many years who is pressuring the Homestead City Council via lawsuit to change an existing decision passed about 30 years ago, which protects HARB from encroachment. HARB officials have asked for a letter of support from the TF asking the Homestead City Council to abide by the decision made years ago and comply with the city ordinances already in place. A separate letter will also be sent to the Miami-Dade County Council asking for their support, as well.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to write a letter to the Homestead City Council in support of Homestead Air Reserve Base and its military mission being protected from the proposed rezoning that would allow incompatible development close to the base. A motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, seconded by **Brigadier General Chip Diehl**, all are in favor and the motion is passed.*

#### *FDSTF Strategic Plan*

**Ray Collins** updated that he's been working on making minor edits to the TF Strategic Plan. It is currently in final draft form pending review and approval by EFI and the Governor's Office, potentially to be presented to the TF for implementation at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### *Military & Defense Update*

**Beth Medina** discussed that Staff continues to be very busy and is working on the following: The Air Force assessment webpages have been updated to reflect current and upgraded from orange to green assessment regarding Spouse License Portability status for Florida's Air Force Bases.

The updated websites can be found here:

<https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2020SAF/ActiveDuty.pdf>

<https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2020SAF/AirNationalGuardBases.pdf>

<https://www.af.mil/Portals/1/documents/2020SAF/AirForceReserveCommands.pdf>

Staff has been working with the Commissioner of Education to find better ways to portray Florida's schools, looking at criteria to determine if it supports the Air Force's current assessment at a National level along with the Purple Star Schools Program.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the FDA and the Florida State University System includes all 12 public universities in the state who each have a defense liaison along with programs to work with the local communities, the defense industry and the installations. This Florida MOU joins both strong state institutions of the military installations through the FDA and the public universities under the SUS with the DoD Innovation Unit (DIU) called the National Security Innovation Network (NSIN). The Governor's priority for us is to build a pipeline to ensure Florida has the equipment built for military use and people to work on the installations and in the defense industry, so partners linked up and joined into a formal partnership

The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) website describes their organizations as bringing innovation missions together to strengthen the national security innovation base. In addition to our original mission, Pentagon leadership in 2019 directed DIU to assume oversight of NSIN and the National Security Innovation Capital (NSIC), which operates as two distinct DoD organizations with complementary innovation missions.

The FDA is the perfect place to introduce the NSIN through the university system for military projects and problems to solve. The solicitation for these problems and projects was made to installations and defense industry. Students and colleges will get increased attention for their research programs as university senior projects are focused on solving these military and defense issues. Students get excited by this engagement and are encouraged to remain in Florida to work in these industries and on our installations. This MOU was signed on September 24<sup>th</sup> and the first call for projects went out across the state shortly after, with help from the FDA members and the university defense liaisons. To date there are approximately 18-24 projects identified for the spring semester.

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** added that it's important to include Florida's community colleges as a pipeline for future talent, as well.

#### IV. Agenda Item IV: Public Comment

**Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife**, updated on the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape as they have learned that the guidelines and instructions for submitting proposals will be soon after the New Year. They are currently working with partners such as EFI, DEO and FDA and planning on how then can support the Sentinel Landscape proposal. He will keep the TF informed as soon as he has more information. He is meeting with DoD's REPI staff next week to learn more about the application process and appreciates the TF's continued support.

*A quorum being present, **Chairman, Representative Thad Altman** asked for a motion to adjourn FDSTF Meeting #88. A motion was made by **Mr. Tom Neubauer**, seconded by **Rear Admiral Stan Bozin**, all are in favor and the meeting is adjourned at 12:01 PM EDT.*

This meeting was recorded by The Florida Channel and can be found here:  
<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/10-15-20-florida-defense-support-task-force/>