

FDSTF Update – January 3

Task Force Members,

A good Friday afternoon and a Happy 2020 to everyone!

1. **Next Meeting** – The next Task Force will be January 16, 2020 in Tallahassee at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

888-585-9008

Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **U.S. Space Force Stand Up** – There was not much news the past couple of weeks due to the two holiday weeks, but one topic did generate a lot of reporting and a considerable amount of new information, the creation of the new U.S. Space Force. I have included below in the *News Clips of Interest* the most informative of the articles but the single most concise summary of what has been done, what still needs to be done and when we can expect to see that done came from an E-mail that Tom Neubauer distributed and which was based on the U.S. Air Force Public Affairs announcements. I've included that E-mail as an attachment as well as the official Fact Sheet on the stand up of U.S. Space Force and the official memo signed by the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and the Chief of Space Operations announcing the stand up of U.S. Space Force.

4. **Patrick AFB & Cape Canaveral AFS now part of U.S. Space Force** – One of the initial actions of standing up the Space Force is that some Air Force installations quickly were reassigned to the Space Force. Among those, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base were transferred to the Space Force, so Florida now has two military bases that are part of our sixth branch of the military. Details are also in the *News Clips of Interest*.

5. **Attachments:**

- E-mail from Tom Neubauer summarizing U.S. Space Force stand up actions
- Fact Sheet on stand up of U.S. Space Force
- Triple-signed SECAF, CSAF, CSO memo announcing creation of U.S. Space Force

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News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

The Space Force is officially the sixth military branch. Here's what that means.

Air Force Times | Posted December 21, 2019 | by Meghann Myers
https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-military/2019/12/21/the-space-force-is-officially-the-sixth-military-branch-heres-what-that-means/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2012.23.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

Air Force officials on Friday told reporters that people are clamoring for information on how to join the military's latest branch. The short answer is, they're going to have to wait a while.

President Trump officially signed the Space Force into law Friday, but for now, all that means is everyone at Air Force Space Command will now be assigned to Space Force. Over the next 18 months, officials said, the finer details of manning and training the new branch will be hammered out and set in motion.

“It’s going to be really important that we get this right. A uniform, a patch, a song — it gets to the culture of a service,” said Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond, the head of Air Force Space Command and U.S. Space Command, who will lead Space Force until a chief of space operations is confirmed by the Senate. “There’s a lot of work going on toward that end. It’s going to take a long time to get to that point, but that’s not something we’re going to roll out on day one.”



For now, the 16,000 active-duty airmen and civilians who work at Air Force Space Command will be assigned to the Space Force, but nothing else will change. Uniforms, a rank structure, training and education are all to be determined, and for the foreseeable future, Space Force will continue to be manned by airmen, wearing, Air Force uniforms, subject to that service's fitness program, personnel system and so on....

C. Fla. bases become part of U.S. Space Force

Orlando Business Journal | Posted December 26, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom

https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2019/12/26/c-fla-bases-become-part-of-u-s-space-force.html?ana=e_ae_set1&j=90406471&t=Afternoon&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiT1RFNE5HVXhNR1U0TVRNNCl5InQiOiI5REdqZEJ2RExEdD1FTZFkybFh5TVcycllnYVwvVUVOSnFWTKlPQkFpOEEyTmFKYUFLSzFhcTBMbUVPVmFYcDQwSVJcL1BclzhwUXpOVENcl3FQYXp0Z3dkc1hCd3M4aXRjemhwWk5BRXl1TGNZVURcl2hFNGVoZDJPSVFEeEIRUGFBM0ZrRUViNmt6RkpWMMmxHbHRoM21vYk12QT09In0%3D

A military space force isn't the sci-fi fantasy of a galaxy far, far away. It's a reality right here in Central Florida.

Two of the region's key military installations now are part of the U.S. Space Force, the sixth branch of the armed forces that was created when U.S. President Donald Trump signed the new military budget into law on Dec. 20. This means some tweaks for the bases in the near future, including name changes.

Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Patrick Air Force Base, both in Brevard County, are part of the U.S. Air Force Space Command. Under the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act signed by Trump, Space Command is designated as part of the Space Force....

Florida still in the running for Space Force Command headquarters

Florida Today | Posted December 27, 2019 | by Rachael Joy
<https://www.floridatoday.com/story/tech/science/space/2019/12/27/space-force-command-hq-florida/2743184001/>

Reports of Florida's demise as the future command headquarters of the U.S. Space Force — the newest branch of America's military — it turns out, have been greatly exaggerated. According to state officials and lobbyists, Florida is still a contender to host the Space Force Command HQ.

"We're seeing a full court press in Florida among Florida's congressional delegation," aerospace consultant John Boyd told FLORIDA TODAY after President Trump signed the new branch into existence last week.

"Gov. Ron DeSantis, Sen. Rick Scott, who enjoy a very close relationship with the president, they are working to convince the president to do the Space Force headquarters in the sunshine state," Boyd added....

Florida counties eyeing Space Force

Tampa Bay Business Journal | Posted December 31, 2019 | by Jim Turner
https://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/news/2019/12/31/florida-counties-eyeing-space-force.html?ana=e_me_set1&j=90423901&t=Morning&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTjJGbFptVXI0VEJsTIRJeCl5InQ

[iOii0b1JSVjhpSXR5N291ZWFDXC8xRXhVb3RkOStUMzh6WmphM3k3RndyUDZhVnZ6ZE9Sd3FvNlpOMm5tN0dZMm1mSGhFa0ZzYlUrNW9xSjBObno1cIJQa1ZNVzFzZSt4dXJ2dFBeyVMxdjNhSWHzNmJ6UklqeUVJSFI1d1VCTjI5aVgwaFhIzk9leTdhSko2OTBISWdcl2YyZz09In0%3D](https://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20200102/eglin-test-squadron-makes-big-stride-in-defending-against-cruise-missiles?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NW%20Florida%20Daily%20News%20daily%202020-01-03&utm_content=INKA_FWN&utm_term=010320)

Florida hasn't given up on landing the command center for the nation's newest military branch, Space Force. Dale Ketcham, Space Florida's vice president of government and external relations, said Florida is "still competing" for the headquarters for the new branch, which will have an initial job of protecting satellites and other hardware already in space.

A \$738 billion defense spending bill President Donald Trump signed on Dec. 20 includes \$148 million to build a Combined Space Operations Facility at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. But the Schriever facility is not considered the permanent location for the headquarters.

"California, Alabama are in the mix. Florida is still competing. Louisiana, Virginia, Texas and some other are hoping to land this," Ketcham said during an interview Saturday on Fox News. "The important thing is, where is the best place to put it for the long-term national interest...."

