## Florida Defense Support Task Force



# Accomplishments 2012-2018



### Florida Defense Support Task Force

Achievements 2012-2018

"Making Florida the Most Military Friendly State in the Nation" (As of 30 December 2018)

Created under Florida Statute 288.987, the thirteen-member Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) has the mission to make recommendations to preserve and protect military installations, support the state's position in research and development related to or arising out of military missions and contracting, and improve the state's military-friendly environment for service members, military dependents, military retirees, and businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to the state.

#### "What success looks like"

- 1. Military and Defense Advocacy The Task Force has supported actions that have increased and will continue to increase military capability in Florida. The Task Force encouraged the Governor and local mayors and city councils to write letters of support for the Navy's Triton Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) to be stationed in Florida. The Task Force has encouraged USAF officials to select Jacksonville for basing Air National Guard F-35s, Homestead Air Reserve Base for future reserve component F-35 basing, although the latest round chose different locations. The Task Force has supported beddown at Tyndall AFB for a future MQ-9 Reaper training wing that was selected in 2017. An additional MQ-9 unit has been designated for Hurlburt Field to support Air Force Special Operations Mission. Since late 2016, the Task Force has become aware that the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) prohibition on oil exploration and drilling east of the Military Mission Line (MML) will expire in 2022 and threaten the Gulf Range Complex. The Task Force has led efforts to extend the moratorium initially by producing a White Paper on Military Missions and Oil Drilling and Military Mission Compatibility in February 2017 that has led efforts to extend the moratorium with the Florida Congressional Delegation, Florida Legislature, and the Department of Defense. Task Force support spurred resolutions passed in both the Florida House and Senate the support permanent extension of the MML in the 2018 Session (HB319 and SB550). The Task Force has produced and supplied Military and Defense informational publications, letters and briefs to new Congressional Delegation members on Florida defense issues relevant in Washington, DC as well as to new chairs and members of the Florida Legislature committees that deal with military and veterans' affairs. Through our continued relationship with The Principi Group (TPG), the Task Force maintained their advocacy efforts on behalf of Florida's military installations in Washington, D.C.
  - a. First published in 2013, the "Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis" and the resultant 2013 Florida Defense Factbook and other marketing materials were created to educate and raise awareness of the economic impact of the military and defense industry to Florida's economy the study is updated every two years. The latest data published in December 2017 found that military

- and defense provides \$84.9 billion in state economic impact and 801,747 direct and indirect jobs making defense the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economic driver in the state
- b. The "Florida Military Friendly Guide", a handbook of state programs and laws that benefit military members and their families stationed in Florida, was designed and annually publish. This guide is distributed to every military installation and veteran's outreach group to ensure Florida servicemembers and veterans get the best information available
- c. On behalf of the Task Force, The Principi Group:
  - Conducts a bi-weekly conference call that includes Task Force staff, the state of Florida Washington office, and the Department of Military Affairs as well as prepares monthly reports to the Task Force on their activities on behalf of Florida
  - Visits every major military installations in the state in order to remain current on issues faced by each installation commander
  - Advocates for Florida military mission and installations in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill
  - Advocates for the Southeast Range Complex Initiative in the State and in Washington, D.C. to establish relationships with stakeholders and DoD reps to solidify and update the Southeast Range Complex and Florida's role in military test and training missions
- 2. **Installation Encroachment Prevention:** The Task Force coordinated with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to make the Military Base Protection (MBP) Program a success. This program was funded to acquire three "Tier 1" non-conservation buffering lands adjacent to military installations including the purchase of a restrictive easement at the Mayport Village property, securing an easement on the southern portion of the Florida Rock property that will ensure MacDill AFB operations are not adversely impacted by development, and reaching agreement to purchase the Barefoot Palms property near Naval Support Activity Panama City. Although the Task Force engagement with the MBP has been very successful, we were unable to acquire the northern 10 acres of the Florida Rock property. Due to Task Force engagement with Base Commanders and the Governor's Office in early 2018, we were able to stop incompatible development of a shopping area off the northern end of the runway. In Orlando, the Task Force partnered with DEP to support the State's acquisition of a partnership building including more than 83,000 square feet of office space to reduce the cost of leased office space for the National Center for Simulation team at Naval Support Activity Orlando. This partnership with University of Central Florida, DoD and the Orlando-based defense industry was instrumental in keeping the Army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO-STRI) in Orlando and officially designating the Orlando campus as the Navy Center of Excellence for Simulation. At Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB), the Task Force supported efforts to stop expansion of the Urban Development Boundary that would have been an encroachment issue for HARB in early 2018. Governor Scott and Task Force member, Rep Holly Raschein sent letters in support of HARB that were instrumental in the developer pulling the application. Additionally, the Task Force supported the application and successful federal designation

of Avon Park Air Force Range as a "Sentinel Landscape" partner in 2016. Finally, the Task Force has approved 12 Grants worth \$4,811,965.00 (more than 39% of all grants awarded) that specifically prevent encroachment through land and easement purchases including:

