

## Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance Teleconference on Monday, February 27, 2023

The Florida Defense Alliance held a teleconference from 10:00 AM – 11:46 AM EST.

**Present at the Meeting:**

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Katie	Allan	Bay Defense Alliance
Mike	Aller	FloridaMakes
Thomas	Bowman	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Cameron	Bowsky	Matrix Design Group
Rita	Broadway	DoD / Florida Employee Support of the Guard & Reserve
Cindy	Brown	Senate Military Affairs Committee
Laura	Campbell	
Julia	Canady	Florida's Washington, DC Office
Peter	Caspari	DoD / Florida Employee Support of the Guard & Reserve
Rebecca	Caspari	DoD / Florida Employee Support of the Guard & Reserve
Jennifer	Codo-Salisbury	CFRPC/FDA Exec Board
Ray	Collins	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Harrison	Conyers	City of Jacksonville
Dave	Dahl	Navy Region Southeast
Jonathan	Darden	Florida House of Representatives
Scott	Davidson	USAF
Ron	Demes	Monroe County, FL
Jeff	Fanto	National Energy USA
Kathy	Ferguson	The Roosevelt Group
Dr. Neal	Finkelstein	National Center for Simulation
Christina	Gardner	NAS Key West
Debi	Graham	Greater Pensacola Chamber
Michelle	Griggs	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Annie	Grogan	Institute for Veterans and Military Families
Sarah	Hayenga	Homestead Air Reserve Base
Rose	Hebert	Department of Economic Opportunity
Jack	Hession	Madison Government Affairs
Josh	Jones	HARB

Robert	Katz	World Innovation Network
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	FDA Chair
Buck	MacLaughlin	Avon Park Air Force Range
Sheila	McNamara	Sustainability Manager at Hillsborough County
Elizabeth	May	Society of American Military Engineers
Terry	McCaffrey	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Trudy	McCarthy	EDC of Florida's Space Coast
Rick	Miller	South Florida Defense Alliance/FDA
Dave	Murzin	850 Consulting Group
Jonathan	Mwakyanjala	Florida House of Representatives
Kathleen	Nestor	FDA Exec Board/FSWG Chair
Tom	Neubauer	FDSTF/Bay Defense Alliance
Sharwonda	Peek	Duval County Schools
Patty	Piazza	Navy Region Southeast
Kay	Rasmussen	Okaloosa County EDC/DSI Committee/FDSTF
Jenifer	Rupert	East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Cory	Strickland	Department of Economic Opportunity
Karen	Taporco	Eglin AFB
Michele	Taylor	Navy Region Southeast
Brooke	Trawick-Gilbert	Bay Defense Alliance
Larry	Ventura	HARB
Chris	Weller	Department of Economic Opportunity
Craig	Williams	Office of Congressman Neal Dunn/Bay Defense Alliance
Kent	Wimmer	Defenders of Wildlife
Amanda	Woodyard	Military Child Education Coalition
Clarence	Zarnes	St. Cloud, Florida

Agenda: See below

## ZOOM / Teleconference Meeting Agenda

**Monday, February 27, 2023**

**1000 – 1230 EST / 0900 – 1130 CST**

- 1000 – 1005 Roll Call..... Michelle Griggs**
- 1005 – 1010 Opening Remarks..... Kellie Jo Kilberg**
- 1010 – 1020 DRG / DIG Grants.....Cory Strickland/Chris Weller**
- 1020 – 1035 Leveraging/Connecting Funding/Programs by Building Awareness of Florida’s Military Complex.....Kellie Jo Kilberg/Rick Miller**
- 1035 – 1115 Legislative Updates..... Rick Miller**
- Washington DC Updates
  - State Legislative Updates
- 1115 – 1125 Mission Sustainment Update.....Chris Middleton**
- 1125 – 1135 Family Support Update ..... Kathleen Nestor**
- 1135 – 1150 M&D Team / FDSTF Update.....Terry McCaffrey**
- 1150 – 1225 Around the State/Top Challenges.....By Region**
- Northwest: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa & Bay
  - Northeast: Duval & Clay
  - East Central Florida: Brevard & Orange
  - West Central Florida: Highlands, Polk, Tampa & Pinellas
  - South Florida: Miami-Dade & Monroe
- 1225 – 1230 Closing Comments & Adjournment.....Chair**

**Save the Date for the FDA Meeting in Tallahassee  
on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>!**

A quorum being present, **Michelle Griggs** began the call on February 27, 2023, at 9:00 AM EST.

1) **Agenda Item I: Roll Call**

**Michelle Griggs** announced that roll call will be provided by Zoom.

2) **Agenda Item II: Opening Remarks**

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman**, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She thanked everyone for volunteering their time and effort on supporting Florida's military families and installations.

3) **Agenda Item III: DRG / DIG Grants**

**Cory Strickland, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)**, provided a presentation on DEO military and defense programs.

The Defense Reinvestment Grant (DRG) Program was created to support community-based activities that protect existing military installations, diversify the economy of a defense-dependent community, or develop plans that facilitate the reuse of closed or realigned military installation, such as developing and implementing strategies that will help communities support the mission of the military installation. Projects eligible for funding are studies, presentations, analyses, plans and modeling.

The Defense Infrastructure Grant (DIG) Program was created to support local infrastructure projects deemed to have a positive impact on the military value of installations within the state. Funds are used for projects that benefit both the local community and the military installation. Projects eligible for funding include, but not limited to encroachment, transportation and access, utilities, communications, housing, environment and security.

These two programs help communities by supporting the mission of local military installations; developing and implementing economic diversification strategies to transition from a defense economy to a nondefense economy; developing plans for the reuse of closed or realigned military installations; acquiring land surrounding military bases to prevent encroachment, protect the environment and ensure security; and building infrastructure to address issues related to transportation and access, utilities, communications and housing.

The FY 2023-2024 Application Cycle will include some changes to the Request for Applications (RFA):

- Those with more than three open DIG's or have received more than two extensions on a DIG, will not be eligible for funding.
- Attachments have been removed and added to the body of the RFA. They will still need to be filled out and submitted with each application.
- Letters of support are required.
- An estimated budget and spend/project timeline are required.
- Attachments, maps, letters of support and a current strategic plan are to be added as Addenda.
- Evaluation criteria has been updated to coincide with the requests in the RFA and statutory requirements.

Anticipated release of the RFA is March 14, 2023.

The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf>

4) **Agenda Item IV: Leveraging/Connecting Funding/Programs by Building Awareness of Florida's Military Complex**

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair**, discussed that members should, when reading articles with little focus on Florida's military, contact that publication to highlight and emphasize your local installation in a positive aspect. Recently **Conservation Florida** published an article on receiving funds to purchase some land

due to the Sentinel Landscape around Avon Park Air Force Range and **Buck MacLaughlin** was quoted near the end of the article. Now they are in the process of revamping that particular article to showcase the importance of Sentinel Landscapes.

**Rick Miller, FDA Vice Chair**, added that if there's an opportunity to take these stories and instead of the military component being an afterthought, turn it into a military centerpiece or that the military was the enabling vehicle that brought this capability/funding/project to the state.

## 5) Agenda Item V: Legislative Updates

**Kathleen Ferguson, The Roosevelt Group**, provided a legislative update from Washington, DC announcing that the President's budget is scheduled to be released on March 9, 2023 on which she pays special attention to Florida MILCON projects and issues related to force structure.

Enterprise Florida is submitting several legislative proposals on March 3rd to the Florida members of the House Armed Services Committee on housing issues at Eglin AFB and NAS Key West as well as overall issues relative to the ranges and airspace in and around the State of Florida.

March 10<sup>th</sup> all appropriations requests for the House Appropriations Committee are due.

The Quality of Life is tomorrow with the chief senior enlisted advisors from each of the military services. Anticipated issues are basic allowance for housing, block of available and affordable housing, childcare and spousal employment.

The first hearing of the season will be with all service Installations personnel on all issues related to installations.

**Rick Miller, FDA Vice Chair**, presented on current FDA-related bills tracking through State Legislation for the upcoming Legislative Session. Categories include encroachment (5), licensure (18+1/12+), childcare (2), housing (9), schools/education (7), transportation (2), other (5) and National Guard (2). Goals are for bill awareness, tracking prioritization and identify gaps.

The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf>

## 6) Agenda Item VI: Family Support Update

**Kathleen Nestor, Family Support Working Group Chair**, briefed on key Family Support bills for the 2023 Legislative Session:

Bills with sponsors in Senate & House:

PsyPac Compact: SB 56 Harrell & HB 33 Hunschofsky - There is a notation that it is temporarily postponed in the House committee. We are attempting to ascertain the reason for the postponement.

Physical Therapy Compact: SB 156 Harrell & HB 281 Stevenson

Childcare Facilities Exemption from Licensing: SB 538 Trumbull & HB 1125 Bill Smith (Rep. Altman introduced a bill that has been replaced with HB 1125 to line up with the SB version.) Per Terry, we are also working to ensure that the definition of "Military Services" includes the Coast Guard and, thereafter, to include that language so that USCG would also be covered by this bill.

Collegiate Purple Star Campuses: SB 732 Wright & HB 845 Dunkley - An expansion of the current program to colleges.

Bills with one sponsor:

ASLP Compact: HB 0877 Hunschofsky

Interstate Education Compact: HB 1125 - Bill Smith - Filed on Friday - This bill will help FL become one of the first 13 states to enter into this compact this year.

Class Size: HB 0633 Salzman - In Section 2, 1003.05 3(a)(2), (4) this bill addresses some of the issues military members have faced with respect to school registrations.

Agency:

EMS Compact: It is my understanding that this compact is with DOH's legislative package and may require two bills due to a revenue issue.

Elevator speech explaining the importance of compacts to Legislators:

Please remind them that while Florida has done an incredible job of helping military families tackle the hurdles of licensing, the work is not done. Compacts provide a long-term solution to the challenges associated with licensure portability by providing consistent policy that allows our military members and other professionals to easily move between States without lags in obtaining a license. It reduces the administrative burden on States because they will no longer have to run parallel licensing processes for their general and military populations. The local economy also benefits from having more professionals available to work more quickly with the standard process that is shared across States. They are important both to the military and the local economy, and that this is still a state-centered process, and those tend to be issues or areas of concern.

The Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act, HR7939, which was recently signed into law by the President on January 23rd, Section 19-705A deals, with the transfer of professional licenses to a new location requiring States to recognize professional licenses as long as the person has a copy of their orders, is in good standing and actively uses their credential within the last 2 years. The important thing to note is the compacts take precedence as provided in that text. There is still the rule for the compact because there has to be a licensing process that initially occurs, and the compacts allowed states to be part of that licensing process and create a standardization.

They've been working with the Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone and Blue Star Families to come up with creative ways to help continue to make the process more transparent for our spouses when they come into the Florida. They're brainstorming ideas for ways to correctly and accurately capture the economic impact of our spouses, ensuring that information is transmitted to them when they arrive, in a way that is easily received by the current population. The processes to obtain a license or to get housing, to make their transition easier and more seamless.

The Affordable Housing Solutions for Florida Military Installations study by Matrix Design Group has been released. You can find it on the FDSTF website:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Affordable-Housing-Solutions-Final-January-2023.pdf>

**7) Agenda Item VII: Mission Sustainment Update**

**Rick Miller, FDA Vice Chair**, updated that last week the Mission Sustainment Working Group co-hosted a session with the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) focused on the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) program. It was a briefing/lessons learned review with OLDCC, Dr. Wes Brooks, Florida's Chief Resiliency Officer and the three regional planning councils that currently have MIRR studies underway (South Florida Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and the Emerald Coast Planning Council) answer questions and advise the three regional planning councils (Northeast Regional Planning Council for Jacksonville, East Central Florida Regional

Planning Council for the Space Coast and Team Orlando and Central Florida Regional Planning Council for Avon Park) who are in the process of developing new MIRR grant requests.

#### 8) **Agenda Item VIII: M & D Team / FDSTF Update**

**Terry McCaffrey**, Enterprise Florida, Inc., provided an update on events at EFI, the TF and Legislation:

- The next FDSTF meeting will be on Thursday, March 16, 2023 in Tallahassee. Staff is in the process of setting up a Legislative Meet & Greet the night prior (Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>), from 4 PM to 6 PM at the Florida Capitol. Space is limited so please let Staff know if you plan to attend.
- Since the last FDA meeting, **Representative Patt Maney** and **Representative Tyler Sirois** have been appointed to the Task Force.
- Terry McCaffrey testified on military programs in front of the Military and Veterans Affairs and Space Committee on February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The announcement on Delta 13 is said to be coming any day with the STARCOM announcement a bit later (still very political).
- **Terry McCaffrey** and **Ray Collins** plan to attend the ADC meeting in Washington, DC next week. They will focus on engaging Florida's CODEL on the Hill and are hoping to speak with many, if not all, MLAs and members as possible.
- There are more than 105 bills that affect military and veterans up for this Legislative Session.

#### Compacts

- **Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact:** HB 33/SB 56 (Hunschofsky/Harrell)
- **Fees/Professional Counselors Licensure Compact:** SB 0140/HB 385 (Rodriguez/Porras)
- **Physical Therapy Licensure Compact:** SB 0156/HB 281 (Harrell/Stevenson)
- **Practice of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact:** HB 0877 (Hunschofsky)
- **Interstate Education Compacts:** HB 1125 (Smith)

#### Other Bills

- **School Choice:** HB 0001 (Tuck)
- **Termination of Agreements by a Servicemember:** HB 0073 (Maney)
- **Task Force on Workforce Housing for Teachers and Expansion of Schools:** SB 0088 (Jones)
- **Nursing Education Pathway for Military Combat Medics:** SB 0274/HB 0517 (Avila/Rudman)
- **Provisional Child Care Licensing:** SB 0538/HB 1155 (Trumbull/Maney)
- **Collegiate Purple Star Campuses:** HB 0845/SB 732 (Dunkley/Wright)
- **Purchase or Acquisition of Real Property and Strategic Assets by the People's Republic of China:** HSB 0924/HB 835 (Berman/Waldron)
- **Benefits, Training and Employment for Veterans and Their Spouses:** HB 0139 (Woodson)
- **Workers' Compensation Benefits for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder:** HB 0337/SB 0352 (McFarland/Burgess)



- **Dental Service for Veterans:** SB 0366/HB 0635 (Burgess/Maney)
- **Education of Dependents of Deceased or Disabled Servicemembers, Prisoners of War and Persons Missing in Action:** SB 0550/HB 0339 (Burgess/Yarkosky)
- **Educator Certifications:** HB 0689/SB 0808 (Daniels/Powell)
- **Temporary Teacher Certifications:** HB 0735/SB 787 (Hinson/Powell)
- **Military Corpsmen and Medics of Florida Program:** SB 0858 (Torres)

## 9) Agenda Item IX: Around the State / Top Challenges

### Northwest Florida:

**Debi Graham, Greater Pensacola Chamber**, briefed that community leaders from Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties will be travelling to Washington, DC for meetings with Florida's CODEL; the need for hurricane resistant hangars at installations in hurricane-prone areas; and the continued rebuilding of facilities as a result of Hurricane Sally.

### **Kay Rasmussen, One Okaloosa EDC/Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative**

**Committee/FDSTF**, discussed that she will be travelling to Washington, DC in early March to attend the ADC Conference in support of Team Florida; she will be back in up Washington, DC the last week of March with the Defense Support Initiatives Team targeting the tri-county priorities; they are in the process of sending out their Military Priority Position paper and submitting the appropriate NDAA and Appropriations Forms to targeted Florida representatives; priorities are the Military Mission Line and range infrastructure, the Weapons Technology Integration Center for development advancement of fifth generation technology based munitions, housing and childcare; Higher Ground Education has backed out of the development of the two proposed childcare facilities in Crestview and Navarre due to huge increases in construction supply costs; they are in talks with a local developer to possibly take over the projects; Eglin AFB is heading up a maximization plan for infrastructure improvements and utilization for the Gulf Range and she asks that all stakeholders have open communication when advocating for installations and ranges.

**Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance/FDSTF**, reported that he will be attending the ADC Conference in Washington, DC in early March then will be meeting with the Air Force Civic Leader Group at Andrews AFB to brief them on the recovery of Bay County since Hurricane Michael; Commander Michael Mosi is the new Commander at NSA Panama City; on March 31st, Commander of Air Combat Command General Mark Kelly and General Glen VanHerck, NORAD Commander, will be at Tyndall AFB to officiate the change of command for First Air Force's Northern Air and Space Force as Lieutenant General Kirk Pierce will transfer command to Lieutenant General Steve Nordhouse; personnel are beginning to arrive at Tyndall AFB for the beddown of the F-35 95th Fighter Squadron however most are expected over the summer and the first aircraft will arrive on August 31<sup>st</sup>; the F-22 Formal Training Unit is moving to Langley Air Force Base through the end of June however the simulators and much of the academic training will continue at Tyndall AFB; pilots will come back to Tyndall on a TDY to complete their classroom syllabus and simulator training, then travel back to Langley AFB to fly the jet;

The Air Force's Community Partnership Program, which was created in 2013, generated about 1,000 initiatives and 500 signed agreements with 60 installations around the country. Florida was one of the leaders with participants at Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB, MacDill AFB, Patrick SFB, and Homestead ARB. Toniann Fisher is now head of this program as the Director of Air Force Mission Sustainment and Partnerships and she is willing to visit installations with community initiatives. She recently briefed this program, and he has a copy of the presentation, if anyone is interested.

### Northeast Florida:

**Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville (CoJ)**, briefed that the US Coast Guard HITRON will have a change of command in April; Tuesday, February 28, 2023 is Matt Schellhorn's last day at NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport after 44 years of combined service and will be honored at the City Council



meeting tomorrow night; they are hosting a Military Job Fair at the Players Championship on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 11 AM to 2 PM.

**East Central Florida:**

**Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast**, reported that Space Coast community leaders are planning a trip to Washington, DC in April; and they are looking forward to the Delta 10 official announcement.

**Dr. Neal Finkelstein, National Center for Simulation (NCS)**, briefed that SpaceCom, the global commercial space conference and exhibition, was held last month in Orlando; one exhibitor manufactures 100 different variants of space sand which mirrors and simulates the sand on the moon and Mars; there are 3-D printers that print space sand habitats to place on the moon, so travelers can take a rest stop on the moon before they travel on to the next planet; the SOFIC Conference will be held in Tampa in May and the Synapse Summit was held there earlier this month; the 2023 Land Forces Training Conference begins today in Orlando; last week UCF hosted the Defense Strategic Institute Annual workshop attended by all military services, representatives in research and development and acquisition logistic folks meeting with representatives from MS & T; George Cheros, the CEO of NCS was in Tallahassee last week meeting with Florida Legislators and is in Washington, DC this week meeting with Florida's CODEL; the Florida Simulation Summit is on May 10th, hosted by Mayor Jerry Demings of Orange County and will be held at the Orlando International Airport to showcase the new terminal as well as the Brightline Highspeed Rail; and this year, Amazon will be investing \$70 billion in research and development;

**West Central Florida:**

**Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Central Florida Regional Planning Council**, thanked **Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair** and **Rick Miller, FDA Vice Chair**, for organizing last week's meeting between Florida's regional planning council's and OLDCC; the information was invaluable, and they are currently working on their MIRR application; and they are continuing work on the Compatible Use Plan for the Range.

**Buck MacLaughlin, Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR)**, commented that APAFR is currently hosting the 58th Fighter Squadron from Eglin AFB who is student training out of the Deployed Unit Complex at MacDill AFB; the range has also recently hosted ground close air support and joint terminal attack controller training special forces groups; they've been working with their conservation partners and should have a number of conservation easements closing in the next several months; they continue to work on preserving compatible land use around the Range and buffering the military activity while also supporting the Florida wildlife corridor; APAFR Commander Colonel Ryan and his family welcomed son Matthew Miller Ryan this past Saturday.