Eglin AFB

Eglin test squadron makes big stride in defending against cruise missiles

NW Florida Daily News | Posted January 2, 2020 | by Jim Thompson

https://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20200102/eglin-test-squadron-makes-big-stride-in-defending-against-cruise-missiles?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NW%20Florida%20Daily%20News%20daily%202020-01-03&utm_content=INKA_FWN&utm_term=010320

A bit of military history was made recently over the Gulf of Mexico, as an F-16 fighter jet used a laser-guided rocket to shoot down a relatively small drone representing a cruise missile.

Broadly speaking, the test — using a rocket already in the U.S. military arsenal — provided a "proof of concept" for a faster, less expensive means of defending against cruise missiles.

Cruise missiles are guided missiles capable of carrying either conventional or nuclear payloads. Designed to fly relatively close to the ground, they have a limited radar cross-section that can make them difficult to detect....

Tyndall AFB

Air Force touts Tyndall repair progress after receiving pot of money for disaster relief

Air Force Times | Posted December 24, 2019 | by Diana Stancy Correll

https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2019/12/24/air-force-touts-tyndall-repair-progress-after-receiving-pot-of-money-for-disaster-relief/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2012.24.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief&utm_expid=.pWRiDpjcS5e7yqhflvt6Gw.0&utm_referrer=

After millions of dollars, desperately needed for repairs to Tyndall Air Force Base, finally came through in June after months of delays, airmen began completing hurricane restoration projects at a rapid clip, according to Air Force officials.

Hurricane Michael damaged nearly 700 buildings when it struck the Florida base in October 2018, leaving behind devastation and an estimated \$4.7 billion repair bill. But the June 2019 Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act increased Tyndall's annual Operations and Maintenance budget by 450 percent in the final portion of fiscal 2019.

That provided \$56 million for regular base operations — coupled with \$358.4 million for Hurricane Michael recovery under facility sustainment restoration modernization. The sum equaled more than 10 times Tyndall's usual sustainment and modernization budget of \$30 million, Air Force officials said in December....

NAS Key West

Chinese man charged with photographing Florida base (again)

Associated Press via The Navy Times | Posted December 28, 2019 | by AP

<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2019/12/28/chinese-man-charged-with-photographing-florida-base-again/>

A Chinese man was arrested Thursday while taking photos at a U.S. Navy base in the Florida Keys, authorities said.

Witnesses spotted Lyuyou Liao, 27, walking around a perimeter fence of Naval Air Station Key West and entering the military facility from the rocks along the water, according to a federal complaint. The witnesses warned Liao that he was trespassing in a restricted area, known as the Truman Annex, the Miami Herald reported.

When military police saw Liao snapping photos with his cellphone camera, they took the phone and called a federal agent, the complaint said. Liao was arrested and charged with entering Navy property for the purpose of photographing defense installations.

Liao told a Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent in broken English that he was trying to take photographs of the sunrise, according to the complaint affidavit. But the agent reported finding photographs of the Truman Annex on the camera....

DoD Budget

Armed Services chairmen resolve: narrower defense bill in 2020

Defense News | Posted December 30, 2019 | by Joe Gould

https://www.defensenews.com/congress/2019/12/30/hold-armed-services-chairmen-resolve-narrower-defense-bill-in-2020/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2012.30.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committees said he is leaning toward a narrower annual defense policy bill in 2020 than the one Congress passed this month, which means fewer unrelated provisions of the sort that complicated passage this year.

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., and Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., said in separate interviews recently that provisions unrelated to defense had been a hindrance during their months-long negotiations to reconcile competing versions of the bill.

“I think we’re going to be a little less ambitious about what we try to get into the bill,” Smith said, adding: “I am going to be a little more cautious about outside issues that are included in the bill, to make sure there is an understanding that, while I don’t mind including them, I don’t want them to jeopardize the overall piece of legislation....”

Defense Industry

Lockheed Martin to bring more work to the Space Coast with \$58M contract

Orlando Business Journal | Posted December 23, 2019 | by Alex Soderstrom

https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2019/12/23/lockheed-martin-to-bring-more-work-to-the-space.html?ana=e_me_set1&j=90389791&t=Morning&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWVRZM09UQmtZbVUxTWpRdyIsInQiOiJLbXJwSjFlbUxkUjI0c1NlaEg4RXowUXRUNEc0N3RQXC83Wm9FMFIBTndYUEJEUUY1eIFVZFBrdStSUW5td2dOY1podm9mdERMYVBJSFZBamN1Q0sreHM2RVArGk5Sm1XVzRUbWVGQWlZyZyV3RGdJWnJFMFNIb055a0hxVDVcLzIzeUp6RkpWkONXN2FGajNXVEcyQmFDZz09In0%3D

Lockheed Martin Corp. won a \$58 million contract modification which will bring more missile work to Brevard County.

The Bethesda, Maryland-based defense contractor (NYSE: LMT) was awarded the U.S. Navy contract to produce Trident II missiles. About 40% of the work for the order will take place between Cape Canaveral, Titusville and Merritt Island, finishing up by Sept. 30, 2024. The contract is an add-on to a \$141 million contract awarded on Aug. 30.

Lockheed Martin also won a \$9.5 million contract modification to produce sensors for the U.S. Army. Work for that contract will happen in Orlando, with an expected completion date of Sept. 30, 2021.

Lockheed wins \$2B in F-35 contracts with work in Orlando

Orlando Business Journal | Posted January 2, 2020 | by Alex Soderstrom
<https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2020/01/02/lockheed-wins-2b-in-f-35-contracts-with-work-in.html>

Central Florida has landed its first massive defense deal of the new year.

Bethesda, Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp. (NYSE: LMT) on Dec. 30 won a \$1.9 billion U.S. Navy contract, with 25% of the work taking place in Orlando. The contract, expected to finish in December of this year, calls for maintenance services, supply chain operations and other tasks related to the servicing of the F-35 Lightning II aircraft.

While the U.S. Navy was the contracting agency, the work will also happen on behalf of the Air Force, Marine Corps, non-Department of Defense entities and foreign military sales customers. The F-35 is defined by its high maneuverability at high speeds, as well as its advanced sensor system. It is also the most expensive aircraft program in U.S. military history, according to Reuters....

FDSTF Update – January 13

Task Force Members,

A good Monday afternoon to everyone.