- a. **Santa Rosa County** Three grants totaling \$221,964.00 to update a 2003 Land Acquisition Study and complete phased plan to limit encroachment at NAS Whiting Field, construct a fence to limit physical access to the airfield and to enhance force protection of the facility
- b. **Clay County** Five grants totaling \$2,500,000.00 to acquire thousands of acres adjacent to Camp Blanding to prevent encroachment to the Joint Training Center
- c. **Polk County** Two grants totaling \$1,000,000.00 to acquire land and conservation easements to prevent encroachment to Avon Park AF Range
- d. **Highlands County** Three grants worth \$1,090,000.00 to acquire land or conservation easements to protect Avon Park Air Force Range from incompatible land use and support a Sentinel Landscape management
- 3. **Defense Alliances, Communities, Education and Family Support:** An important aspect of military installation readiness and value resides in supporting the base military and family member population through local defense support organizations / alliances, direct family support programs and education programs. To accomplish this, the Task Force maintains an important relationship and partnership with the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA). FDA is the statewide grass roots volunteer effort to support Florida's military installations, missions and personnel in the communities where they live. The Task Force has integrated the FDA into its efforts by asking the FDA Chair to update the Task Force at their monthly meetings. Additionally, the Task Force and the FDA conduct co-located meetings bi-annually in order to cross talk and support mutual opportunities and goals. The Task Force has conducted two projects that directly support the coordination and continuity of local groups: the "Best Practices Study" captured and shared successful methods and procedures to all local defense support groups, and the "Linkages Study" helped local groups understand how their local installation shares interconnected defense infrastructure that reach statewide and often nationally. Beyond close cooperation with the FDA, the Task Force has supported 20 Grants worth \$3,639,000.00 (approximately 29% of all grants awarded) that improve the state's military-friendly environment for service members, military dependents, military retirees, and businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to the state including:
  - a. **Tampa Bay Defense Alliance** (TBDA) four grants totaling \$680,000.00 that established the TBDA and support defense advocacy for military missions and families in the MacDill AFB area
  - b. **Bay County** three grants totaling \$795,000.00 that partially support the area's transportation development including a LambdaRail project that provides transportation relief to the Tyndall AFB population and a project to develop an expeditionary rapid innovation center outside Naval Station Activity Panama City, which will collaborate with local colleges, universities, and business in a public-private partnerships
  - c. **Okaloosa County** three grants totaling \$480,000.00 to support development of the Tri-County Committee Partnership to support defense infrastructure and missions across the Panhandle and continue a public-private partnership to improve the military value of Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Field