**Kathleen Nestor, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA)**, updated that the team at TBDA is prepping for next year's Tampa Bay Trophy, created in 2016 and awarded each fall to a civilian for their distinguished service and contributions to our country's Air force servicemen and women; they are organizing speakers for their successful speaker series; TBDA is working with the National Security Institute sponsoring a pilot program at a local school that will be an intensive one-year program designed to introduce high school students to the National Security Apparatus and the complex military, economic, informational security intelligence and critical infrastructure threats facing America in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**South Florida:**

**Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA)/FDA Vice Chair**, updated that the future of Homestead Air Reserve Base may be in jeopardy as the Air Force is looking for soft closure of smaller bases; the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce was recently awarded a FDSTF grant for advocacy up in Washington, DC to prevent that from happening; and the status will be clearer once the budget is released on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## 10) Agenda Item X: Closing Comments & Adjournment

**Kellie Jo Kilberg**, FDA Chairwoman, closed with reminding everyone that the FDA will be in Tallahassee on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> to walk the halls at the Capitol and the next FDA Meeting will be in-person in Tallahassee on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at the Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown.

*The conference call was adjourned at 11:46 AM EST.*

## Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance Bi-Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023

The Florida Defense Alliance of Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) held a meeting from 8:35 AM EDT-4:40 PM EDT.

**Present at the Meeting:**

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Lacey	Allen	Hurlburt Field School Liaison Program
Ray	Collins	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Harrison	Conyers	City of Jacksonville Military Affairs
Chip	Diehl	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Jeff	Fanto	National Energy USA
Kathleen	Ferguson	The Roosevelt Group (Zoom)
Neal	Finkelstein	National Center for Simulation
Debi	Graham	Greater Pensacola Chamber
Michelle	Griggs	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Richard	Haddad	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
MG James	Hartsell	Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
Jack	Hession	Madison Government Affairs, Inc. (Zoom)
Paul	Hirsch	Madison Government Affairs, Inc. (Zoom)
Dawn	Kaunike	NAS Whiting Field School Liaison
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	Kilberg & Associates
Ginger	Manley	NAS Pensacola Exceptional Family Member Program Case Liaison
Terry	McCaffrey	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Mark	McManus	US Navy/NAS Jacksonville/NAVSTA Mayport/NOLF Whitehouse/Pinecastle Range
Chris	Middleton	Chair, Mission Sustainment Working Group
Kathleen	Nestor	Chair, Family Support Working Group
Jillian	Patton	The Roosevelt Group (Zoom)
MG Rob	Polumbo	Florida Advance Training Range Team
Randy	Roy	NAS Whiting Field
John	Skaggs	NSA Panama City
Cory	Strickland	Department of Economic Opportunity
Chris	Weller	Department of Economic Opportunity

# Semi- Annual Meeting Agenda

## Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown, Tallahassee, FL

**May 17, 2023**

**0830-1700 EDT**

0830-0845	<b>Welcome Remarks/Introductions</b>	Kellie Jo Kilberg
0845-0915	<b>Washington DC Update</b>	Kathleen Ferguson
0915-0945	<b>Veterans Affairs Update</b>	Major General James "Hammer" Hartsell
0945-1030	<b>Education and the Military Child Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lacey Allen, Hurlburt Field</li> <li>• Ginger Manley, NAS Pensacola</li> <li>• Dawn Kaunike, NAS Whiting Field</li> </ul>	Kathleen Nestor
1030-1045	<b>BREAK</b>	
1045-1115	<b>Mission Inventory Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randy Roy, NAS Whiting Field</li> <li>• Jeff Fanto, Economic Development Services, LLC</li> </ul>	Chris Middleton
1115-1135	<b>Florida Advanced Training Range</b>	Major General Rob Polumbo
1135-1200	<b>Military &amp; Defense Team Update</b>	Terry McCaffrey
1200-1345	<b>Lunch</b>	
1345-1530	<b>Working Groups Meet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission Sustainment</li> <li>• Family Support</li> </ul>	Chris Middleton Kathleen Nestor
1530-1540	<b>BREAK</b>	
1540-1600	<b>Working Groups' Report / FDA Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission Sustainment</li> <li>• Family Support</li> </ul>	Chris Middleton Kathleen Nestor
1600-1645	<b>Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northwest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa &amp; Bay</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Northeast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Duval and Clay</li> </ul> </li> <li>• East Central Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brevard and Orange</li> </ul> </li> <li>• West Central Florida <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Highlands, Polk, Tampa &amp; Pinellas</li> </ul> </li> <li>• South Florida Miami-Dade &amp; Monroe</li> </ul>	Local Defense Partners

1645-1655	<p><b>Next Meeting Planning</b>          There will be an FDA teleconference the second week in September. The next in-person FDA meeting is Wednesday, November 15, 2023 in Tampa at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore.</p>	Kellie Jo Kilberg
1655-1700	<p><b>Closing Comments/Adjourn</b></p>	Kellie Jo Kilberg
1800-2000	<p><b>FDA / Florida Defense Support Task Force          No-Host Dinner – Bird’s Oyster Shack</b></p>	

A quorum being present, **Chairwoman Kellie Jo Kilberg** began the meeting on May 17, 2023 at 8:35 AM EDT.

**I. Agenda Item I: Welcome & Introductions**

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg** welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She reminded everyone that the meeting is being broadcast on The Florida Channel and asked all Zoom participants to raise their hand with any questions or comments.

**II. Agenda Item II: FDSTF Strategic Plan & Washington, DC Update**

**Kathleen Ferguson, The Roosevelt Group**, first presented an update on The Roosevelt Group's schedule and strategy for their contract with the Florida Defense Support Task Force to update their Strategic Plan. Also discussed was an update from Washington, DC and leadership challenges with the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The presentation slides can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf>

**III. Agenda Item III: Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update**

**Major General James "Hammer" Hartsell, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs**, presented an update from the FDVA to include specific programs within the department, focus on women and Vietnam veterans and bills passed from the recent Legislative Session.

The presentation slides can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf>

**IV. Agenda Item IV: Education and the Military Child Panel**

**Kathleen Nestor, FDA Family Support Working Group Chair**, led a panel focusing on support of the education of military-connected students from PreK to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Panelist were:

- Lacey Allen, Hurlburt Field School Liaison Program
- Ginger Manley, NAS Pensacola Exceptional Family Member Program Case Liaison
- Dawn Kaunike, NAS Whiting Field School Liaison

Each panelist briefed on their job description and discussed the core focus areas of their school liaison programs and the challenges they face when dealing with military families, the local school district and the installations.

The presentation slides can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf>

**V. Agenda Item V: Mission Inventory Panel**

**Chris Middleton, FDA Mission Sustainment Working Group Chair**, presented a panel on mission inventory providing some background information on Florida's military installations and missions and highlighting Florida's military presence, enduring priorities and the focus for 2023.

The presentation slides can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf>

## VI. **Agenda Item VI: Florida Advance Training Range**

**Major General Rob Polumbo** provided an informative brief on improving training on Florida's ranges with discussion on topics such as fighter units located within the southeast region of the U.S., the Gulf Range's world class airspace, strategic and operational requirements, advancing technology and three (3) phases of their ongoing project.

The presentation slides can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf>

## VII. **Agenda Item VII: Military & Defense Team Update**

**Terry McCaffrey** provided updates on military and defense and the Florida Defense Support Task Force:

- Major General James Eifert, Florida's Adjutant General, recently retired and was replaced by Major General John Haas, who was just recently appointed to the TF.
- Terming off the TF in July will be Rear Admiral Stan Bozin, Captain Keith Hoskins and Colonel Gregg Billman. Staff is working with the EOG on replacements.
- Brigadier General Chip Diehl's last meeting as Chair will be in May. Staff is working with the Senate's appointment office on the appointment of a new Chair beginning at the July meeting.
- The TF approved a statewide review of childcare around Florida's installations and recommend innovative ways to improve the availability in military communities. Staff will push this report out to communities once the study has concluded.
- The TF recently signed several letters:
  - The Homestead City Council asking for their support to stop a hotel from being built adjacent to the installation next to the weapons storage area for both security and safety reasons.
  - Drafted a cover letter to communities to transmit copies of the housing options report to community and municipal governments (in coordination with points of contact in the local defense alliances).
  - The National Guard Bureau, USAF and CODEL advocating an increase in force structure in Florida for the Army and Air National Guard, plus a fix to the FAA policy of charging Guard units "fair market value" pricing for leases on facilities used for National Guard armories on airport grounds.
- Tomorrow's TF will focus on approving a contract for a new Economic Impact Study focusing on 2022 and hearing six (6) grant presentations for funding in FY 2023-2024.
- The legislature passed HB 5 which merges EFI and DEO into a new agency called the Florida Department of Commerce. The overall effect of that change for the FDA and the TF is that support for the functions will move from EFI to the new department. Organizational changes such as websites, email addresses and such will occur over the next several months, but most changes should be transparent to the FDA and the TF. At this point any effects to the defense grant program are unknown.
- The current state budget has appropriated \$3 million to the TF and that funding has been allocated directly into the grant program. DIG and DRG funding was also increased next year.
- Compacts that made it through the legislative session and should be signed into law:
  - Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
  - Fees/Professional Counselors Licensure Compact
  - Interstate Education Compact
- Other important bills passed:
  - School Choice
  - Termination of Agreements by a Servicemember
  - Nursing Education Pathway for Military Combat Medics



- Provisional Childcare Licensing
- Collegiate Purple Star Campuses
- Benefits, Training and Employment for Veterans and Their Spouses
- Dental Service for Veterans
- Military Corpsmen and Medics of Florida Program
- Interstate-Mobility and Universal-Recognition Occupational Licensing Act
- Interests of Foreign Countries
- Not passed was the Marine Encroachment on Spaceflight and Military Operations bill but Representative Altman and Senator Wright plan to reintroduce this bill at the next Session, which starts in January 2024.

### **VIII. Agenda Item VIII: Working Groups Meet**

The Mission Sustainment and Family Support Working Groups met for separate discussions at this time.