- 1. Next Meeting** – The next Task Force meeting will be this Thursday, January 16, 2020 in Tallahassee at the Four Points Sheraton, 316 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee FL 32301 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- 2. Meeting Call In Number** –
888-585-9008 **Conference Room: 262-492-927**
- 3. January Meeting Preview** – We’re looking forward to a number of exciting announcements and discussions this week. We will be publicly announcing the results of our Military and Defense Economic Impact Study that we conducted last year. We’ll also have the State Chief Resiliency Officer, Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, describe for the Task Force what her new office is doing and how that impacts military bases across the state. Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs and Veterans Florida will also tell us about their recent activity and what they have lined up for the 2020 Legislative Session.
- 4. Space Force Lifting Off** – U.S. Space Force has begun operations under its new designation. During the past week the Space Force conducted their first satellite launch as a separate branch of the military launching a payload of 60 small satellites from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. And while most people may know that Cape Canaveral AFS and Patrick AFB are obvious bases to be included in the Space Force, many may not know that there’s a small, but very important, squadron in an isolated location near Eglin AFB that also is part of the Space Force. Some bases around the country (including Cape Canaveral and Patrick) will be getting names changes in the near future to align them with the Space Force. Details on all of this are in the *News Clips of Interest*.

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News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

The US Air Force finally has a Space Force, and now some of its bases could be getting new names

Business Insider | Posted January 7, 2020 | by Christopher Woody

https://www.businessinsider.com/air-force-bases-renamed-as-part-of-space-force-creation-2020-1?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2001.08.19&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

The US's long-awaited Space Force was officially established on December 20, when President Donald Trump signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

Space Force was created from US Air Force Space Command but is still part of the Air Force, much like the Marine Corps is a part of the Navy Department. Space Force is not meant to put troops into space but will provide forces and assets to Space Command, which leads US military space operations.

The secretary of the Air Force has to tell Congress by February 1 how Space Force will be organized and its expected funding needs. But there are still "thousands and thousands of actions that are going to have to take place" over the next 18 months, Air Force Gen. Jay Raymond said on December 20

Among those is the renaming of Air Force bases to reflect the space mission, according to Raymond, who is head of US Space Command and will lead Space Force as its first chief of space operations. "We do have a plan to rename the principal Air Force bases that house space units to be space bases," Raymond said....

Space Force to stand up a doctrine hub

Defense News | Posted January 11, 2020 | by Valerie Insinna

<https://www.defensenews.com/space/2020/01/10/space-force-to-stand-up-a-doctrine-hub/>

The Space Force is setting up a "space doctrine center" where the brand-new American armed service can begin to hammer out how to optimally operate in space, the head of Space Operations Command said Friday.

The Space Force was formally established on Dec. 20 as an independent military branch inside the Department of the Air Force. But much still needs to be done to get the fledgling service up on its feet, including laying out its organizational structure, creating a logo, potentially changing the name of bases and transferring airmen over to the Space Force.

Both the Air Force and Space Force have been working to fulfill these tasks, said Maj. Gen. John Shaw, who leads Space Operations Command and holds the title of U.S. Space Command's combined force space component commander. Space Operations Command was formerly known as 14th Air Force up until the creation of the Space Force.

"We have been authorized some billets for a space doctrine center, and we'll be holding a space doctrine conference in Colorado Springs next month," Shaw said at a Jan. 10 breakfast event. "So I think we're already thinking about how do we think about this anew...."

NAS Pensacola

U.S. to Expel a Dozen Saudi Military Trainees After Pensacola Shooting

New York Times | Posted January 12, 2020 | by Eric Schmitt and Thomas Gibbons-Neff
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/12/us/politics/pensacola-shooting-saudi-trainees.html>

About a dozen Saudi students training alongside the American military in the United States will be sent back to Saudi Arabia after a review that stemmed from the killing of three American service members at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., last month, according to a United States official.

The review, first reported by CNN, did not find evidence that the Saudi students aided the gunman, who was himself a Saudi trainee, in the Dec. 6 shooting, the official said. But some were found to have ties to extremist movements, and others were found to possess pornographic material, something forbidden in the Kingdom.

In an appearance on "Fox News Sunday," Robert O'Brien, the national security adviser, did not provide any specific reasons for the expulsion of members of the Saudi military, citing an "abundance of caution" after the shooting, which also wounded eight....

Eglin AFB

Eglin squadron part of new Space Force

Panama City News Herald | Posted January 7, 2020 | by Jim Thompson

https://www.newsherald.com/news/20200107/eglin-squadron-part-of-new-space-force?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GHM_Daily_Newsletter&utm_content=INKA_PCN&utm_term=010920

A few days before Christmas, as President Donald Trump signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, the nearly 250 airmen and civilians with the Eglin Air Force Base-headquartered 20th Space Control Squadron became part of the U.S. Space Force, the new sixth branch of U.S. military forces.

The squadron, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is part of the 21st Space Wing, headquartered at Colorado's Peterson Air Force Base. The 21st Space Wing is one of five space-oriented Air Force wings that are now part of the Space Force.

Also now assigned to the Space Force is the 45th Space Wing at Florida's Patrick Air Force Base, the 30th Space Wing at California's Vandenberg Air Force Base, the 50th Space Wing at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado, and the 460th Space Wing at Colorado's Buckley Air Force Base....

NSA Panama City

Northrop Grumman Wraps Initial In-Water Testing of AQS-24 Sonar Using Next-Gen Deploy, Retrieval Payload

Seapower Magazine | Posted January 7, 2020 | by Seapower Staff

<https://seapowermagazine.org/northrop-grumman-wraps-initial-in-water-testing-of-aqs-24-sonar-using-next-gen-deploy-retrieval-payload/>

Northrop Grumman Corp.'s AQS-24 mine-hunting sonar recently completed initial in-water testing of a next-generation deploy and retrieval payload, the company said in a release.

Operated from the Mine Countermeasures Unmanned Surface Vessel (MCM USV), the AQS-24 D&R demonstrated the unmanned operations needed to perform a mine hunting mission off the MCM Mission Package aboard the littoral combat ship (LCS).



“Achieving this important milestone demonstrated reliable unmanned mine hunting operations, while using operationally representative hardware from the LCS MCM Mission Module,” said Alan Lytle, vice president of undersea systems for Northrop Grumman. “This allows the program to begin preparation for further at-sea testing of the system for extended duration missions in rigorous conditions....”

Tyndall AFB

5G powers Air Force 'smart base of the future'

Government Computer News | Posted January 8, 2020 | by Stephanie Kanowitz

<https://gcn.com/Articles/2020/01/08/tyndall-AFB-5G.aspx>

As Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida's panhandle continues to rebuild after taking a direct hit from Hurricane Michael in 2018, it's getting not only a makeover, but a modernization, too.

The Air Force is working with AT&T to create a "smart base of the future," including reconstructing and transforming the Tyndall's communications infrastructure with 5G-powered capabilities. Although the base buildout is expected to take three to five years, AT&T will light up 5G in mid-2020, enabling Tyndall to start taking advantage of benefits such as support for augmented and virtual reality (AR and VR).

"The Department of Defense really stands at the cusp of some of the most revolutionary changes in the market that they're leading, and I think they're game-changing," said Mike Leff, vice president for defense at AT&T Global Public Sector. "The power of 5G has the potential to revolutionize and transform DOD operations, particularly on military bases, to significantly enhance mission readiness and enabling new mission capabilities like never before...."

