



Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, February 13, 2024

The Florida Defense Alliance held a teleconference from 10:00 AM – 12:42 PM EST.

Present at the Meeting:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Katie	Allan	Bay Defense Alliance
CAPT Nicole	Augins	Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
Colonel Adam	Bingham	MacDill Air Force Base (AFB)
Jason	Bird	Jacobs Engineering
Dr. Julie	Brisset	University of Central Florida (UCF)
Cindy	Brown	Florida Senate
Peter	Caspari	Department of Defense (DoD) / Florida Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve
Ada	Clark	Emerald Coast Regional Council
Jennifer	Codo-Salisbury	Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)
Ray	Collins	FloridaCommerce
Harrison	Conyers	City of Jacksonville
Dave	Dahl	Navy Region Southeast
Scott	Davidson	Hurlburt Field
Ron	Demes	Monroe County, Florida
Brigadier General Chip	Diehl	Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF)
Jeff	Fanto	National Energy USA
Michael	Ferro	Executive Office of the Governor (EOG)_
Dr. Neal	Finkelstein	FDA Executive Board/Mission Assurance and Growth Working Group Chair
Debi	Graham	Greater Pensacola Chamber
Michelle	Griggs	FloridaCommerce
Mallory	Gross	Tyndall AFB
Major General James	Hartsell	Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA)
LTC Blake	Heidelberg	Florida National Guard
Jack	Hession	Madison Government Affairs
Taylor	Johnston	University of South Florida (USF)
Robert	Katz	World Innovation Network
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	FDA Chair
Shannon	Klein	Navy Region Southeast

Elaine	LaJeunesse	Eglin AFB
Rob	Lawrence	Florida Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve
Tim	MacGregor	FloridaCommerce
Buck	MacLaughlin	Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR)
Mark	McManus	Navy Region Southeast
Sheila	McNamara	Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC)
Cheryl	Martin	NVIDIA
Elizabeth	May	Society of American Military Engineers
Rick	Miller	FDA Vice Chair
Lavender	Morrison	Humana Military
Jonathan	Mwakyanjala	Florida House of Representatives
Angela	Neal	Economic Development Commission (EDC) of Florida's Space Coast
Kathleen	Nestor	FDA Executive Board/Family Support Working Group (FSWG) Chair
Tyler	Nolen	Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council
Office of	Representative Michelle Saltzman	
Sheila	Poland	EDC of Florida's Space Coast
Tim	Proctor	Florida Senate
Guillermo	Ramos	Antares Aerospace and Defense
Kay	Rasmussen	One Okaloosa Economic Development Council/Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF)
Margaret	Rivera	
Tony	Rodriguez	MacDill AFB
Randy	Roy	Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field
Jenifer	Rupert	East Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Jim	Scholl	Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF)
Scott	Sevin	7-Dippity
Eric	Sherman	(DoD State Liaison Office
Nan	Smith	University of Florida
Jane	Spencer	MacDill AFB
Anna	Startzell	Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)
Cory	Strickland	FloridaCommerce
Melissa	Stoker	Space Florida
Kim	Sukach	Hillsborough County Public Schools
Guy	Swan	Swan and Associates, LLC
Karen	Taporco	Eglin AFB
Michele	Taylor	NAS Jacksonville
Anne	Thompson	Regional Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Advocate
Brooke	Trawick-Gilbert	Bay Defense Alliance
Larry	Ventura	Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB)

Teri	Wanamaker	NAS Jacksonville
Dr. Venetia	Waters	MacDill AFB
Chris	Weller	FloridaCommerce
Kent	Wimmer	Defenders of Wildlife
Senator Tom	Wright	Florida Defense Support Task Force Chairman
Clarence	Zarnes	St. Cloud, Florida

Agenda: See below

ZOOM / Virtual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 13, 2024 **1000 – 1230 EST / 0900 – 1130 CST**

1000 – 1005 Opening Remarks..... Kellie Jo Kilberg

1005 – 1020 State Legislative Update..... Rick Miller

1020 – 1030 FloridaCommerce Office of Military & Defense Update..... Tim MacGregor