### **IX. Agenda Item IX: Working Groups' Report**

**Kathleen Nestor, Chair of the Family Support Working Group (FSWG)**, reported on the groups' discussions:

- Several compacts made it through the legislative session:
  - Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact
  - Fees/Professional Counselors Licensure Compact
  - Interstate Education Compact
- Next session focus will be on the Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology and the Physical Therapy Compacts
- Other important bills which made it through this past legislative session:
  - The Provisional Childcare Licensing Bill - This bill will allow for provisional licensing of childcare facilities, so when spouses who use this as an employment mechanism come to the state of Florida they will be granted a provisional license and then move forward with achieving a full license.
  - The K-12 Education Bill - removes specified reduction calculation for certain school district funding for school districts that fail to meet certain class size requirements; provides that certain dependent children of active-duty military personnel must be enrolled in certain programs; and authorizes certain students of military personnel to enroll in any school within state.
  - Florida Virtual School - Providing for flexibility in the administration of specified assessments for Florida Virtual School full-time students of military families residing outside this state; providing a process for the parents or guardians of such students to request the flexibility in assessment administration from the Florida Virtual School; providing flexibility in the administration of specified assessments for certain Florida Virtual School students, etc.
- Areas discussed for review:
  - Family Empowerment Bill - the definition of Florida Resident for scholarship purposes; it is their understanding it works off the date of orders and certain residency documents but there is concern about whether funding will be accessible to families by the time they're able to prove those residency requirements.
  - End of Course Assessments (EOC) – flexibility for all high school grades
  - Exceptional Family Member Programs (EFMP) – specifically looking at the timelines and the length of time it takes to process paperwork and ensure that the child is quickly and expeditiously receiving the services; and the availability of services in the support system that exists.
    - Possibly hosting a roundtable discussion between different stakeholders in the disability services community in the fall to help highlight areas of need and potential action plans.

**Chris Middleton, Chair of the Mission Sustainment Working Group (MSWG)**, reported that the group discussed mission issues such as:

- The responsibility of the installation Commander to be visible in the community and foster awareness of base's missions.
- Community Planning Liaison Officers (CPLOs) coordinate access development plans with many different agencies throughout the state; plans are diverse throughout each of the Services.
- Economic development as it pertains to site selections for future missions and ensuring the community understands the roles of the base that support daily life.
- How quality of life matters to mission resiliency and the balance between the two.
- How Florida's state agencies can function to be the bridge between other agencies.
- The community's knowledge of missions is related to negotiating with boards on issues such as zoning, school, etc.
- Legacy engagements, such as base open houses, are no more and air shows are one of the limited options for the base and the community to come together; there are fewer air shows and attendees must travel to attend.
- Encroachment protection matters: mission platforms, laboratories, wind tunnels, hypersonic buildings, classified buildings, ranges.
- Benchmarks can be used for best practices, examples such as NSA Orlando's partnership buildings, public-private partnerships.
- Executive advocates with the ability to overcome stakeholders and work with the EOG.
- Dual-use properties/buildings outside the fence, example Tyndall AFB's EOC/SCIF located in the fitness center.
- Discussion on state land swaps.

## **X. Agenda Item X: Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update**

### **Northwest Florida:**

**Debi Graham** reported that starting today, NAS Pensacola is now open to the public with a few restrictions; Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt will be visiting in early June; they are in the process of completing their Compatible Use Study which is an update from a JLUS from 13 years ago; other projects are the MIRR (Military Installation Resiliency Review), the public-private partnerships and their intergovernmental service agreements; and REPI just closed on 45 acres in APZ 1.

**Randy Roy** reported that there are 46 TH-73 helicopters at NAS Whiting Field; they are working with five (5) other counties in the northwest corridor from Tyndall AFB to Pensacola on a MIRR in hopes to compete for additional grant funding; they're closing on a REPI project within the next couple of weeks for 353-acres, \$800,000, totality of about \$42 million from beginning to end with 20,000 acres already protected around NAS Whiting Field and its assets; and they recently had a visit from Traci Hennessy, Director of Real Estate at United States Department of Navy, for preliminary discussions with Santa Rosa County about a land swap, also discussing opportunities in Baldwin County, Alabama.

**Jeff Fanto** reported that Okaloosa County continues to participate in the ongoing MIRR and Intergovernmental Service Agreement studies; April 26<sup>th</sup>, was the Eglin/Hurlburt Community Partnership Program Meeting which is focusing on three (3) lines of effort: 1 – Infrastructure, 2 – quality of life (housing and childcare), 3 – education and training (trade skills and career readiness); the Chief Master of the Air Force JoAnne S. Bass will visit Eglin AFB early next week; Eglin AFB is in partnership with local small businesses in the process of a Small

Business Innovative Research Phase 2 Waste to Energy Feasibility Study; and the deadline for DCIP projects is June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Tom Neubauer** reported that NSA Panama City just broke ground on a 54,000 square foot laboratory for \$58 million which is the first MILCON the base has received since Hurricane Michael. It replaces nine (9) buildings damaged by the hurricane; May 1<sup>st</sup> will be a groundbreaking at Tyndall Air Force Base for the Community Commons, a \$100 million facility that will include restaurants, a library, a post office, a bowling alley and a chapel; Checkered Flag exercise is currently at Tyndall AFB and will be attended by the Chief of Staff General Charles Q. Brown Jr. who will attend several meetings and observe the construction in preparation of the arrival of jets on August 31<sup>st</sup>; 25 civic leaders recently traveled to Fort Worth, Texas and signed the fuselage on the first jet they'll get off the assembly line; Tyndall AFB plans to have their first air show since 2017 next May. It won't be on the installation but over the Gulf of Mexico; and General Ken Wilsbach was named the new Air Combat Command Chief, once confirmed by the Senate.

#### **Northeast Florida:**

**Harrison Conyers** introduced Mark McManus, the new Community Planning Liaison Officer for NS Mayport, NAS Jacksonville, OLF Whitehouse and Pinycastle Range; NAS Jacksonville is preparing to close on a 55-acre parcel sitting next to the airstrip; NAS Jacksonville has asked the Navy to close their north-south runway, which is no longer in use and will open up some land for future military use; there are three (3) pending acquisitions around OLF Whitehouse for encroachment protection which will take place this year; NS Mayport is working on a \$500,000 Cooperative Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation in planning resiliency improvements on old Highway A1A along the western boundary; The Army Corps of Engineers and the University of Georgia Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems have been working with NS Mayport on living shorelines to address sea level rise; Captain Ian Johnson has replaced Rear Admiral Wes McCall as Commander at Navy Region Southeast; the COJ is working to address food insecurity at NS Mayport and starting in June will provide food provisions for active-duty military. If successful, they'll expand this program to NAS Jacksonville; and the COJ is working with NAS Jacksonville on an intergovernmental service agreement to assist with traffic light infrastructure.

#### **East Central Florida:**

**Neal Finkelstein** reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> Florida Simulation Summit was last week for defense industries to see technology innovation such as energy, health care, transportation cyber, gaming; the Summit was held at the Hyatt Airport to showcase the new Brightline fast train which will travel from Orlando to Miami at 133 miles per hour; airport technology was also highlighted as Terminal C includes sensors to park airplanes, and automated baggage system and bar.

**Jack Hession** provided an update of the Space Coast EDC's Regional Wastewater project, Phase 1 feasibility study; the study will conclude this month, a draft report is expected any day with the final report to be delivered the first week of June; the study is going to provide at least 3 optional sites for a regional wastewater facility, with the intent to close the facility at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station; Phase 2 study will be done in partnership with OLDCC's Military installation Resilience Program; Phase 2 costs will be determined on the aspects found in Phase 1 feasibility study so unknown at the moment; depending on cost Phase 2 will start in October/November 2023.

#### **West Central Florida:**

**Kathleen Nestor** reported that for his incredible involvement in support of the Tampa Bay community, Brigadier General Chip Diehl was recognized as a Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero at the last Tampa Bay Lightning game of the season; Major General Larry

Martin has been involved in the MacDill Family Resilience Task Force which deals with issues such as the water ferry project, spousal employment and recently worked with CareerSource to finalize a satellite center in Ruskin; the Tinker K-8 School's expansion has been approved a gym and additional classrooms; work continues for the childcare center renovation of CDC 1 which has been closed for three (3) years and they are hoping for an October 23rd soft opening, with approximately 140 families on the wait list; they're also actively involved in a rental partnership program to help deal with some of the housing needs in the area; the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA) is working on next year's Tampa Bay Trophy; they are actively engaged in the National Security Institute Pilot Project to help get young people in high school interested in potential careers in government service;

**Brigadier General Chip Diehl** added that school funding by OLDCC has increased from \$200 million to \$600 million which should fund the schools at MacDill, Eglin, Tyndall and Key West next fiscal year.

**Mark McManus** added that the State of Florida through the Florida Forever Program is closing on 540-acres down in the Ocala National Forest in the middle of the Pinecastle Range for permanent conservation.

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg** reminded everyone that the deadline for the DCIP grant application is on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also, BRIC grant applications will be due in the fall, so start working on them now. Kent Wimmer with Sentinel Landscapes sends out a newsletter which includes many grant funding opportunities, be sure to sign up for his newsletter.

She thanked everyone for what they do for Florida's military, veterans, active-duty and their families.

**XI. Agenda Item XI: Next Meeting Planning**

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg** announced that there will be an FDA teleconference in mid-September (TBA). The next in-person FDA meeting is Wednesday, November 15, 2023 in Tampa, Florida.

**XII. Agenda Item XII: Closing Comments / Adjourn**

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg** thanked everyone for attending, reminded everyone about the dinner at Bird's Oyster Shack at 6:00 PM and asked everyone to return their nametag to the table outside the room.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM EDT.*

All presentations can be found at:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf>

This meeting can be seen on The Florida Channel at:

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/5-17-23-florida-defense-alliance/>

## Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Teleconference on Thursday, September 14, 2023

The Florida Defense Alliance held a teleconference from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM EDT.