Cape Canaveral AFS

Space Force's First Launch Takes SpaceX Satellites to Orbit

Air Force Magazine | Posted January 7, 2020 | by Rachel S. Cohen

<https://www.airforcemag.com/space-forces-first-launch-takes-spacex-satellites-to-orbit/>

SpaceX on Jan. 6 sent 60 Starlink broadband Internet satellites into orbit from Cape Canaveral AFS, Fla., marking the Space Force's first launch since the service was created in December.

This is the third batch of Starlink satellites sent into space so far, totaling 180 on orbit. SpaceX's reusable Falcon 9 rocket carried the payloads.

"Starlink will provide fast, reliable internet to locations where access has been unreliable, expensive, or completely unavailable," the company said. "Throughout flight operations, SpaceX shares high-fidelity tracking data with other satellite operators through the US Air Force's 18th Space Control Squadron...."

NAS Key West

Two More Chinese Nationals Arrested for Photographing NAS Key West

The Maritime Executive | Posted January 10, 2020

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/two-more-chinese-nationals-arrested-for-photographing-nas-key-west>

Key West, Florida is a popular destination for people from all over the world, but Naval Air Station Key West appears to be attracting a particular kind of visitor: Over the past 18 months, four Chinese civilians have been arrested for taking photographs of the base's facilities.

The latest incident occurred Saturday morning, when two Chinese nationals - named as Yuhao Wang and Jielun Zhang - entered NAS Key West's Sigsbee Annex after allegedly ignoring the instructions of the master-at-arms at the gate. The guard told them to turn around and depart, according to the FBI, but they drove past and into the base instead. It took another half an hour for base security to track down the errant visitors and question them. When questioned, both Zhang and Wang were found to be in possession of electronic devices containing photos of the buildings within the base, the FBI said in an affidavit filed this week.

Zhang had also allegedly taken photos of buildings on Fleming Key - a restricted area that is home to the United States Army Special Forces Underwater Operations Training Center....

Chinese nationals keep getting arrested for taking pictures of Naval Air Station Key West

Task & Purpose | Posted January 7, 2020 | by David Roza

<https://taskandpurpose.com/chinese-nationals-naval-air-station-key-west>

Something awesome must be happening at Naval Air Station Key West, because four Chinese nationals have been arrested over the past year for illegally taking pictures of the base, including two this past weekend.

According to court records, Yuhao Wang and Jielun Zhang drove up to an annex of the Florida installation at around 8:30 a.m. on Saturday before the Navy security forces master at arms (MA) told them they couldn't enter without military identification.

Not to be deterred by mere military security protocols, Wang and Zhang continued driving onto the annex. The MA could not leave her post, records say, so she radioed other security forces to locate the two. About 30 minutes later, security forces found Wang and Zhang in possession of cell phones and a Nikon camera they had used to take pictures of military facilities there....

Defense Industry

Here's what new U.S. \$738B defense budget means for Orlando contractors

Orlando Business Journal | Posted January 8, 2020 | by Alex Soderstrom
<https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2020/01/08/here-s-what-new-u-s-738b-defense-budget-means-for.html>

A new, bigger U.S. military budget means a new flow of work for Central Florida defense contractors.

President Donald Trump signed the National Defense Authorization Act into law in December, finalizing a \$738 billion federal defense budget for fiscal 2020. The budget is a \$21 billion increase over the fiscal 2019 budget, including increases for programs essential to Central Florida contractors.

The new budget is a good sign for local defense contractors, said Robert Bledsoe, a professor at the University of Central Florida's School of Politics, Security and International Affairs with an expertise in the defense budget process. New defense programs cannot be started until a new budget is passed, and the direction of the budget and the U.S. military favor the work that happens in the region, he told Orlando Business Journal....

Other Items of Interest

Hoyer Plans House Vote on PFAS Bill

Association of Defense Communities | Posted January 7, 2020 | by ADC author
<https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/hoyer-plans-house-vote-on-pfas-bill/>

The House plans to vote next week on legislation to label PFAS as hazardous, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) announced.

“Many of us were deeply disappointed that Senate Republicans blocked the inclusion of provisions in the NDAA conference report to clean up communities affected by PFAS contamination and protect Americans from these harmful ‘forever’ chemicals, which can cause cancer and other serious health problems,” Hoyer wrote Monday in a memo to other lawmakers. “When that language was excluded, I vowed to bring the PFAS Action Act to the floor for a vote when the House reconvened in January, and I am proud to make good on that pledge.”

The legislation directs the Environmental Protection Agency to consider the chemicals hazardous to expedite cleanup.

FDSTF Update – January 17

Task Force Members,

A good Friday afternoon to everyone.

1. Next Meeting – The next Task Force meeting will be a conference call on February 20, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

2. Meeting Call In Number –

888-585-9008

Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. January 2020 FDSTF Meeting – Yesterday the Task Force held our January meeting and it was a meeting that was notable for announcements of good news that have happened since the final two weeks of December. While much of this information was reported separately, this was the first time the Task Force has been together to discuss these events since they occurred. Notable items included:

- The official announcement of the results of the just-completed Military and Defense Sector Economic Impact Study
- The allocation of \$2.4B in the FY 2020 Defense budget for the rebuild of Tyndall AFB
- The creation of U.S. Space Force
- The decision by the Navy this week to award to Leonardo AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corp. the contract to replace the Navy's flight training helicopters and Leonardo's commitment to build a new maintenance facility in Milton, Florida.
- On December 20, 2019, 20,000 additional acres near Tyndall AFB were protected as part of the Northwest Florida Greenway using over \$10M obtained through the Deepwater Horizon settlement plus some additional funds from The Nature Conservancy. This was a major win for protecting Tyndall AFB from potential encroachment.

The Task Force also heard from the State Chief Resiliency Officer, Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, from Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and from Veterans Florida.