1030 – 1115 Family Support Panel..... Kathleen Nestor

Educational Challenges Facing Military Families with Exceptional Children

- Eric Sherman, DoD State Liaison Office, Southeast Region
- Shannon Klein, Navy Region Southeast Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)
- Scott Sevin, Military Families Special Needs Network
- Elaine LaJeunesse, Eglin AFB/Okaloosa County EFMP

1115 – 1200 Mission Assurance & Growth Panel..... Neal Finkelstein

The Impact of Florida Universities on the Growth of Florida Bases

- Space Impact: Dr. Julie Brisset, University of Central Florida, Florida Space Institute
- ROTC Impact: CAPT Nicole Augins Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Industry Impact: Cheryl Martin, NVIDIA/University of Florida Grant
- Defense Impact: Taylor Johnston, University of South Florida

1200 – 1215 Washington DC Update..... Kathleen Ferguson

1215 – 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 15th!**

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman, began the virtual meeting on February 13, 2024, at 10:02 AM EST.

1) Agenda Item I: Opening Remarks

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She advised of a full agenda then introduced Rick Miller, FDA Vice Chair, to begin the meeting's first presentation.

2) Agenda Item II: State Legislative Update

Rick Miller, FDA Vice Chair, provided a guided discussion and brief update of selected defense-related bills moving through the House and Senate during this current Legislative Session. These bills focus on military and defense organization, encroachment, licensure, mission growth support, the Florida National Guard, veterans support, housing, schools and education and transportation.

Presentation slides are currently available here:

<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/florida-defense-alliance/>

Once the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense website has been updated, it will be available here: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

3) Agenda Item III: FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense Update

Tim MacGregor, Director, FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense, discussed ongoing with the Team at FloridaCommerce. He affirmed **Rick Miller's** review of current legislation, highlighting the importance of House Bill (HB) 1419 and Senate Bill (SB) 1420 to the FDSTF's future organization and operations. Just this morning HB 1419, Department of Commerce, met the House Infrastructure and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee. One amendment added and voted favorably. The bill was voted favorably 12-0.

Staff is currently working on several publications:

- The Military Benefits Guide and the Economic Impact Study were recently sent back to the contractor for additional edits
- The Spousal Licensure Reciprocity Matrix is routing through FloridaCommerce leadership for approval
- The FDSTF Strategic Plan is currently with contractor for additional edits

The Office of Military and Defense websites, which includes FDA, are still in transition. The FDA website can currently be found at: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

He and **Ray Collins** are preparing to attend the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) Defense Communities National Summit in Washington, DC, April 8 – 10.

The Office of Military and Defense is looking to hire a new contract manager for the Defense Infrastructure Grant (DIG) and the Defense Reinvestment Grant programs.

Staff continues to track legislation using no-cost websites through the Florida Senate and House. Anyone who is interested in instruction on using these sites to track legislation, please contact **Tim**.

4) Agenda Item IV: Family Support Panel

Kathleen Nestor, FDA Family Support Working Group Chair (FSWG), discussed that the Family Support working group addresses issues which helps to promote the health and resiliency of military

families. By supporting military families, the military's goals of readiness and retention are supported while caring for those people who give the most for our country. While the group is constantly monitoring several issues affecting military families, she maintains a theme each year and dive deeper into issues impacting that theme. This year's theme will address educational challenges unique to military families with exceptional children.

Shannon Klein is the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Manager for the Navy Southeast Region. Prior to coming on board at the Region she served as an EFMP Case Liaison at NAS Jacksonville for just over 10 years.

Scott Sevin is president of 7-Dippity, a Miami-based consulting firm specializing in large-scale capacity, building initiatives. 7-Dippity works with governmental agencies, school districts, non-governmental organizations and other entities across the United States and internationally.

The MacDill Air Force Base (AFB) team is represented by **Colonel Adam Bingham**, the Commander of the 6th Air Refueling Wing at MacDill AFB. He is joined by **Ms. Jane Spencer**, the Flight Chief for Military Family Readiness, **Sandra J. Kobelia**, Deputy, 6th Force Support Squadron, and **Dr. Venetia Waters**, the MacDill School Liaison.