- d. **The Andrews Institute** one grant worth \$225,000.00 to conduct treatment for 50 special operations wounded warriors
- e. **Florida 8A Alliance** three grants totaling \$350,000.00 that support veteran and defense small business development
- f. **University of West Florida** one grant worth \$350,000.00 to implement a program to identify and train military veterans in information technology and cybersecurity skill to enhance the qualified veteran workforce to support military needs in NW Florida
- g. **Doolittle Institute** one grant worth \$100,000 to conduct a Technology Transfer Initiative at Eglin AFB vital to the Air Force and the Warfighter
- h. **National Math and Science Initiative** one grant worth \$175,000.00 to develop a college readiness program focused on military children
- i. **Military Child Education Coalition** one grant worth \$225,000.00 to build a comprehensive plan to support Military and Veteran-connected children and families in the state of Florida tiger team to test the program in Tampa area and Escambia County
- j. **South Florida Defense Alliance** (SFDA) two grants worth \$255,000.00 to support the development of a single entity to advocate for local military and defense issue in Miami-Dade, Brevard, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties
- 4. **DoD Force Structure Gains in Florida**: Although Congress has not authorized a Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) Commission since 2005, the services have continued to relocate assets and missions "under the radar". Over the past six years, the Task Force has been instrumental in supporting gains of military capacity, missions and hardware to installations statewide and has provided 12 grants worth \$2,838,000.00 (more than 23% of all grants awards) to preserve and protect military installations including:
  - a. Naval Station (NS) Mayport -
    - Three ship Amphibious Ready Group (ARG): USS New York, USS Iwo Jima, USS Ft McHenry homeported in 2014
    - USS Lassen (Arleigh Burke class destroyer) homeported at NS Mayport
    - Dredging harbor, carrier pier renovated and shore power mechanisms put into place
    - Second major pier renovated to accommodate a 2nd ARG
    - Guided Missile Destroyer, USS Thomas Hudner relocated to Naval Station Mayport in 2017
    - Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) squadron commander in place with LCS training and support facilities funded and completed in 2017. Additional infrastructure improvements include LCS Operations Training Center, and an LCS Mission Module Readiness Center
    - First two LCS ships arrive at Mayport in 2017 (USS Milwaukie and USS Detroit) Three additional LCS arrived in 2018 (USS Little Rock, USS Sioux City, and USS Wichita) one additional ship still in construction
    - Mayport selected as newest base for Navy MQ-4C Drone Squadron (4 aircraft) which brings 400 personnel and 170+ new jobs to Jacksonville area planned to be Fully Mission Capable in 2020

• City of Jacksonville Military Affairs, Veterans and Disabled Service Department – one grant worth \$200,000.00 to create a support maritime research and development capability for NS Mayport

#### b. Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville / Fleet Readiness Center -

- Advocated for and gained more Navy repair business because of lower operational costs beginning in 2013
- Supported the P-8A basing, NAS JAX received a \$52M renovation of its runways and additional funding for taxiways, aprons, and hangars. 50<sup>th</sup> P-8A aircraft delivered to NAS Jacksonville in January, 2017
- Additionally, the NAS JAX infrastructure was augmented by the construction of the P-8A Maintenance Training Facility
- NAS Jacksonville is also home to the Triton Unmanned Air Vehicle (UAV) supported by the Triton Mission Control Facility and the Triton Fleet Support Facility.
- The Navy stood up its first unmanned-only aviation squadron on Friday, 28
  Oct 2016, as the MQ-4C Triton community establishes its first operational
  squadron at NAS Jacksonville
- City of Jacksonville Military Affairs, Veterans and Disabled Service
  Department one grant worth \$250,000.00 grant to build a new explosive
  disposal training range bunker on Jacksonville Air Guard base to enhance
  safety and increase the military value of the installation supports basing
  decision for F-35 program

#### c. Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field -

- New arresting gear was installed at Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Choctaw providing significant training opportunities for aviator trainees
- Whiting has added the T-6B Joint Primary Aircraft Training System (JPATS) Operations Facility improving their infrastructure ground game
- NAS Whiting Field has secured more than 1,000 parcels of land over the FY15 to FY19. These parcels are located adjacent to the installation, underneath flight tracks and within accident potential zones. Buffering of these lands serves to protect the mission and to safeguard conservation. The culmination of the Navy-County and Navy-State efforts brings the total land acquired around NAS Whiting Field to roughly 4,100 acres. The successes of what is considered the "Navy's Model" in encroachment partnering has positioned this partnership to potentially secure another 5,000 acres providing a protection buffer that enables NAS Whiting Field to support one of the most dynamic aviation training missions in the Department of Defense
- Completed a \$9.8M Utility Energy Savings Contract. Project converted over 7,000 lights to LED and improved energy systems (heat/cool/water) in 39 buildings generating over \$495K in annual savings.

#### d. NSA Orlando (Team Orlando) -

• National Center for Simulation Threat Mitigation Plan – Task Force provided one grant worth \$350,000.00 to develop the plan

- University of Central Florida Task Force provided one grant worth \$240,000.00 to implement the strategic plan in partnership with UCF to retain and expand office space for the center's mission – resulted in maintaining / expanding DoD simulation footprint in Orlando
- Added a new industry leader to the contributing Team Orlando membership Bohemia Interactive Simulations in 2014
- Florida has provided approximately \$42,000,000.00 in funds to acquire additional office space to lower the cost of leased space for military services. This has served to preserve the presence as Naval Support Activity Orlando
- The Task Force supported the newest Army Headquarters, Army Futures Command, establishment in Orlando. Even though Orlando was not considered by the Army, Army Futures Command, had an impact on Orlando with the Cross Functional Team (CFT) for Modeling and Simulation designated to be positioned at NSA Orlando