4. Results of Latest Economic Impact Study Released – Yesterday Governor DeSantis released the results of the Task Force's biannual Economic Impact Study. Overall, Florida's military and defense industry has a \$95 billion economic impact on the state, a \$10 billion increase from the 2017 study keeping the sector the second largest economic driver in the state. The defense sector provides 914,787 jobs in Florida, an increase of 113,040 jobs during the past two years. The defense sector has the greatest impact on Northwest Florida, where one-third of the regional economy comes from military spending. Defense manufacturing has nearly doubled since 2015 with the aerospace and engineering sectors centered in Brevard

and Orange Counties leading the way. Finally, Florida boasts the second largest military retiree population and the third largest veteran population of all 50 states. Florida also receives the fourth largest sum of defense contracts among all states and ranks fifth in the country in the number of military personnel. I have attached the Governor's press release and a companion Chamber Florida press release to this update. The links to the full study and the related Florida Defense Factbook are immediately below:

https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Defense-Industry-Economic-Impact-Assessment_2020-FINAL.pdf

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/Florida-Defense-Factbook-2020.pdf>

5. **U.S. Navy Selects Helicopter to Replace NAS Whiting Field's Choppers** – On Monday, the U.S. Navy selected the TH-119 by Leonardo AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corp. as its new training helicopter. These will replace the service's existing fleet of Bell TH-57s at NAS Whiting Field. The initial contract is for 32 aircraft with spares, support, and training and is valued at nearly \$176.5 million. Follow-on contracts are expected to bring the total number of replacement helicopters to 130. Leonardo also repeated a promise initially made last September to build a helicopter maintenance facility in Milton and bring 40-50 new jobs to the area to support continuing operations of these helicopters. Details are below in the *News Clips of Interest*.
6. **New Opportunity for Military Spouse Job Portability** – Last Friday, at Tyndall AFB, Verizon announced a new, nation-wide, work from home program. This program is open to anyone but was inspired by, and initially conceived for, military spouses as a way to allow them to continue their employment without interruption as they move from place-to-place. Details on the announcement of the program are below in the *News Clips of Interest*.
7. **Attachments:**
 - Governor Ron DeSantis Press Release regarding results of 2020 Economic Impact Study
 - Chamber Florida Press Release regarding results of 2020 Economic Impact Study
 - Attachment 3

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News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

DoD Wants Army, Navy To Join Space Force; May Ask Hill For Help

Breaking Defense | Posted January 10, 2020 | by Theresa Hitchens
<https://breakingdefense.com/2020/01/dod-wants-army-navy-to-join-space-force-may-ask-hill-for-help/>

Top Pentagon officials are hammering out a legislative proposal to Congress to bring personnel from the Army, Navy and Marines into the newly inaugurated Space Force.

DoD and military sources say Air Force Maj. Gen. Clint Crosier, charged by Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett with planning how to flesh out the nascent Space Force, is crafting the plan, that will ultimately be sent to Defense Secretary Mark Esper. The Army and the Navy Department maintain significant space capabilities and forces that so far are barred from Space Force integration under the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed by President Donald Trump Dec. 20.



If approved, these sources say, the proposal then would be sent to Congress — with a particular eye to convincing the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), which has been skeptical about the whole idea of a Space Force. Breaking D readers know that it was SASC language in the 2020 NDAA that limits DoD to transferring only Air Force billets to Space Force, and bans the creation of any new ones. Republican SASC Chair Jim Inhofe's goal is to have the 2021 NDAA approved by Memorial Day, his spokesperson confirmed today....

NAS Whiting Field

Leonardo awarded contract for 32 TH-73A helicopters by U.S. Department of Defense

Leonardo AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corp. | Posted January 14, 2020 | by Leonardo Press Dept.
<https://www.leonardocompany.com/en/press-release-detail/-/detail/14-01-2020-leonardo-awarded-contract-for-32-th-73a-helicopters-by-u-s-department-of-defense>

Leonardo, through AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corp., has been awarded a firm-fixed-price contract valued at USD 176,472,608 for the production and delivery of 32 TH-73A helicopters, initial spares, support and dedicated equipment, and specific pilot and maintenance training services. This contract, as Fiscal 2020 aircraft procurement (Navy) funds, was competitively procured via a request for proposal of various offers. Work will be mainly performed at Leonardo's Philadelphia facility and is expected to be completed in October 2021.

Alessandro Profumo, Chief Executive Officer Leonardo said, "On the cusp of celebrating nearly 40 years of operating in Philadelphia, Leonardo is thrilled the U.S. Navy has selected our TH-119-based offer and us as a local and long term partner. We are proud to be a core contributor to the future of U.S. defense."

Gian Piero Cutillo, Managing Director of Leonardo Helicopters added, "Today's brilliant news is a ringing endorsement for our solutions setting new industry standards for training. We are committed to working with the U.S. Navy to ensure future pilots meet all evolving service requirements."

William Hunt, Managing Director of Leonardo Helicopters Philadelphia said, "Our plan since day one has been to offer the U.S. Navy the training capabilities they asked for, without compromise. We are honored to deliver on that promise, build the new fleet in Philadelphia and maintain it from Milton, Florida."

Leonardo Wins U.S. Navy Helo Trainer Deal

AIN Online | Posted January 13, 2020 | by Mark Huber

<https://www.ainonline.com/aviation-news/defense/2020-01-13/leonardo-wins-us-navy-helo-trainer-deal>

The U.S. Navy has selected Leonardo's TH-119 as its new training helicopter, the company announced Monday night. A military variant of the civil AW119, the new military trainer—the TH-73A—will replace the service's existing fleet of Bell TH-57s. The initial contract is for 32 aircraft with spares, support, and training and is valued at nearly \$176.5 million. Subsequent individual year contracts are expected to bring total deliveries to 130 aircraft by 2024, with a value of \$648.1 million.

Leonardo had been competing with Bell and Airbus Helicopters for the deal and those companies had offered variants of its single-engine model 407 and light twin H135, respectively. Leonardo said the delivery of the helicopters "is expected to be completed in October 2021." The aircraft will be assembled at Leonardo's AgustaWestland Philadelphia Corp.



William Hunt, managing director of Leonardo Helicopters Philadelphia, said, “Our plan since day one has been to offer the U.S. Navy the training capabilities they asked for, without compromise. We are honored to deliver on that promise, build the new fleet in Philadelphia and maintain it from Milton, Florida.”

In September 2019, Leonardo had promised to build a 100,000-sq-ft facility in Milton that would support the estimated 130 helicopters the Navy requires for its primary training mission. The new facility would be built in partnership with the Santa Rosa County Economic Development Office, as well as Space Florida, in the 269-acre Whiting Aviation Park adjacent to the air station where all helicopter pilots for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard currently are trained. Envisioned as a full-service Part 145 repair station, the new facility would offer 24/7 service, including spare parts, warranty processing and renewal, technical and product engineering, and component and airframe repair....

NS Mayport

Littoral Combat Ship Will Field Laser Weapon as Part of Lockheed Martin, Navy Test

U.S. Naval Institute News | Posted January 14, 2020 | by Megan Eckstein

https://news.usni.org/2020/01/13/littoral-combat-ship-will-field-laser-weapon-as-part-of-lockheed-martin-navy-test?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2001.14.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

The Navy will put a laser weapon on a Littoral Combat Ship for the first time this year, amid efforts to boost the LCS’s lethality and to develop and field a family of laser systems.

USS Little Rock (LCS-9) will receive a laser weapon during its upcoming deployment, Commander of Naval Surface Forces Vice Adm. Richard Brown told reporters. The ship will likely deploy to U.S. 4th Fleet, where sister ship USS Detroit is currently operating.