The Eglin AFB team is represented by **Ms. Elaine LaJeunesse**, the Eglin School Liaison Officer and Manager. She has been a school liaison officer, supporting three (3) generals since 2017 and a DoD civilian for 18 years. She is joined by **Ms. Anne Thompson**, of Autism Speaks, a local community advocate with strong ties to the military.

Mr. Eric Sherman is the final panelist. Mr. Sherman with State policy makers, military leaders and concerned business leaders throughout the southeast to address the needs of military members and their families.

Shannon Klein discussed several issues military families are facing as they transfer into Florida. Initial evaluations for children are not being performed in a timely manner. Families requesting a reevaluation or an initial evaluation to assess if services may be needed are meeting with denial or their requests are not being processed at all.

There are categories of different disabilities. Children are entitled to an individualized education program (IEP), specialized educational needs for that particular student. Oftentimes the school looks to provide alternate solutions, such as a Response to Intervention (RTI) or a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) based on how the child is performing and don't necessarily need an IEP even if the child has one of the categories of disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that would qualify to be considered.

Another challenge is, due to lack of resources, noncompliance to a current IEP already in place. Examples include an IEP which included transportation to and from school, but the parent needs to provide that transportation due to lack of bus drivers. Or an IEP which includes speech therapy, which cannot be offered do to not having a speech language pathologist on staff.

Her team consists of 13 full time exceptional family member (EFM) case liaisons assisting military families with advocacy and connecting them with appropriate resources. They are also partnering with school liaisons and the Parent Training Information Centers within the State of Florida to help families connect to the support which can help to advocate.

Scott Sevin discussed the issue of mental health as it pertains to military youth with special needs. School districts have become the largest mental health service providers in their communities. The challenge is that many school districts and communities do not have the capacity to provide adequate mental health services. This is significant in all areas but particularly for school districts and communities

in rural areas. There are not enough providers or services and providers that do exist have months-long wait lists. Mental health service providers are not trained in working with youth with special needs and are not trained in military culture. Families also report that schools are not proactive enough in providing psycho education or in providing information about mental health services to families with special needs.

He discussed the need for more training of educators, administrators and other school staff on trauma informed school models. These models support school staff in understanding trauma and how it impacts the academics and behavioral health of military youth with special needs, creating a nurturing environment in schools and classrooms so that youth can excel academically and behaviorally. Signs and symptoms of trauma can be exacerbated in military youth with special needs when a loved one is deployed, particularly when those deployments are extended. Much more training on trauma needs to occur in schools across the State, in particular, how trauma impacts youth, hoping interventions can be deployed proactively to support military youth with special needs and crisis de-escalation strategies when incidents do occur.

He highlighted disaster impacts on education and schools. Schools can be closed for extended periods of time, for example, in Bay County after Hurricane Michael in 2018. The challenge with that is, not only are military youth with special needs impacted academically, but social and emotional loss, as well. The services those youth were receiving are often stopped during those periods and they often see regression socially, emotionally and academically. Also change in routines, whether it's during the school day or at home, severely impacts youth with special needs.

Dr. Venetia Waters and the MacDill AFB team discussed the issue of timelines and educating their charter schools on compacts, especially those schools in smaller districts. They are working to hire an EFMP position to advocate for families when working with the schools to develop IEPs for military students.

She briefed on the dedicated military family liaison working in the Hillsborough County School district who has direct access through chain of command to resolve military issues and provides a direct line of contact with someone whose job is solely focused on military families residing in Hillsborough County.

They provided detailed information on their Exceptional Student Education Assistance Processes.

Presentation slides are currently available here:

<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/florida-defense-alliance/>

Once the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense website has been updated, it will be available here: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

Elaine LaJeunesse presented that Team Eglin has total force military members, meaning all branches of service. They service five district schools from Tyndall AFB to Escambia County. Their team has made great progress assisting the total force families in transition with their exceptional students, children and services.

Challenges and concerns for their team include:

- Meeting students' IEP education goals and implementation
- Lack of specialized staff to support students
- Military parents rezoned for specialized services
- Timeliness of response from schools on addressing concerns

Anne Thompson discussed challenges, concerns and trends that impact military exceptional students and their families. Topics included delays and timelines, the most common challenges as reported from parents, educators and administrators and trends and concerns.