#### e. Tyndall AFB -

- Gained operational F-22 squadron 24 aircraft and accompanying support elements in 2014
- Averted the consolidation of the 612th and 601st Air Operation Commands (AOC)
- The Task Force provided a grant to Gulf Coast State College of \$30,000 to identify Air Force community partnership initiatives that will benefit Tyndall AFB, Bay County, and the greater state of Florida
- In late 2017, the Air Force selected Tyndall as the preferred location for the MQ-9 Reaper Wing consisting of 24 aircraft. The move will bring 1600 new jobs and \$250 million in Military Construction to Bay County beddown should be complete by 2020
- Task Force provided Gulf Coast State College an FY18-19 grant for \$144,000 to complete the required environmental impact study and scoping sessions to ensure Tyndall Air Force Base is a compatible location to house the beddown of the MQ-9 Reaper Wing

#### f. **Eglin AFB** –

- Averted a loss of the two star billet during the AFMC reorganization and AF Weapons RDT&E functions were not migrated away as considered in 2013
- Gained AFSOC aircraft stationed at Duke Field on Eglin AFB in 2016
- Gulf Range Complex protected due to work by CM Miller and SEN Nelson to stave off legislation that would have enabled oil exploration and drilling east of the Military Mission Line (MML)
- City of Niceville Task Force provided a grant worth \$25,000.00 to conduct the implementation of the 2009 Eglin AFB Joint Use Land Study (JLUS) Recommendations enhancing the bases military value
- Okaloosa County EDC Task Force provided a grant worth \$250,000.00 for strategic planning to support expansion of Florida's Military Test and Training Range Capacity that increases military value of all Panhandle installations that utilize the Gulf Range Complex

- Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) school updated its training program to try to retain more airmen in the process, which has historically weeded out about 75 percent of the classes. The \$3 million makeover of the school began with classes in January 2016
- USAF set aside 6 F-35 for Operations Test and 3 F-35 for AMC Test aircraft in order to support 5<sup>th</sup> generation capability tests operations in the Gulf Range
- The Task Force provided a grant to InDyne Inc. of \$235,000 to develop a systems engineering management plan for remotely operated site at Carrabelle, FL that supports Gulf Range instrumentation and primed the pump for \$60 million in federal spending to enhance the range in NDAA18 & 19
- In 2017-2018, an Energy Savings Performance Contract provided 7 major energy conservation measures initiatives potential project value \$60-75M

#### g. Hurlburt Field -

- New AC-130J's delivered to Hurlburt Field
- C-130 Wing Boxes (main aircraft wing structure) have all been replaced for the older model C-130's
- All rotary wing assets are gone from AFSOC they have been replaced by the CV-22
- Supported efforts to integrate FLANG into AFSOC CV-22 operations
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) In cooperation with the Task Force and the base, FDOT is constructing a flyover to relieve traffic congestion at the gate on HYW 98
- In June of 2018, Hurlburt was selected to host AFSOC's second active-duty MQ-9 Reaper drone squadron the unit will bring an additional 60 personnel to the AFSOC headquarters as well as 200 new jobs. The Hurlburt squadron is expected to be in place in late 2019

#### h. MacDill AFB -

- On 20 September 2016 the Governor and Cabinet approved purchase of a permanent development restriction easement on the most critical southern portion of the Florida Rock parcel on the departure end of Runway 04. This easement purchased a portion of a Tier 1 property and partially fulfills the Task Force strategic plan on stopping encroachment that would reduce military potential of Florida bases
- An \$8.1 million project to resurface an 11,421-foot runway at MacDill Air Force Base completed in late 2016 added value to airfield operations
- MacDill is slated to gain 23 UH-60 helicopters and 200 people from the Army Reserve by late 2018
- The Task Force advocated for earlier delivery of displaced KC-135R's 8 KC-135 aircraft relocated in late 2017 opening a new squadron, the 50ARS, at MacDill
- Task Force has advocated for DoDD Schools at MacDill, Tinker School is now scheduled for assessment

#### i. Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) -

- The 598th Range Squadron was activated at the end of September, 2015
- Gained approval from the U.S. Air Force for expanded use of the runway at APAFR to ensure emergency and normal use which increases range utilization
- Avon Park AFR request for Runway use was approved by the Air Force for multiple aircraft types (F-16, F-18, A-10, F-35, C-130, C-17, etc) that are now authorized to operate under day VFR (Cloud deck 1500' above ground, visibility 3 miles) conditions