USNI News understands that Little Rock would be taking on a Lockheed Martin-made 150-kilowatt high energy laser, as part of a risk reduction effort between the company, the Office of Naval Research and the Program Executive Office for Integrated Warfare Systems. The effort would contribute to a larger layered laser defense effort, a source told USNI News.

The laser weapon would aid the LCS in its surface warfare mission to counter fast-attack craft and unmanned aerial systems and detect incoming targets....

Other Items of Interest

Verizon announces home-based jobs for Panama City

Panama City News Herald | Posted January 13, 2020 | by News Herald Staff Report

https://www.newsherald.com/business/20200113/verizon-announces-home-based-jobs-for-panama-city?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GHM_Daily_Newsletter&utm_content=INKA_PCN&utm_term=011420

Verizon is set to offer home-based jobs in Panama City later this year, the telecommunications company announced on Friday.

Verizon representatives said the company would launch an extension of its home-based agent program in the coming months as part of its continued commitment to help the area recover from Hurricane Michael. The company made the announcement during the Bay County Chamber of Commerce's First Friday event.

According to a Verizon press release, the customer service jobs will offer competitive pay and industry-leading benefits. How many at-home jobs the company will bring to the city was not announced on Friday....

FDSTF Update – January 24

Task Force Members,

A good Friday afternoon to everyone.

1. **Next Meeting** – The next Task Force meeting will be a conference call on February 20, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EST.

2. **Meeting Call In Number** –

888-585-9008

Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. **Military Friendly Legislation Moving Rapidly** – SB 372 (sponsored by Sen. Tom Lee) and its companion bill, HB 171 (sponsored by Rep. Mel Ponder) both cleared all of their respective committees on Thursday and received unanimous support in each committee. These bills would allow service members and veterans to receive college credits for their military training at Florida Universities and Technical Training Centers easing their transition from military service to a civilian career. These bills could come up for full chamber votes in each house as early as next week. I've pasted links to the text of each bill below.

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/372/BillText/c1/PDF>

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?FileName= h0171c1.docx &DocumentType=Bill&BillNumber=0171&Session=2020>

4. **Big Change Coming to the Weekly Update** – As I first mentioned late last year, the staff has been working on some major changes to how we update you with information. We've got our new products ready to launch next week so this will be the final Weekly Update that you see in this format. Beginning on Monday we'll be sending the Military and Defense News clips out to each of you on a daily basis. We'll still go through the same sources and forward the articles relevant to Florida and the Task Force's mission, but as a daily product you'll find fewer of them in each issue. I'll also still send out a Weekly Update on Fridays but starting next week it will only include the top portion that I write since you'll be receiving the news each day.

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News Clips of Interest:

Space Force / Space Command

Florida targets Space Force

The News Service of Florida | Posted January 17, 2020 | by Jim Turner
https://www.newsherald.com/news/20200117/florida-targets-space-force?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GHM_Daily_Newsletter&utm_content=INKA_PCN&utm_term=011920

Florida's aerospace agency has launched a new front in its effort to make the Sunshine State more enticing as a potential player in the nation's up-and-coming Space Force.

The Space Florida Board of Directors on Thursday approved \$200,000 for Satellite Beach-based GTOPS Inc., a veteran-owned business that provides facilities support services, to further showcase how military bases and businesses in the state are capable of training and equipping President Donald Trump's new military branch.

"If you can't make the articulate arguments for what capabilities you've got to support missions, you'll never get those mission assignments," Space Florida President and CEO Frank DiBello said after Thursday's meeting in Tallahassee....

Multiple Air Force Base Names to be Changed to 'Space Base'

InMilitary.com | Posted January 23, 2020 | by Wes O'Donnell
https://inmilitary.com/multiple-air-force-base-names-to-be-changed-to-space-base/?utm_source=inhomelandsecurity.com&utm_medium=link&utm_content=content%20-%20In%20Military&utm_campaign=Multiple%20Air-force-base-names-to-be-changed-to-space-base%20-%20LT%20-%20IM&_ga=2.35854118.74974527.1579876023-29860149.1579876023

On New Year's Eve, 2019, the 14th Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California was among the first units to be renamed as part of President Trump's 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which established the Space Force as the sixth branch of the U.S. military. What's the unit's new name? The Space Operations Command (SPOC).

But the Air Force isn't done restructuring to accommodate the Space Force. In the coming months, several U.S. Air Force bases could get new names, according to General John "Jay"

Raymond, commander of U.S. Space Command. Raymond will serve as the first chief of space operations (CSO) in charge of the U.S. Space Force.

Speaking with reporters on December 20, Raymond said, “We’ll work to rename those [bases] to match the mission of the base....”

NAS Pensacola

Esper’s balancing act in Pensacola: showing support after shooting while encouraging training foreign allies

Military Times | Posted January 22, 2020 | by Aaron Mehta

https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2020/01/23/espers-balancing-act-in-pensacola-showing-support-after-shooting-while-encouraging-training-foreign-allies/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%2001.23.20&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

Six weeks after a Saudi trainee killed three sailors in a shooting spree that has since been termed a terrorist attack, the community around Naval Air Station Pensacola — including 140 Saudi students still on base — is trying to adjust to normal life

And during a visit to the base Wednesday, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper attempted to thread a careful line: expressing support and understanding for those impacted, while urging that the incident not lead to cutting off military training for allies and partners.



Speaking with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis at the base, Esper said “the United States is safer when we have allies and partners,” something DeSantis, who previously said Saudi Arabia will “owe a debt” following the shooting, supported — up to a point....

Tyndall AFB

AFWERX Sets Sights on ‘Base of the Future’

Air Force Magazine | Posted January 23, 2020 | by Rachel S. Cohen

<https://www.airforcemag.com/afwerx-sets-sights-on-base-of-the-future/>

Air Force technology innovation hub AFWERX wants to help bring the “base of the future” to life as its flagship effort of 2020.

At the core of that endeavor is Tyndall AFB, Fla., which was largely destroyed by Hurricane Michael, a Category 5 storm that swept through in late 2018. The Air Force has seized on the opportunity to modernize the installation with wireless connectivity on the flightline, multipurpose facilities for everything from aircraft maintenance to family time, sensors that track a building's health, and more.

The reconstruction timeline is tight: The Panhandle base wants to begin hosting F-35s in just three years. Rebuilding Tyndall is slated to cost about \$5 billion, nearly twice the Air Force's entire yearly military construction budget. When it's finished, it must be able to withstand the power of other potential hurricanes....

US Southern Command

Good news or bad? Pentagon review of SOUTHCOM kicks off

Defense News | Posted January 23, 2020 | by Aaron Mehta

<https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2020/01/24/good-news-or-bad-pentagon-review-of-southcom-kicks-off/>

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper has begun a review of U.S. Southern Command, which could lead to cuts to the regional combatant command — or perhaps increased resources at a time that China and Russia are ramping up activity in the region.