**Present at the Meeting:**

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Katie	Allan	Bay Defense Alliance
Pamela	Berkowsky	South Florida Defense Alliance
Bob	Bienvenue	Military Officers Association of America, Florida Chapter
Jason	Bird	Jacobs
Laura	Campbell	Applied Technology Academy
Peter	Caspari	DoD / Florida Employee Support of the Guard & Reserve
Rebecca	Caspari	DoD / Florida Employee Support of the Guard & Reserve
George	Cheros	National Center for Simulation
Ray	Collins	FloridaCommerce
Harrison	Conyers	City of Jacksonville
Will	Cramer	Bay Defense Alliance
Dave	Dahl	Navy Region Southeast
Ron	Demes	Monroe County, FL
Jan	DelSignore	Keiser University
Brigadier General Chip	Diehl	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Carlos	Fanjul	Office of Congressman Carlos Gimenez
Debi	Graham	Greater Pensacola Chamber
Major General Richard	Haddad	Florida Defense Support Task Force
LTC Blake	Heidelberg	Florida National Guard
Jack	Hession	Madison Government Affairs
Josh	Jones	HARB
Robert	Katz	World Innovation Network
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	FDA Chair
Scott	Luth	Space Florida
Tim	MacGregor	FloridaCommerce
Tara	McCue	East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Mark	McManus	Navy Region Southeast

Sheila	McNamara	Sustainability Manager at Hillsborough County
Elizabeth	May	Society of American Military Engineers
Nick	Melfi	Matrix Design Group
Barron	Mills	Florida Photonics Cluster
Dave	Murzin	850 Consulting Group
Jonathan	Mwakyanjala	Florida House of Representatives
Kathleen	Nestor	FDA Exec Board/FSWG Chair
Tom	Neubauer	FDSTF/Bay Defense Alliance
Steve	Opalenik	NAS Pensacola
Laura	Pavlus	Clay County Development Authority
Sheila	Poland	EDC of Florida's Space Coast
Guillermo	Ramos	Antares Aerospace & Defense
Jenifer	Rupert	East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Jim	Scholl	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Katelyn	Schultz	FloridaCommerce
LeeAnn	Sferrarazza-Rios	Florida Department of Military Affairs
Gaye	Sharpe	Polk County
John	Skaggs	Navy Region Southeast
Anna	Startzell	Military Child Education Coalition
Lindsey	Stevens	The Nature Conservancy
Cory	Strickland	FloridaCommerce
Karen	Taporco	Eglin AFB
Crystal	Teed	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Brooke	Trawick-Gilbert	Bay Defense Alliance
Larry	Ventura	HARB
Chris	Weller	FloridaCommerce
Kent	Wimmer	Defenders of Wildlife
Clarence	Zarnes	St. Cloud, Florida
		The Florida Channel

Agenda: See below

## ZOOM / Teleconference Meeting Agenda

**Thursday, September 14, 2023** **1000 – 1230 EDT / 0900 – 1130 CDT**

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- 1000 – 1005 Roll Call..... Ray Collins**
- 1005 – 1020 Opening Remarks..... Kellie Jo Kilberg**
- Introduce Tim MacGregor, Director, Office of Military & Defense, FloridaCommerce
- 1020 – 1100 Mission Sustainment Update.....Chris Middleton**
- Developing Land Use and Potential Encroachment Concerns
- 1100 – 1140 Family Support Update ..... Kathleen Nestor**
- Exceptional Children & Educational Services update
  - Challenges with DH680 and DH3040 Forms update
  - Spousal Employment Compacts update
- 1140 – 1150 FDSTF Update.....Tim MacGregor**
- 1150 – 1220 Around the State/Top challenges .....By Region**
- Northwest: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa & Bay
  - Northeast: Duval & Clay
  - East Central Florida: Brevard & Orange
  - West Central Florida: Highlands, Polk, Tampa & Pinellas
  - South Florida: Miami-Dade & Monroe
- 1220 – 1225 Closing Comments & Adjournment.....Chair**

**Save the Date for the FDA Meeting in Tampa on  
Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>!**



*A quorum being present, **Ray Collins** began the call on September 14, 2023, at 10:00 AM EDT.*

**1) Agenda Item I: Roll Call**

**Ray Collins** announced that roll call will be provided by Zoom.

**2) Agenda Item II: Opening Remarks**

**Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman**, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She thanked everyone for volunteering their time and effort on supporting Florida's military families and installations. She introduced **Tim MacGregor**, the new Director of the Office of Military and Defense at the Florida Department of Commerce ("FloridaCommerce.").

**Tim MacGregor** introduced himself, noting that he is also FloridaCommerce Secretary J. Alex Kelly's designee as the Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF). He's been on the job at FloridaCommerce for just over a month. He's spent the last four (4) years, working as a Senior Analyst for the Florida Legislature and prior to that he was in the United States Air Force for 36 years, 34 years on active duty, mostly as a pilot, and then a couple of years as a civilian simulator instructor pilot. He was a Senior Analyst on the 2005 BRAC Commission.

He envisions the Office of Military and Defense expanding into more traditional economic development and workforce development roles. He's excited about the future of the Office of Military and Defense as there will be many great opportunities to serve the people of Florida as well as servicemembers, spouses and veterans.

**3) Agenda Item III: Mission Sustainment Update**

**Chris Middleton, Chair of the Mission Sustainment Working Group**, provided a guided discussion and review of SB102 now Florida law, "Live Local Act" in the context of military installation mission sustainment and growth. He discussed the meaning of the law, why it affects Florida's military installations, where the risks are and perspective on the FDA participants in the way ahead.

Representatives from Key West, Jacksonville, Homestead, Cape Canaveral, Camp Blanding and Central Florida/Sentinel Landscapes weighed in on this issue.

FDA members plan on traveling to Tallahassee during the Committee Week, October 16<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>, to engage with Legislators on important issues.

November 14<sup>th</sup> through January 9<sup>th</sup> is slated for bill filings.

**4) Agenda Item IV: Family Support Update**

**Kathleen Nestor, Chair of the Family Support Working Group (FSWG)**, discussed several issues important to the support of military families.

**Servicemembers Civil Relief Act:** This was amended in January and allows servicemembers and spouses to use their professional licenses and certificates when they relocate due to orders. It does not cover the legal profession. It does not cover you if the issuing state and the state to which you're moving are covered by a compact.

In order to qualify under the Civil Relief Act servicemembers must have: moved outside of their licensing jurisdiction, provide orders, actively used their license during the two (2) years immediately preceding the move, remain in good standing with both the issuing authority and the authorities in which they practiced, and submit to the authority of the new jurisdiction for standards, discipline, and continuing education.

Once those qualifications have been met, the license is valid in the new jurisdiction for the length of the orders.

Who does this not cover? It does not cover geo bachelors<sup>1</sup> and a large portion of the retiree population. In the State of Florida, much has been done legislatively to help spouses acquire their license in an expeditious manner upon arrival. However, if the State statute is overlaid with the Federal statute, they don't match up exactly, because the State statutes were written before the Federal statute was amended.

Again, if the Federal statute is in play, if there is not a compact, licenses are issued with no waiting period and no additional information is required.

The first legal challenge comes from Texas, where a spouse, whose husband was stationed in Texas, had a school counseling license. She had not been practicing for two (2) full years prior to the issuance of the license, but had previously been practicing, did have the required documentation, did have a license and the State of Texas refused to issue the license per the Federal guidance. They wanted her to go through the State process rather than Federal process. She sued them in Federal Court and the Department of Justice came in and issued a statement on her behalf, which is part of the new legislation. The Department of Justice will be active in ensuring that Federal law is complied with, and the Federal Court has issued a preliminary injunction against the State of Texas at this point, allowing her to continue to practice while the case proceeds. What do we need to adjust, in Florida, either administratively or from a statutory perspective to be in compliance with this law?

Compacts are needed and are incredibly important. With Compacts, states are allowed a seat at the table in the discussion process, they're allowed to help determine scope of practice and they're developed after extensive stakeholder involvement. While that process occurs, it ensures that the characteristics of the profession are identified, and the unique aspects are being addressed.

The new Federal law does not cover a servicemember in a geo bachelor situation, a retiree or someone who's recently separated from the military and wants to stay in Florida. These situations **are** covered by the compacts.

The Compacts are important as they provide more power to the states and they should be strongly pursued in the next legislative session.

The Defense Priorities have been released and cover a variety of issues, most of which coincide with the parameters of the FSWG. These priorities include:

- Quality Family Childcare
- Military Spouse Employment and Economic Opportunities
- Defining Armed Forces and State Policy
- Military Community Representation on State Boards
- Child Abuse, Identification and Reporting
- Open Enrollment and Flexibility in Schools
- State Support for Families with Special Education Needs; this issue is both a defense priority and a priority for the FSWG

The FSWG are planning to host a Zoom Round Table the beginning of next year to bring together representatives from Florida's installations to discuss these important issues. Eventually, they would like to revive a past event in which Florida held a conference to bring together outside providers, families, legislators and base commanders or their representatives to identify and discuss issues affecting the community and develop potential ways forward.

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<sup>1</sup> Staff note: A "Geo Bachelor," or "Geographic Bachelor," is a military slang term used to indicate a service member who is living apart from their dependents and/or normal place of residence while on official long term Temporary Duty ("TDY" or "TAD") or Permanent Change of Station (PCS) assignment, particularly when assigned to "remote" or "unaccompanied" locations.

The FSWG, along with the Military Spouse Economic Employment Zones (MSEEZ), have released a soft survey asking questions of communities to determine their issues. The next step is to invite the pertinent stakeholders to a small round table to discuss those issues and identify those who need to be part of the process and in the hopes of the outside community stakeholders re-organizing this conference to be military-centered, focusing on issues that are specific to military communities and families who are moving into or out of the state with special needs children.

The survey can be found here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/c4b903d83a5d46a1bb65a2b46e48c2db>

## 5) Agenda Item V: FDSTF Update

**Tim MacGregor, Director of the Office of Military & Defense, FloridaCommerce**, briefed that through **Secretary Alex Kelly's** leadership at the Florida Department of Commerce we are now the Office of Military and Defense. As employees of the State of Florida, there will be a difference in how our office operates, and with the limits on what we can do and with what we can get involved.

Last week **Governor DeSantis** appointed three new TF members and re-appointed a fourth. Newly appointed were **Commissioner Jim Scholl** of Key West, **Mr. Jamal Sowell** of Orlando and **Rear Admiral Don Quinn** of Pensacola. **Mr. Reeves Valentine** of Lockheed Martin in the Orlando area was re-appointed.

The next TF meeting will be held on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> in Homestead. The meeting looks to be well-attended by TF members and the community as well as FloridaCommerce **Secretary Alex Kelly**.

Contact information for the Office of Military and Defense is as follows:

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## 6) Agenda Item IX: Around the State / Top Challenges

### Northwest Florida:

**Debi Graham, Greater Pensacola Chamber**, briefed that Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties are standing up a defense partnership focusing on educating their Congressional offices regarding infrastructure challenges at their two (2) aging bases. NAS Pensacola continues to work on the Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show in November. The community is pleased that the public now has access to formerly restricted portions of the base, and is working through challenges with traffic backed up at the entrance gates. They will be traveling to Washington, DC at the end of September and will be participating in the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Forum in Orlando in November.