Presentation slides are currently available here:

<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/florida-defense-alliance/>

Once the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense website has been updated, it will be available here: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

Eric Sherman provided the Military State Policy Source website which provides reliable information and research, knowledge of policies and processes and assistance with legislation to support servicemembers and their families. <https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/>

He shared handouts on discussion points and best practices on State support for military families with special education needs.

Presentation slides are currently available here:

<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/florida-defense-alliance/>

Once the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense website has been updated, it will be available here: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

5) Agenda Item V: Mission Assurance and Growth Panel

Dr. Neal Finkelstein, FDA Mission Assurance and Growth Working Group Chair, moderated a panel discussing the impact of Florida Universities on the growth of Florida bases. Panelists include:

- Space Impact: **Dr. Julie Brisset**, Interim Director at the University of Central Florida Space Institute
- ROTC Impact: **CAPT Nicole Augins**, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Industry Impact: **Cheryl Martin**, Director of Global Business Development Higher Education and Research at NVIDIA (University of Florida grant)
- Defense Impact: **Taylor Johnston**, Chief Operating Officer, Institute of Applied Engineering at the University of South Florida

Dr. Julie Brisset presented on Accelerating Space Research and Education in Florida discussing topics such as the Florida Space Institute history, mission, activities, facilities, student development, collaborations across the University of Central Florida and all universities across the State and partnership opportunities.

Presentation slides are currently available here:

<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/florida-defense-alliance/>

Once the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense website has been updated, it will be available here: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

Capt Nicole Augins discussed the Air Force ROTC program at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. She briefed on the program's mission, provided a brief overview and discussed the successes of Detachment 157.

Presentation slides are currently available here:

<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/florida-defense-alliance/>

Once the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense website has been updated, it will be available here: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

Cheryl Martin discussed that NVIDIA is the leader in artificial intelligence (AI) computing and the technology provider enabling all of the AI every single industry.

AI uses a technology called generative AI which helped to power new Zoom video technology powering the ChatGPT engine. That same generative AI is now powering discoveries in every single industry to include autonomous vehicles or robots in healthcare and major discoveries around things like drug discovery or powering medical devices and better understanding the impacts of climate and weather.

Chris Malachowsky, a graduate of the University of Florida and one of NVIDIA's founders, donated a supercomputer, called HiPerGator AI and is the largest supercomputer on any single campus in the world, to the university which has incorporated AI into every curriculum. Every undergraduate student has access to take three different AI courses: a general course, the ethics of AI and the third is specific to their degree program.

The University of Florida has made the supercomputer accessible to all Florida State Universities and community colleges. They've done a phenomenal job of sharing their learning not only across the State of Florida, but around the world. The university is doing an excellent job of helping to transform and ensure they are creating the AI workforce of tomorrow.

The university also has training programs available to train the AI workforce. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) is using AI to train and look at future changes in agriculture workforce. Research is based on using robots to autonomously pick strawberries and tomatoes. New jobs are then built around servicing the robots.

A new Semiconductor Institute is located at the University of Florida. That science is being used to build a digital twin of the State of Florida which will include everything from understanding the coastlines to the changes to and impacts of climate and weather.

Taylor Johnston presented on the Institute of Applied Engineering at the University of South Florida including the program's history, intellectual firepower for the warfighter, academic consortium across the United States and Florida, Special Operations Forces and space domain programs and student internships.

Presentation slides are currently available here:

<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/florida-defense-alliance/>

Once the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense website has been updated, it will be available here: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

6) Agenda Item VI: Washington, DC Update

Kathleen Ferguson, The Roosevelt Group, provided a presentation on current federal affairs in Washington, DC. Topics of discussion included:

- Capitol Hill Atmospherics:
 - The State of the Union Address will be on March 7th, the latest it's been delivered in modern history

- Negotiations are on-going for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations, deadlines are March 1st and March 8th
- The FY 2025 budget will be delayed
- FY 2024 Appropriations
- Highlights of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)
- The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Quality of Life Panel
- HASC Readiness Sub-Committee Hearing
- Types of Congressional Requests
 - How to Make a Request
- FY 2025 Timelines and Deadlines