Esper has said he plans to do a COCOM-by-COCOM review of U.S. force posture in order to assess how resources are being used and whether they should be redirected in some way. Those decisions will largely be driven by the needs of the National Defense Strategy. He hopes to have the reviews done by Oct. 1, the start of the next fiscal year.



Already a discussion about redirecting troops from U.S. Africa Command elsewhere was met with resistance in Congress, with leaders from both the House and Senate armed services committees warning the secretary against such a reduction. On Thursday, Esper stressed that the review is only just starting, and that he is open to arguments that SOUTHCOM may need more manpower, not less....

Defense Industry

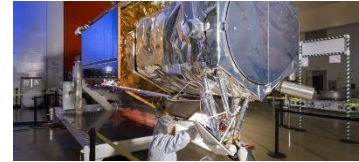
Pentagon Wants to Build One Satellite Per Week

Defense One | Posted January 21, 2020 | by Marcus Weisgerber

https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2020/01/pentagon-wants-build-one-satellite-week/162548/?oref=defenseone_today_nl

One satellite per week. That's what the Pentagon wants industry to provide under its plans to orbit seven new constellations — each with a different function — by the end of 2020.

The satellites would be smaller (“a few hundred kilograms”), cheaper (about \$10 million each), and shorter-lived (about five years) than today's typical military satellites, which can weigh tons and consume billions of dollars but which are expected to operate for decades.



“We are talking [about] technology that is available to fly within 18 to 24 months,” Derek Tournear, director of the Space Development Agency, said during a Tuesday briefing at the Pentagon....

Modly Says Industrial Base For Hypersonics Not There Yet For Transition To Production

Inside Defense | Posted January 22, 2020 | by Justin Katz

<https://insidedefense.com/daily-news/modly-says-industrial-base-hypersonics-not-there-yet-transition-production>

The Navy needs to send clear signals to the hypersonics industrial base in anticipation of the coming transition from developing prototypes to producing the weapon systems at scale, according to the service's acting chief civilian.

"The shift of going from [research and development] to test platforms and then going into full production . . . that's a pretty major transition that we need to be thinking about because the industrial capacity is not really there right now to be able to develop that," acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly told Inside Defense in a Jan. 17 phone interview.

"We have to start sending some strong signals to industry that we're serious about it, and that we want to go in that direction," he said from Hawaii at the tail end of a trip to several countries in the Pacific....

Other Items of Interest

Miller Becomes Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Air Force Installations

Association of Defense Communities | Posted January 20, 2020 | by ADC author
<https://www.defensecommunities.org/blog/congress-dod/miller-becomes-principal-deputy-assistant-secretary-for-air-force-installations/>

Jennifer Miller is the Air Force's new principal deputy assistant secretary for installations, environment and energy. She replaced Rich Hartley, who has left the position.



Miller previously worked on installation issues in the Air Force general counsel's office and is also a U.S. Army Reserve lieutenant colonel.

Military training could translate to Florida college credits

Fox 13 News | Posted January 23, 2020 | by Ana Ceballos
<https://www.fox13news.com/news/military-training-could-translate-to-florida-college-credits>

Florida lawmakers are fast-tracking legislation that would allow service members and veterans to receive college credits for their military training, with the goal of saving time and money.

House and Senate proposals were approved Thursday in their final committees and are now able to get votes in the full House and Senate as early as next week. The bills (SB 372 and HB 171) received unanimous support at all of their committees.

The measures, sponsored by Sen. Tom Lee, R-Thonotosassa, and Rep. Mel Ponder, R-Destin, would direct a committee within the Florida Department of Education to determine what types of military experience and training would be able to be turned into academic credits....

FDSTF Update – February 3

Task Force Members,

A good Monday afternoon to everyone.

1. Next Meeting – The next Task Force meeting will be a conference call on February 20, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EST.

2. Meeting Call In Number –

888-585-9008 Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. WebEx –

Meeting number (access code): 738 635 549 | Meeting password: Feb@20

4. Task Force Progress Report and Work Plan Submitted – Last Friday the staff delivered the Task Force’s FY 2018-2019 Progress Report and FY 2020-2021 Work Plan to the offices of the Governor the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. You can read a copy of the final version at:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/2019-FDSTF-Progress-Report-and-Work-Plan.pdf>

5. Joint FDSTF-FDA Letter sent to Polk County Commission – Last week the staff sent a joint FDSTF-FDA letter to the Polk County Commission expressing support for the Avon Park AFR prior to a hearing scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2020. This was a very similar letter to one the FDSTF and FDA sent last autumn but the issue has not been resolved and both organizations wanted to emphasize to the County Commission that our stances on the issue remain unchanged. I have attached a copy of that letter to this update.

6. Governor’s Challenge – Last Thursday and Friday Beth and I participated in the initial meetings of the Governor’s Challenge Committee. Governor DeSantis formed this group to look for solutions Florida can implement to reduce the rate of suicides among the military, veterans and their family members. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs facilitated the working sessions, the heads of a number of state and local agencies such as Danny Burgess from FDVA are part of the group and the First Lady, Casey DeSantis, visited with us during the meetings. With the high-level participation Florida focused on this effort, the U.S. VA representatives said that we accomplished more in the first two days than most states and are very well positioned for the next phase of work later this month. I’ll be bringing you updates on this project as it develops.

7. Send in your Grant Applications for Emerging Needs – Just a reminder, the Task Force staff is ready to receive Grant Applications for emerging needs at any time. In March the Task Force members are scheduled to decide whether or not to consider out-of-cycle grants during this fiscal year. If you have any emerging needs, now is the time to submit those grant applications.

8. Attachments:

- Letter to Polk County Commission



Ray Collins

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[website](#) | [email](#)



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FDSTF Update – February 7

Task Force Members,

A good Friday afternoon to everyone.