**Kent Wimmer, NW Florida Sentinel Landscape Coordinator**, briefed that in fiscal year 2023, approximately 2,800 acres were acquired for \$8 million to buffer NAS Whiting Field. Over \$14 million has

been awarded for climate resiliency projects, including \$11 million to buffer the living shoreline and help protect NAS Pensacola. In this past year, total across the Sentinel Landscape, a total of 15,346 acres has been conserved, spending \$44.2 million.

**Brooke Trawick-Gilbert, Bay Defense Alliance**, reported that last Friday, **Major General Haas** held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Florida National Guard, Panama City Readiness Center Headquarters, First Squadron, 153rd Cavalry Regiment. The new facility will be constructed in an outstanding location adjoining the Panama City Beaches International Airport. The facility is scheduled for completion in 2024.

Tyndall Air Force Base had their first four (4) operational F-35s delivered and set. A celebration will take place on November 6, 2023, and will include **Senator Marco Rubio** and **Senator Rick Scott**, **Congressman Neal Dunn** and other Air Force leaders who were instrumental in the rebuild decision and its implementation.

In January 2016, the Florida Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the US. Department of Defense created a plan to construct new overpasses and an intersection on U.S. Highway 98 and the gates of Tyndall AFB, to better unite the operational and support sides of Tyndall AFB, currently separated by U.S. Highway 98. That \$21.9 million project is now nearing completion and will significantly improve traffic flow and base access.

Last month it was announced that the Bay County application was approved by the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Linda Fagan, and approved by Congress to become an official Coast Guard Community. The commandant is expected to participate in the community celebration in late October, in coordination with the launch of the first U.S. Coast Guard offshore patrol cutter.

Since 1998, the Bay County Defense Alliance has participated with Naval Support Activity Panama City in the Annual Navy Senior Leaders Bridge breakfast. The program resumed in July after a break due to COVID-19. **Commander Michael Mosi** and his staff hosted the Navy breakfast. All the tenant commands were in attendance and provided detailed briefs to the community on the status of the missions, the installation priorities, the issues facing each command and those that might benefit from community support or the Florida Defense grant programs.

**John Skaggs, NSA Panama City**, added that they've taken the Annual Navy Senior Leaders Bridge Breakfast initiative further and started inviting all the municipalities, including the county and all their department heads, to come to the base to start building partnerships.

#### **Northeast Florida:**

**Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville (CoJ)**, briefed that they are currently working with an Intergovernmental Service Agreement between the Navy and the City of Jacksonville to maintain traffic signaling at NAS Jacksonville.

It was brought to their attention that inflation on food/groceries was having a big impact on their sailors. They formed a partnership with several other not-for-profits in the community and created the Food Farmacy which provides families a drive-through grocery store that's set up outside at NS Mayport. They are serving approximately 300 military families twice a month, providing them with fresh groceries.

Encroachment protection is moving forward as they prepare to move forward with the last parcel of the Timuquana Project. They have multiple OLF White House projects lined up as the Navy has received \$1.5 million in Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program funds.

NAS Jacksonville will host an air show featuring the Blue Angels on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> on Jacksonville Beach and are expecting over 300,000 attendees.

On October 16<sup>th</sup> representatives from the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce will travel to Washington, DC to advocate for their military ship repair industry and to ensure that the ships and labor remains.

They are busy preparing for their Annual Celebration of Valor. In addition to hosting the largest Veteran's Day parade in the Southeastern United States, the celebration honoring Northeast Florida's military families has grown to include 18 different events from the end of October through the middle of December. The celebration ends with the world's largest Army-Navy football game watch party at Everbank Field to include a flyover and the Navy band. Last year over \$35,000 was raised and donated to veteran-serving organizations in the community.

#### **East Central Florida:**

**George Cheros, National Center for Simulation (NCS)**, briefed that the week after Thanksgiving (November 27<sup>th</sup> through December 1<sup>st</sup>) the Annual I/ITSEC Modeling and Simulation Trade Show will be held at the Orange County Convention Center. It will be attended by about 17,000 people and feature over 500 exhibits. This is an unbelievable trade show that shows off the science of modeling, simulation and technology.

A semiconductor fabrication facility located in Osceola County is a finalist for a \$160 million National Science Foundation Challenge Grant. He recently traveled to Washington, DC to support their efforts and will keep the FDA updated if they win the grant award.

**Robert Katz, World Innovation Network**, updated that he continues to work on a number of major workforce development and training initiatives including grants with the city of Titusville, also statewide and national, particularly focused on engaging military-connected children, families, spouses and veterans in capturing as much of the Renaissance and the space industry as possible, ensuring that Florida can maintain its space dominance in the country.

#### **West Central Florida:**

**Sheila McNamara, Central Florida Regional Planning Council**, reported that they are in the final stages of receiving approval for their Military Installation Resiliency Review (MIRR) application which will enable them to move further on their meetings with The Roosevelt Group and local community representatives.

They are continuing to work on completing a Compatible Use Plan and working with LegacyWorks on a new framework for their strategic and implementation plan for the Sentinel Landscapes. They are setting up additional meetings to follow up with the local community representatives for resiliency activities and strengthening intergovernmental coordination.

They are also concerned with the Live Local Act as well as the Right to Farm Act. Housing in their area is still recovering from Hurricane Ian as flooding has been an issue.

**Larry Martin, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA)**, updated that the TBDA has a new leadership team and they are looking forward to the FDA and the TF meetings in November.

They are excited about the possibility of funding for a new elementary K-8 school on MacDill AFB. Base leadership has worked with DoD for funding and now they are working with Hillsborough County for match.

Their biggest issue is resolving the issue with their military treatment facility facing severe downsizing that the Defense Health Agency is proposing.

On October 2nd, Pre-Commissioning Unit JACK H. LUCAS (DDG 125), the Navy's first Flight III ARLEIGH BURKE class guided missile destroyer, will arrive in Tampa for a week of pre-commissioning

activities, culminating with her commissioning as USS JACK H. LUCAS on October 7th. The ship's namesake is the youngest recipient of the Medal of Honor in Marine Corps history.

Attendees will include **Senator Rick Scott**, possibly Senator Marco Rubio, **Representative Kathy Castor**, likely additional regional Congressional Delegations, the Undersecretary of the Navy (SECNAV Del Toro couldn't deconflict his schedule), the Acting Chief of Naval Operations, the Acting Commandant of the Marine Corps, and numerous general officers and flag officers from MacDill AFB.

Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 48 (HSM-48) from NAVSTA Mayport in Harrison's back yard will also be sending two MH-60R helicopters to Tampa Bay for a flyover as part of the ceremonies. The JACK H. LUCAS will typically embark two MH-60Rs.

#### **South Florida:**

**Jim Scholl, Monroe County Commissioner**, updated that the Navy is celebrating 200 years in Key West and their Military Affairs Committee is celebrating 50 years of partnership with the local business community leaders and the local government leaders.

Next week The Roosevelt Group will be in Key West to meet with local community leaders as well as base leadership.

Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South), the second largest tenant command in Key West behind the Coast Guard, is moving forward with a \$350 million authorization plan to rebuild the facility.

At the end of September, the Special Forces Underwater Operations School will host a competition between the Army, Navy Seals, Marines, Special Operations Forces, and several others over two-days.

They are working on some grant opportunities to improve the facilities at Sigsbee Charter School on NAS Key West

NAS Key West contains a large parcel of land which could be used to build better quality housing for not only active-duty military but for Department of Defense civilians as living outside the fence is very difficult. They've been working with community leaders on organizing a plan to market that opportunity, not only for the military but for the community, because if people move back onto the base it would free up workforce housing off base.

**Larry Ventura, Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB)**, briefed that next week they are meeting with The Roosevelt Group and are looking forward to the TF visiting to discuss urgent, emerging encroachment issues with the biggest threat being a four-story hotel slated to be built right up against their fence line.

**Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA)/FDA Vice Chair**, reported that Coast Guard District 7 recently had a change of command as **Rear Admiral Douglas M. Schofield** relieved the duties and responsibilities of **Rear Admiral Brendan McPherson**. The Coast Guard remains occupied with hurricane response and migrant issues as well as their day-to-day operations.

The SFDA has just completed their MIRR report on which they will brief the TF next week.

Next week will be busy with hosting The Roosevelt group on multiple engagements with the Coast Guard, USSOUTHCOM, Homestead Air Reserve Base and others as part of the Strategic Plan Update. They're also supporting a partners meeting next week on continued advocacy support for HARB.

They continue moving on defense economic development related topics. The South Dade Aerospace Zone Project will be adjacent to HARB. They submitted a Federal Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration Grant application in July and hope to hear on that award in the next month.

They've had positive engagement with Space Florida on associated support and designations so hoping for some good news on those developments to share in November.

## 7) **Agenda Item X: Closing Comments & Adjournment**

**Kellie Jo Kilberg**, FDA Chairwoman, reminded to check your calendar on when local meetings with local State legislators are scheduled. She looks forward to seeing everyone in Tampa on November 15<sup>th</sup> for the FDA in-person meeting.

*The conference call was adjourned at 12:30 PM EDT.*

This meeting can be viewed on The Florida Channel:

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/9-14-23-florida-defense-alliance/>



## Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) Bi-Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023

The Florida Defense Alliance held a meeting from 8:24 AM EST- 4:40 PM EST.