Presentation slides are currently available here:

<https://selectflorida.org/military-defense/florida-defense-alliance/>

Once the FloridaCommerce Office of Military and Defense website has been updated, it will be available here: <https://www.floridajobs.org/office-directory/division-of-economic-development/office-of-military-and-defense>

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman added that the Florida Military Family Special Needs Network is planning a full-day, statewide meeting on Thursday, June 13th, prior to the start of the 26th Annual Family Café. The meeting will take place at the Hyatt Regency Orlando. All network partners are invited to attend. It may be advisable for those travelling from out of the Orlando area to plan to arrive on the evening of June 12th.

7) Agenda Item VII: Around the State / Top Challenges

Northwest Florida:

Debi Graham, Northwest Florida Defense Coalition, discussed that the Coalition recently made its first visit to Washington, DC. They have submitted NDAA requests to Congressman Gaetz and Waltz's offices. Last week they traveled to San Antonio, Texas to meet with the Air Force's Air Education and Training Command who will be changing their name to the new Airmen Development Command.

Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife, Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape, briefed that Tyndall AFB is receiving a \$1.3 million Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) grant for their Tyndall Coastal Resilience Project. Defenders of Wildlife will be bringing on board a resilience specialist to partners throughout Northwest Florida to help secure climate and coastal resilience grant funding. Conservation Florida will be submitting a regional conservation partnership program proposal in the amount of approximately \$25 million, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service. The focus will be on Santa Rosa County and their partners, to include NAS Whiting Field, to secure conservation easements on agricultural lands to buffer from residential encroachment.

Kay Rasmussen, One Okaloosa Economic Development Council, reported that the Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) Committee recently completed their annual Military Priorities Point Paper, composed in partnership with their local military unit commanders to identify needed advocacy efforts. The DSI leadership team is planning a visit to Washington, DC the third week of March. They plan to meet with Congressional and Senator leaders on behalf of their military installations, missions, ranges and personnel.

Katie Allan, Bay Defense Alliance, discussed that the Gulf Coast Salute Air Show will be held over Panama City Beach on May 4th through 5th at the Russell Field City Pier. The show will feature military demonstrations including and F-22 Raptor Demo, 325th Fighter Wing fly-by, US Navy Landing Craft Air Cushion Demo and a 1st Special Operations Wing Demo.

Northeast Florida:

Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville, thanked FloridaCommerce for executing their contract for the first DIG award and hopes to receive the second contract soon. They have some properties lined up to utilize the grant awards from both FloridaCommerce and the FDSTF.

He'll soon be meeting with new Navy Region Southeast Commander, Rear Admiral Ian Johnson, to inform him of all they to support the community. They look to strengthen ties with the Jacksonville Area Ship Repair Association, one of their defense contractor partners, and ensuring their advocacy is lined up with their advocacy. They were slated to have 26 ships at Naval Station (NS) Mayport for this year's ship count and they have only 16. In three years they've lost ten (10) scheduled to be here which has huge impacts on the industry.

NS Mayport is working with the Navy through their Parks Department to acquire some environmentally sensitive land outside the fence line that falls into the military influence zone just outside the fence line. They are trying to acquire the simple title to that land to protect it from development.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville will have a change of command on February 29th as Captain Gregory deWindt, the current Executive Officer will fleet up and they are looking forward to meeting with him as the new skipper. NAS Jacksonville was contacted by a developer who desires to develop a 2+ acre site inside Accident Potential Zone (APZ) 2 with affordable housing under the Live Local Act. The developer was referred to the Navy after engaging the City of Jacksonville's Planning Department. This is the first known instance of Live Local encroachment in the Jacksonville area. Representatives from NAS Jacksonville met with the owners of 127-acres of land inside APZ 2 of NAS Jacksonville to continue the dialog regarding a restrictive use easement. The owners have informed the Navy they wish to sell the land outright. NAS Jacksonville is awaiting to see who acquires this land and will engage the new owners to determine intent and if development under the Live Local Act is a potential.