#### j. Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) –

- Gained Navy special warfare unit to meet increased requirement for special operations forces in SOUTHCOM. Navy Special Warfare Unit 4 is coming to HARB
- Some progress toward making Homestead ARB a contingency base for Mobility Operations

#### k. Patrick AFB / Cape Canaveral AFS –

- Obtained funding to renovate the XY Building
- Obtained funding to upgrade/replace the communications equipment to support Range Operations/Management
- Task Force has supported increase in commercial launch at the Cape 2017 had 17 launches, 2018 has 34-36 scheduled
- New PAFB Fire Station MILCON (\$14M); broke ground 5 Jan '18; FOC Spring '19
- 45 SW has leased/licensed over 1 million sq. feet of excess facilities under Commercial Space Launch Act Title 51 U.S. Code § 50913

#### 1. Camp Blanding Joint Training Center / Florida Air National Guard –

- Airspace Control System the Task Force provided a grant worth \$474,000.00 to develop and implement an airspace control system to ensure mission accomplishment and safety
- Mass Warning System the Task Force provided a grant worth \$255,000.00 to develop and implement a mass warning notification system for the installation
- JAX Airport MILCON award for \$9M in FY17 for Fire Station construction, 100% design complete, expect contract award May 2018
- \$6.1M in FY16 AF appropriations for Space Control Squadron Facility for the 114 SPCS currently located at Patrick AFB, FL - Permanent facility estimated completion in CY20
- USAF announced on 7 Dec 2016 that the 125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard at Jacksonville International Airport was in the final 5 bases for F-35 bed-down. JAX was selected as a suitable alternate for future basing

#### m. Naval Support Activity (NSA) Panama City -

• Bay County – the Task Force provided a grant worth \$120,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study of dredging the turning basin to allow safe transit for large naval vessels – would expand installations capability and military value

#### n. Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West / Truman Annex -

 City of Key West – the Task Force provided two grants totaling \$250,000 that support transportation road access via the Truman Water front to support force protection and provide better access to Truman Annex and repair of the annex seawall – increased the military utility and value of the waterfront facility completed in 2018

#### o. Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola –

- Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce the Task Force provided a grant worth \$250,000.00 to relocate and/or add directional signage to the Naval Aviation Museum. The change in gate access by museum visitors was driven by force protection issues and caused an undue hardship on base security resources and personnel
- NAS Pensacola designated as homeport for two USCG Cutters The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter "Dauntless" and "Decisive" arrived in summer of 2018. Both are 210' Medium Endurance Cutters crewed by 76 Coast Guardsmen

#### 5. Overall Achievements:

- a. Organized as a Task Force, conducted more than 66 meetings to date and visited/evaluated all 20 major military installations around the state. In order to meet the mission, the Task Force first major order of business was to contract with The Spectrum Group to conduct a comprehensive review and simultaneous risk assessment of all bases in regard to possible realignment or closure
- b. In order to fulfill its mission, the Task Force developed and implemented a long range strategic plan to guide actions to protect, preserve and enhance Florida's military installations. This plan is updated annually to ensure relevance and timeliness of recommendations and action to support the mission. The latest plan is available at <a href="https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-Strategic-Plan-2018-2023.pdf">https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-Strategic-Plan-2018-2023.pdf</a>
- c. Established and maintains a web site to disseminate military and defense-related information and established a system of weekly updates to keep members current on events and activities impacting Florida's military installations at <a href="https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf/">https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf/</a>
- d. Contracted with The Principi Group to advocate in Washington, DC on behalf of Florida's military installations in conjunction with the Florida Congressional delegation and the Governor's Washington office. The Principi Group has been effective in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill in gaining visibility on Florida's military and defense issues as well as providing tremendous assistance to Florida's local defense communities during their annual visits to Washington. The Principi Group and Task Force Staff continue to conduct a series of follow up visits to Florida's military installations to update the original Spectrum Group assessment and remain current on issues faced by the installation commanders. Additionally, The Principi Group met with local defense leaders to receive community input on issues impacting the installations