**Present at the Meeting:**

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Stephanie	Bartley	Sigsbee Charter School
Robert	Brown	UCF Florida Space Institute
Ray	Collins	FloridaCommerce
Chris	Connelly	T3 Aero
Harrison	Conyers	City of Jacksonville Military Affairs
Traci	Dewar	6 <sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group (MacDill Air Force Base)
Chip	Diehl	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Debi	Graham	Greater Pensacola Chamber
Michelle	Griggs	FloridaCommerce
Eli	Jannes	Sigsbee Charter School
Teran	Judd	The Roosevelt Group
Robert	Katz	World Innovation Network
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	Kilberg & Associates
John	Kiriazes	UCF Florida Space Institute
Gabriel	Laramie	Eglin Air Force Base
Katie	Lopez	Tampa Bay Chamber
Tim	MacGregor	FloridaCommerce
Buck	MacLaughlin	Avon Park Air Force Range
Sheila	McNamara	Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Rick	Miller	South Florida Defense Alliance
Kathleen	Nestor	FDA Family Support Working Group Chair
Angela	Ocampo	MacDill Air Force Base Exceptional Family Member Program
Charlie	Perham	Matrix Design Group
Jim	Philpitt	U.S. Southern Command (USSOCOM)
Sheila	Poland	Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast
Tony	Rodriguez	6 <sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron (MacDill Air Force Base)

Jim	Scholl	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Tubby	Schwedo	University of Central Florida
Greg	Slater	Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority
Commissioner Kerry	Smith	Santa Rosa County
Cory	Strickland	FloridaCommerce
Kim	Sukach	Hillsborough County Public Schools
Guy	Swann	Swan and Associates, LLC
Bill	Van Houten	Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)
Dr. Venetia	Waters	MacDill School Liaison Program
Chris	Weller	FloridaCommerce

**Semi- Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore, Tampa, FL**

**November 15, 2023**

**0800-1700 EST**

0815-0830	<b>Welcome Remarks/Introductions</b>	Kellie Jo Kilberg
0830-0900	<b>2023 Economic Impact Study Update</b>	Nick Melfi/Charlie Perham
0900-0930	<b>OLDCC opportunities &amp; Update</b>	Bill Van Houten
0930-1015	<b>Lessons Learned from the South Florida Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christina Miskis, Planning Manager, South Florida Regional Planning Council</li> <li>• Sarah Marrs, Deputy Project Manager, South Florida MIRR, Jacobs Engineering</li> </ul>	Rick Miller
1015-1030	<b>BREAK</b>	
1030-1115	<b>MacDill Community &amp; Military Partnerships Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traci Dewar, 6<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group</li> <li>• Katie Lopez, Tampa Bay Chamber</li> <li>• Kim Sukach, Hillsborough County Public Schools</li> <li>• Greg Slater, Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority</li> </ul>	Kathleen Nestor
1115-1135	<b>Washington, DC Update</b>	Teran Judd
1135-1150	<b>Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) / FloridaCommerce Update</b>	Tim MacGregor
1150 – 1200	<b>Best Practices from the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Installation Innovation Forum</b>	Kellie Jo Kilberg
1200-1345	<b>Lunch</b>	
1345-1530	<b>Working Groups Meet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission Sustainment</li> <li>• Family Support</li> </ul>	Rick Miller/Debi Graham Kathleen Nestor
1530-1540	<b>BREAK</b>	
1540-1600	<b>Working Groups' Report / FDA Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mission Sustainment</li> <li>• Family Support</li> </ul>	Rick Miller/Debi Graham Kathleen Nestor

1600-1645

**Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update**

Local Defense Partners

- Northwest
  - Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa & Bay
- Northeast
  - Duval & Clay
- East Central Florida
  - Brevard & Orange
- West Central Florida
  - Highlands, Polk, Tampa & Pinellas
- South Florida
  - Miami-Dade & Monroe

1645-1655

**Next Meeting Planning**

Kellie Jo Kilberg

There will be an FDA teleconference on February 13, 2024. The next in-person FDA meeting is Wednesday, May 15, 2024 in Tallahassee at the Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown

1655-1700

**Closing Comments/Adjourn**

Kellie Jo Kilberg

1800-2000

**FDA / Florida Defense Support Task Force  
No-Host Dinner – J.C. Newman Cigar Company,  
2701 North 16th St, Tampa, FL 33605**

**Thank you to our Refreshment Sponsor**

**Tampa Bay Defense Alliance**



A quorum being present, **Chairwoman Kellie Jo Kilberg** began the meeting on November 15, 2023 at 8:24 AM EST.

**I. Agenda Item I: Welcome & Introductions**

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg** welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She asked all guests introduce themselves.

**II. Agenda Item II: 2023 Economic Impact Study Update**

**Charlie Perham, Matrix Design Group**, provided a mid-project update on the 2024 Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis including statewide impacts, a data overview and their path forward as they near project completion.

The presentation slides can be found here:

[www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf](http://www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf)

**III. Agenda Item III: Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) / FloridaCommerce Update**

**Tim MacGregor, Director of the Office of Military and Defense**, discussed the most recent ongoing at the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense. He and Ray Collins attended the most recent ADC Installation Innovation Forum in Orlando earlier this month and he's looking forward to attending next year's events in Washington, DC (April 2024) and in San Antonio (October 2024). Matrix Design Group is working on a Spousal Licensing Reciprocity Matrix to assist those with particular licenses and contain all pertinent information in one location. In October, the Division of Workforce Services at FloridaCommerce hosted the Veterans Workforce Grant Summit in Orlando. The Office of Military and Defense will also be focusing on areas of economic industry development which includes the Aerospace and Defense Portal along with informing on the various grant programs within the department. Both the Florida Defense Alliance and Florida Defense Support Task Force websites are in transition as they are migrated from Enterprise Florida over to the FloridaCommerce website. Currently the Office of Military and Defense website lives on [www.floridajobs.org](http://www.floridajobs.org). The team will send out an update once the sites are complete.

**IV. Agenda Item IV: Best Practices from the Association of Defense Communities Installation Innovation Forum**

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg**, led a discussion on best practices learned from the most recent ADC event. Topics of discussion included: the current Continuing Resolution and the impact it will have on defense budgets; communities which have applied for and received Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation's (OLDCC) Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP) grants; resiliency within the installations and communities; enhanced use leases that are becoming more complex; intergovernmental service agreements (IGSA); discussions on the results from the IGSA's and MIRR grants and how they should be implemented to maximize those funds; and the possible position of a Military Family Advocacy Liaison who currently reside in the local CareerSource programs.

**V. Agenda Item V: Lessons Learned from the South Florida MIRR Panel**

**Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance**, presented a panel on the South Florida MIRR. Panelists were **Christina Miskis**, Planning Manager from the South Florida Regional Planning Council and **Sarah Marrs**, Deputy Project Manager at Jacobs Engineering.

Topics of discussion included:

- Project Objectives
- Leveraging Local Efforts

- Stakeholder Engagement and Regional Cooperation
- Stakeholder Workshop Input
- Determining Vulnerability and Risk in a State Approved Process
- Plan Implementation
- Projects

The presentation slides can be found here:

[www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf](http://www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf)

## VI. **Agenda Item VI: OLDCC Opportunities & Update**

**Bill Van Houten, OLDCC**, presented a brief on their Installation Resilience, Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot and Public School on Military Installations Programs.

OLDCC Program Activities include:

- Community Investment
  - Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI)
  - Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP)
  - Pacific Readiness
  - Growth
  - Community Noise Mitigation (CNM)
- Community Adjustment
  - Installation Resilience (IR)
    - Compatible Use (CU)
  - Diversification & Modernization
  - Defense Manufacturing Support Communities (DMSCP)
  - Realignment

The presentation slides can be found here:

[www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf](http://www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf)

## VII. **Agenda Item VII: MacDill Community & Military Partnership Panel**

**Kathleen Nestor, Chair of the FDA Family Support Working Group**, presented a panel on the partnerships between MacDill AFB and the Tampa community focusing on military family quality of life issues. Panelists were **Traci Dewar**, 6<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group, MacDill AFB, **Katie Lopez**, Tampa Bay Chamber, **Kim Sukach**, Hillsborough County Public Schools and **Greg Slater**, Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority.

**Traci Dewar** discussed that MacDill AFB has over 40 active community partnerships including Tampa Electric Company TECO, Tampa General Hospital, the University of South Florida, the Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce and Hillsborough County Schools. They have close to 8,000 military members, 4,500 civilians, 4,500 contractors, 33 mission partners, 35+ general officers at USSOCOM and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), and other mission partners and 45 coalition nations that are represented on base. They work with a very diverse group and one of their mantras is they succeed or fail based on the strength of their relationships.

**Greg Slater** added that it's about being part of the MacDill community, understanding their needs and concerns, then connecting the dots and finding the best ways to support. In order

to understand the needs of the installation, he spends a lot of time on base as part of the Honorary Base Commander Program to socialize, informally, with the servicemembers. He also serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Resiliency Committee working to assist with obtaining U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) grants, and the Housing and Transportation Committee in order to answer any questions that may arise.

**Katie Lopez** discussed recognitions in the Tampa community such as the Hiring Our Heroes Community Impact Award, Hiring Our Heroes 3 Star Chamber of Valor, Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone and awarded as an ADC Great American Defense Community.

The Tampa Bay Chamber connects military talent to the business community by:

- Career Exploration, providing opportunities to meet with companies to learn about professional career pathways.
- Career Preparation, providing salary and benefit negotiation and understanding the hiring process.
- Professional Network, coordinating networking events that bring together members of the business community and military talent.

**Kim Sukach** discussed that Hillsborough County Public Schools is proud to serve approximately 4,600 children of active-duty military members and 8,800 military-connected students. Eighty-eight percent of our schools have at least one military-connected student.

A few Hillsborough County Public Schools' Military Initiatives include:

- MacDill Council for Educational Excellence is comprised of MacDill Air Force Base, School Board and district leadership and meets quarterly to enhance the educational experience of military-connected students.
- Established a dedicated District Military Liaison position to assist families in navigating the district and building relationships with MacDill AFB.
- Initiated procedures allowing transitioning active-duty military the ability to apply for magnet and school choice programs before receiving official orders.

The Public Schools on Military Installations Program provides funding to construct, renovate, repair or expand public schools located on military installations to address capacity and/or facility condition deficiencies as prioritized by a Secretary of Defense approved project listing. The proposal is for a complete rebuild of the existing facilities to create a fully functional 135,000 Square Foot PK-8 school that is aligned with the standards and instructional programs for 21st Century Teaching, Learning, and Leading – providing a healthy, safe, and secure learning environment. This proposed Schedule of Spaces increases the sizes of the Classrooms, Cafeteria, Music Suite, Information (Media) Center and adds the Gym to correct the deficiencies noted in the Facilities Condition Assessment Report (FCAR). This project will strive to achieve Net Zero and LEED Silver, with an expected life cycle of forty-five years or more.

The presentation slides can be found here:

[www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf](http://www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf)



### VIII. **Agenda Item VIII: Washington, DC Update**

**Teran Judd, The Roosevelt Group**, provided an update on the current climate in our Nation's Capital. Items of discussion included:

- Critical Issues for the DoD
- Congressional Action on FY24 Appropriations
- Congressional Action on FY24 Authorization
- MILCON
- National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) Provisions of Interest
- DoD Actions

The presentation slides can be found here:

[www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf](http://www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf)

### IX. **Agenda Item IX: Working Groups Meet**

The Mission Sustainment and Family Support Working Groups met for separate discussions at this time.