The city remains engaged on encroachment protection efforts around all our installations. The city is working with NAS Jacksonville on easements expected to close in March over the final 25 acres of the 300-acre Timuquana Golf Course and one property under the Outlying Field Whitehouse APZ. The city is also working with NAS Jacksonville on six (6) properties presently being surveyed by the Navy for easement closings this summer.

East Central Florida:

Jack Hession, Madison Government Affairs, provided an update on the wastewater treatment plan. To start the new year, the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast submitted a project directive to the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation's (OLDCC) Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) program for an implementation grant. They developed a budget of \$550,000 for the phase 2 study, which will entail studies of the selected site, routing, community serve, development of stakeholders and possibility of reverse-flow between Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. This would allow the continual use of current infrastructure, and a three- phased approach to keeping Cape Canaveral Space Force Station and Kennedy Space Center operational while the new regional facilities are being constructed. That study will show how those two facilities can utilize Sykes Creek while the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station site is closed and the Port St. John's site selected is under construction. Funding is expected by early spring to begin phase 2. Patrick Space Force Station has also begun a Military Installation Review Assessment.

West Central Florida:

Sheila McNamara, Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC), updated that Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) along with the CFRPC and OLDCC held their Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) kickoff with approximately 50 participants. The meeting was held in collaboration with the Avon Park Correctional Institution and was attended by Major General Richard Haddad and Congressional aides from Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott and Representative Scott Franklin's offices. Representatives from the Offices of Representative Kaylee Tuck and Senator Erin Grall also

attended. They are in the process of forming the Steering Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee to continue with the MIRR project and grant. In the next few months, they're excited to advertise the position of Resiliency Specialist to continue working on resiliency projects and initiatives.

The CFRPC has held various kickoff meetings and public open workshops for the Vulnerability Assessments funded through the Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Program and two (2) of their partners received America the Beautiful Challenge grants and a REPI Challenge grant.

Kathleen Nestor, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, discussed that Tampa Bay AirFest will be on March 29th and 30th. Reconstruction of the Tinker School will begin soon. A new power station will be built on MacDill AFB to improve resiliency.

Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA) will have representatives attending the ADC Summit in April. Past TBDA President Donna Huneycutt will be attending, as well.

South Florida:

Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA), reported that they continue working follow-ups from their recently completed MIRR study. They are collaborating with local county municipal leaders and identifying priorities for implementation approach both individual to the installations as well as a few potential region- wide initiatives.

They are happy to see several sections of the FY 24 NDAA language, both directly and indirectly, addressing concerns for the future viability of Homestead Air Reserve Base as well as Air Force force structure writ large. He thanked Senator Rick Scott, Representative Carlos Gimenez and their staffs for their support.

Since our November meeting, the National Level Economic Development Agency National Tech Hub Initiative received 3,400 applications from across the country. 31 tech hubs were announced and only one was awarded in the State of Florida, which was the South Florida consortium, focusing on resilience technology. The SFDA is both a consortium partner and voting board member in that consortium for that National Tech Hub and are working to ensure the defense national security component is built into that hub. A working title potentially establishing a new Werx organization in Florida called Reswerx focused on resilient technology as an incubator accelerator.

Robert Katz, World Innovation Network, briefed that at the last meeting he discussed about Space Base, the entrepreneurial, innovation, collaboration center focused on space. Many of the students from the state universities are ready to join workforce, join companies, become entrepreneurs, but unfortunately, the students that graduate from Florida universities aren't staying in Florida in the space industry, because the infrastructure, ecosystem and entrepreneurship does not support them. In the last twelve months there has been \$12 billion in private equity available for space startups and \$0, not one single penny came to Florida. They're working to change that to have essentially a Sofwerx a dual institute, a tech grove for space, outside the gates of the Kennedy Space Center. Tonight, for the first time in 52 years, space flight is going back to the moon. They'll be having a launch party if anyone in the area would like to attend.

8) Agenda Item IIX: Closing Comments & Adjournment

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman, thanked everyone for volunteering their time and effort on supporting Florida's military families and installations. She looks forward to seeing everyone in Tallahassee on May 15th for the FDA in-person meeting.

The virtual meeting was adjourned at 12:42 PM EST.