- e. Southeast Range Complex Conference In accordance with the Task Force directive, The Principi Group conducted a conference on the development of a Southeast Range Complex on 3 November 2016 in Orlando. There were 27+ attendees from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Office of Secretary of Defense and many other stakeholders in attendance who had several presentations and robust conversations on the issues. This will enhance future cooperation of this critical resource for Florida
- f. Impact of Oil Drilling / Exploration on the Gulf Range Complex Developed a white paper in February 2017 to articulate a unified, consistent message to support the 2006 moratorium on Oil Drilling & Exploration east of the Military Mission Line (MML) based on the military value of the Gulf of Mexico available at <a href="https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-White-Paper-Oil-Drilling-and-Military-Mission-Compatability.pdf">https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDSTF-White-Paper-Oil-Drilling-and-Military-Mission-Compatability.pdf</a>
- g. Established the Military Base Protection Program Process Created a process to assess and prioritize and funding to acquire non-conservation lands or development rights to prevent encroachment or incompatible lands use around Florida's military installations
- h. Awarded 55 Task Force grants totaling \$12.48 million to local defense communities across the state to enhance the military value of Florida bases
- 6. **Supported military-friendly state legislation including** (Military friendly legislation available at: <a href="https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide-2018.pdf">https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Military-Friendly-Guide-2018.pdf</a>):
  - a. Establishing a funded program to acquire non-conservation buffering lands adjacent to military installations
  - b. Extending voter registration for deployed military members
  - c. Providing continued Florida participation in the Interstate Compact for Military Children
  - d. Providing write in absentee ballots for all state and local elections for deployed service members
  - e. Allowing military spouses/dependents to keep their state of residence driver licenses while stationed in Florida
  - f. Allowing automatic extensions for military spouse/dependent driver licenses while stationed outside of Florida
  - g. Providing a waiver of minimum age requirements for service members at hotels
  - h. Allowing out-of-state college tuition rates for the spouse and children of service members
  - i. Allowing certain persons with disabilities to receive Medicaid home and community-based services if parent or legal guardian is an active duty military service member
  - j. The "Don Hahnfeldt Veterans and Military Friendly Opportunity Act"

- The law eases professional licensing fees and requirements for certain military members, veterans, and their spouses, including:
  - For the Department of Health (DOH) professional licensees, granting current DOH fee waivers for dentists, and providing an affirmative defense in certain unlicensed activity actions;
  - For the Department of Business and Professional Regulation professional licensees, expanding license renewal fee waivers;
  - For the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services professional licensees, expanding current initial licensing fee waivers and creating renewal fee waivers;
  - For the Office of Financial Regulation mortgage loan originators and associated persons licensees, creating an initial licensing and renewal fee waivers;
  - For the Department of Financial Services professional licensees, relief from pre-licensure insurance coursework requirements, and expanding initial licensure fee waivers; and
  - For the Department of Education (DOE) licensees, creating certain initial fee waivers, granting a temporary certificate in education, establishing a pathway for veteran officers for certification as a school principal.
- The law gives students who are children of an active duty member who is not stationed in this state, but whose home of record or state of legal residence is Florida, priority for attendance in the Florida Virtual School
- k. Postsecondary Fee Waivers: The law authorizes FCS institutions to waive any portion of specified fees that are not covered under the DOD Military Tuition Assistance (MTA) program including: Student activity and service fees, Financial aid fees, Technology fees, Capital improvement fees; and Any other fees authorized in s. 1009.23, F.S.
- 1. Temporary Employment or Appointment of Officers: This bill provides an exemption from basic law enforcement recruit training for an applicant who has served in the special operations forces of the U.S. military for at least five years, provided there is no more than a 4-year break from the applicant's special operations forces experience at the time of application. The Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission may require an exempt applicant to complete additional training as it deems appropriate, based on the applicant's prior training and experience.
- m. Lands Used for Governmental Purposes: This bill provides for acquisition, lease,
   & conveyance of lands used to buffer military installations and moves the
   Military Base Protection Program (MBPP) for non-conservation lands into a
   different statute. It authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement

Trust Fund (Board of Trustees) to lease or convey acquired military buffer land to a military installation at less than appraised value or to private entities at rates determined by competitive bid, which may be less than appraised or market value, for certain operations. The bill amends ss. 253.025(21) and 288.980(2)(b), F.S., to add procedures for the selection of lands under the MBPP. Specifically, the bill:

n. Adopted by the Legislature: HB 319 and SB 550 – Gulf of Mexico Range Complex Resolutions

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