### X. **Agenda Item X: Working Groups' Report**

**Rick Miller, Interim Chair of the Mission Sustainment Working Group (MSWG)**, reported that the group discussed mission issues such as:

- Looking for volunteers to chair the Mission Sustainment Working Group as Chris Middleton has stepped down.
- Working with Tim MacGregor, Dr. Wes Brooks, Florida's Chief Resiliency Officer and other state agency head to establish a path forward with results from the MIRR's completed around the state.
- Focusing on the amendments for the Live Local Act and the Wind Energy Bill paying attention as they come out of bill drafting so communities can engage with their local legislators to advocate for those changes.
- Changing the name of the Mission Sustainment Working Group to the Mission Sustainment and Growth Working Group.

**Kathleen Nestor, Chair of the Family Support Working Group (FSWG)**, reported on the groups' discussions:

- Eric Sherman discussed the DoD's policy priorities for 2024:
  - Military Spouse Employment and Economic Opportunities
    - Includes compacts and the ease of spouses to gain employment in their state
    - State laws go hand-in-hand with the compacts
    - Looking to pass the Audiology/Speech Language Pathology compact in next year's legislative session, looking for a sponsor
  - Child Abuse Identification and Reporting
  - Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction
  - State Support for Military Families with Special Education Needs
  - Military Family Anti-Discrimination Status
  - State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence
- Issues with positive outlooks:
  - Military Access to Quality Family Child Care
  - Defining Armed Forces in State Policy
  - Military Community Representation on State Boards and Councils
  - Open Enrollment Flexibility

- Other items of discussion:
  - Individualized Education Plan (IEP) timeline, very long, ways to shorten that process
  - More military family liaisons needed in schools
  - End of Course (EOC) exam requirements for graduation
  - HB1, Florida Residency for Scholarship Funding
  - Family Café is June 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> and will include a segment on military families
  - Military Impact Forms sent home by schools to determine school funding
  - Employer support of the Florida National Guard and Reserve

## **XI. Agenda Item XI: Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update**

### **Northwest Florida:**

**Debi Graham** reported that the Northwest Florida Defense Coalition was recently stood up. It's a two-county initiative focusing on education and advocacy on NAS Pensacola and NAS Whiting Field. Coalition members include herself and **Rear Admiral Don Quinn**. Recently, the Blue Angels performed a homecoming air show at NAS Pensacola, which was their largest ever.

**Commissioner Kerry Smith** discussed that Santa Rosa County leadership has been to Washington, DC three times this year to meet with Congressional Leadership to discuss NAS Whiting Field. Focus is to encourage funding for hangars for the new Leonardo helicopters. Approximately 67 helicopters have been received from Leonardo and delivered to NAS Whiting Field. Phase 1 of the Whiting Aviation Park construction is complete. Leonardo Helicopters broke ground on their new facility in July 2023. This facility will be over 100,000 square feet and will employ over 50 people. They are working on securing grants for the taxiway-apron connection between Whiting Aviation Park and NAS Whiting Field. They received \$1.5 million in appropriations from the State which was a catalyst in Santa Rosa County receiving additional funding thanks to help from **Senator Doug Broxson**. \$6.4 million was received from a DCIP grant and \$4.2 million from the State of Florida's Job Growth Grant Fund. Santa Rosa County has applied for two additional grants for funding for the Whiting Aviation Park.

### **Northeast Florida:**

**Harrison Conyers** discussed that Northeast Florida visited Washington, DC last month with visits to the Pentagon. They have closed out two Defense Infrastructure Grants (DIGs) and one Task Force (TF) grant to help with encroachment at NAS Jacksonville. RAND National Defense Research Institute visited NS Mayport in early November to conduct research on how junior enlisted servicemembers and families access food and nutrition on and off the installation. They've established the Food Farmacy, a twice a month drive through grocery store just outside the gate at NS Mayport which feeds over 200 military families. Naval Station Mayport will host a demonstration of the prototype Stern Landing Vessel (SLV). This is the test bed for the Landing Ship Medium (LSM) class of vessels that will be able to operate in water shallow enough to permit the offloading of Marine Corps equipment directly onto the beach using a stern ramp. Mayport is beginning to execute over \$40 Million in repair funds resulting from previous hurricanes. NAS Jacksonville will host a detachment of United States Marine Corps F-35B aircraft from January 17th through February 12th. This detachment will be in the local area to conduct training in the Jacksonville Operating Area as well as at the Pincastle Range Complex. Patrol Squadron 30 is hosting P-8 Poseidon aircraft from the Republic of Korea (ROK) for a two-year training program. Three ROK P-8 aircraft are currently on station with three more expected in December 2023. VP-30 is the

lone P-8 Fleet Readiness Squadron in the U.S. Navy. The City of Jacksonville's Celebration of Valor is currently underway. Some of the events during this celebration included:

- Veterans Art Display at City Hall auditorium from November 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>
- JAX Chamber 21st Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon on November 9<sup>th</sup>
- Marine and Navy Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen Memorial on November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day Parade on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the second largest Veterans Day Parade in the nation
- Salute to Service Event at Jacksonville Jaguars game on November 19<sup>th</sup>
- Vetpreneur Summit on December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Army Navy Watch Party at EverBank Stadium on December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Wreaths Across America at Jacksonville National Cemetery on December 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **East Central Florida:**

**Sheila Poland** reported that the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast has added information on licensure reciprocity to the Space Coast Salutes Program on their website as well as adding information for local employers. They've expanded on their Launches and Lagers program to Launches, Lagers and Vets. This event invites veterans, spouses and local businesses to a local brewery to network and socialize. Phase 1 of the wastewater treatment plant is complete, and they are now looking for funding for Phase 2 to move that project forward. Also underway is the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) study in order to extend gas pipelines onto Cape Canaveral.

**Tubby Schwedo** introduced himself as the new Associate Vice President for Federal Affairs at the University of Central Florida.

#### **West Central Florida:**

**Sheila McNamara** reported that Central Florida Regional Planning Council's (CFRPC) Compatible Use Plan (CUP) is in the final stages of development and will come out in December. This will correlate with the MIRR grant for which they've applied and will have an official kickoff in December or January with a stakeholder committee meeting. They have recently formed a Heartland Regional Resiliency Coalition which will work regional issues and are working on several other grants for several surrounding counties such as Highlands, Polk and Hardy. Avon Park was the fourth Sentinel Landscape designee in the country, the first in Florida. Virginia and South Carolina were just awarded Sentinel Landscape designations, which brings the total to 13 nationwide. This year Northeast Florida will re-apply, making Florida the only state with three designations. An America the Beautiful Challenge Grant was received by the University of Florida for the Range Cattle Research and Education Center, which will help ranchlands with land management plans. The Florida Wildlife Corridor has been embraced by the State Legislature unanimously, as a major portion runs through Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) and the Sentinel Landscape, helping with resiliency, wildlife and biodiversity issues.

**Buck MacLaughlin** added his appreciation for the CFRPC and their partnership with the Avon Park Air Force Range.

**Kathleen Nestor** discussed leadership changes at the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA) as Larry Martin is the President, Kathleen Nestor is Vice President, Crystal Teed is Secretary and Don Barnes is the Treasurer. The USS Jack Lucas was recently commissioned in Port Tampa Bay and the ceremony was well-attended by the community. The Tampa Bay Trophy was recently awarded to Mary Graham, a 30-year career civilian out of Joint Base Charleston. The Trophy is awarded annually to recognize a civilian in Air Mobility Command who has gone above and beyond throughout their career. Aging infrastructure and redevelopment in South Tampa has affected water quality and water pressure for residents

and businesses. The City of Tampa's MacDill Pipeline project will build a new drinking water transmission main to improve drinking water quality, sustainability and resiliency for residents and businesses. The MacDill Pipeline project is part of the City's Progressive Infrastructure Planning to Ensure Sustainability (PIPES) program, a \$2.9 billion funding plan for large-scale sewer and water infrastructure improvements. The groundbreaking for the new Tinker School permanent facility to replace the modular classrooms will be happening soon. The TBDA is excited to host tonight's dinner at the J.C. Newman Cigar Factory, one of the older cigar-rolling facilities in Tampa.

**Rick Miller** reported that their big new is that they've completed their MIRR.

**Representative Carlos Gimenez** has sponsored two NDAA amendments related to the threat in Homestead with statewide applicability. The first amendment places a 180-day prohibition on any F-16 retirements in the Air Force until after the Air Force delivers a report to Congress on fighter aircraft retirements and plans. The second amendment requires the Air Force to provide a report on their F-35 strategic basing decision process. Representative Don Bacon from Nebraska has filed a House NDAA amendment for a report from the Air Force on defining the overall size for the fighter fleet and how they intend to meet capacity for their worldwide fighter aircraft requirements, specifically to protect the Air National Guard aircraft airframe strength, until the Air Force delivers a plan on their recapitalization for Air Guard units. Also in Homestead is an initiative led by a developer for City of Homestead approval on a site on the southwest side of Homestead Air Reserve Base, just north of the accident potential zone, immediately adjacent to the explosive ordinance disposal training range, to build two four-story hotels and a daycare center. This project goes before the City Council this evening.

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg** reminded everyone that the deadline for the DCIP grant application is on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Also, BRIC grant applications will be due in the fall, so start working on them now. Kent Wimmer with Sentinel Landscapes sends out a newsletter which includes many grant funding opportunities, be sure to sign up for his newsletter.

**Cory Strickland** announced that the window for additional DIG and Defense Reinvestment Grant (DRG) funding closes on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**XII. Agenda Item XII: Next Meeting Planning**

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg** announced that there will be an FDA teleconference on February 13, 2024. The next in-person FDA meeting is Wednesday, May 15, 2024 in Tallahassee, Florida at the Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown.

**XIII. Agenda Item XIII: Closing Comments / Adjourn**

**Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg** thanked everyone for attending, reminded everyone that the TF meeting is tomorrow at 9 AM and thanked the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance for their sponsorship of snacks and beverages for today's meeting.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM EST.*

All presentations slides can be found here:

[www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf](http://www.selectflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2023.pdf)