1. **Next Meeting** – The next Task Force meeting will be a conference call on February 20, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EST.
2. **Meeting Call In Number** –
 - a. **888-585-9008** **Conference Room: 262-492-927**
3. **WebEx** –
 - a. **Meeting number (access code): 738 635 549 | Meeting password: Feb@20**
4. **Polk County Board of County Commissioners Hearing Results** – On Tuesday Beth Medina, Buck MacLaughlin (Avon Park AFR), Lt Col Dale Stark, (Commander, Avon Park AFR) and Jennifer Codo-Salisbury (Central Florida Regional Planning Council) attended a Polk County Board of County Commissioners hearing regarding rezoning the Triple-Canopy Ranch to permit construction of a 1000-unit RV park. This was a significant encroachment threat to Avon Park AFR which the Task Force voted to raise from a Priority 2 to a Priority 1 tract last November under the Military Base Protection Program. Buck and team presented clear arguments, but the commission decided to approve the request to rezone the property for the development. When the development occurs, it may force the Air Force to limit training through this flight corridor. The applicant's attorney said they may be open to discussion on selling the property if it became a tangible possibility.
5. **Association of Defense Communities Installation Forum** – Next week Beth and I will be in San Antonio for the ADC Installation Innovation Forum. We'll be joined there by Tom Neubauer, Kay Rasmussen (each of them on one of the panels) and Kelli Jo Kilberg. Top leaders for base support issues from DoD, each of the services and across the nation will be there. The State Advisors Council will discuss an update from DoD on DCIP. Much of the focus will be on improving resiliency of the nation's military bases. Tyndall AFB will be the center of much of that discussion as the most complete test case available. We'll provide you full details in next week's update.
6. **Gulf Range MML Moratorium Extension** – Regarding the expiration of the oil drilling moratorium in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico in 2020, there are renewed state level conversations underway. Since the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to extend the moratorium (H.R. 205), action currently resides in the U.S. Senate.

7. **Staff-CODEL-D.C. EOG Office Conference Call** – This morning the staff held a conference call with Katherine Anne Russo in the state Washington, D.C. office and over 10 staffers from various Florida congressional delegation offices. The initial purpose was to establish a routine line of communication between the FDSTF & FDA staff and the Florida congressional delegation staffs. During this morning’s meeting we discussed the Governor’s priorities for Military & Defense in Florida, the results of our updated Economic Impact Study, and the subsequent strategy review of the FDA & FDSTF. A couple of the CODEL staff shared insights into actions that they are working, such as Space Command and the moratorium. Our next monthly call will be on Friday, March 6th.

8. **Attachments:**

- Attachment 1
- Attachment 2
- Attachment 3



Ray Collins

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

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February 17

Task Force Members,

A good Monday morning to everyone.

1. Next Meeting – The next Task Force meeting will be a conference call this Thursday, February 20, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EST.

2. Meeting Call In Number –

888-585-9008 Conference Room: 262-492-927

3. WebEx –

Meeting number (access code): 738 635 549 | Meeting password: Feb@20

4. Association of Defense Communities Installation Innovation Forum – Quite an impressive number of our FDSTF and FDA members attended the ADC Installation Innovation Forum in San Antonio last week and some of them (Tom Neubauer, Chris Middleton & Kay Rasmussen) were among the panelists in a few of the sessions. We had the opportunity to hear from and talk with the top leaders for base issues from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and each of the services. Later on, Beth will be sending out a more detailed summary of the key things we heard, but some of the main things that jumped out to me included:

- The Navy is beginning to think of their installations as a weapons system to launch other weapons. As such, mission assurance of the installation is critical and that means ensuring their electrical power infrastructure (including power coming from off base) is reliable. Multiple times they described this as their No. 1 resiliency concern.
- The lack of a developed cybersecurity program for control systems (such as SCADA systems for electrical power, traffic control, water purification & supply systems, etc.) was a recurring theme. The various speakers on this also kept repeating that the IT model of signature-based anti-malware software hasn't worked so we need a behavior-based cybersecurity program to protect these systems.
- Multiple leaders said that they know the military's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates are not right and they have to get that fixed.
- There was a lot of emphasis on the need to create cooperative agreements between bases and the local communities, especially in areas such as infrastructure and schools.
- Solutions to clean up PFAS are being fast-tracked. While nothing is currently effective and economically viable at an industrial scale, when one of the concepts

being explored pans out, the time scale for it to go from an idea to an implementable technology on an industrial scale will be about 3-5 years.

Last week was pretty much entirely taken up with the conference and the travel to-and-from it, so that's all I have today. We look forward to hearing from you this Thursday on our conference call and will be happy to discuss these issues or whatever else may concern you at that time. Until then have a great week!



Ray Collins

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

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tel 850.878.4578 | mobile 850.266.1865



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February 24

Task Force Members,

A good Monday morning to everyone.

- 1. Next Meeting** – The next Task Force meeting will be at the Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville Airport, 13503 Ranch Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218 on March 19, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT.
- 2. Meeting Call In Number** –

888-585-9008 Conference Room: 262-492-927
- 3. February Task Force Conference Call** – The Task Force held our February conference call yesterday. There was good discussion on recommended Task Force action from the Association of Defense Communities Installation Innovation Forum. The Task Force also completed required annual training on the Sunshine Law and Ethics. Following the open session, the Task Force reconvened in a closed session to review the revised structure of the Task Force Strategic Plan linking it more clearly to the Governor’s vision, goals and priorities. The staff and Task Force will continue editing that during the Spring and release it later this year.
- 4. Results of ANG F-35A Basing Environmental Impact Studies Released** – On Wednesday the U.S. Air Force released the Environment Impact Statements for the five locations under consideration as the bed down location for the next two squadrons of Air National Guard F-35As (Madison, Wisconsin; Boise, Idaho; Jacksonville, Florida; Selfridge ANGB [Harrison Township], Michigan and Montgomery, Alabama). Within 30 days the Air Force is expected to announce a decision regarding which two of these five ANG bases will be the next to upgrade to the F-35. The EISs are available at:

<http://www.angf35eis.com/Documents.aspx>
- 5. Governor’s Challenge** – Next week I will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Veterans’ Administration/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (VA/SAMHSA) Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Policy Academy. I’ll be working with a cross-agency Florida team, similar teams from other states, and national agency teams to compare what Florida is doing to address this problem with what other states are doing and bring best practices back to Florida. If you would like for me to bring up specific initiatives underway in your community or if you have particular questions you’d like me to address, please send them to me by early next week. I have the material supporting Jacksonville’s Mayor’s Challenge that Col. Dudley briefed yesterday, the program named “Fire Watch.”

6. Military Friendly Gap Analysis – Florida is the most military friendly state in the nation. To take our support for the military to the next level, the staff recommended the Task Force commission a gap analysis to assess how the military community views the benefits Florida provides; which benefits matter most to military personnel, their families and veterans; and compare what we offer to what they need and want. We are working on an RFP for this study and expect to release it soon. We'll let you know once it's on the street.

7. Attachments:

- Attachment 1
- Attachment 2
- Attachment 3

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

To make sure you receive future emails,
please add mgriggs@enterpriseflorida.com to your address book or safe list.



Upcoming Task Force Meeting

March 19, 2020
9:00 AM

Hilton Garden Inn
Jacksonville Airport
13503 Ranch Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904) 421-2700

Call In Information:
(888) 585-9008

Conference Room:
262-492-927

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task Force Events](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance Florida Events](#)
- [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)

Florida Defense Support Task Force Weekly Update

February 28, 2020

Information

Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and their Families – This week, Ray Collins went to Washington, D.C. along with ten members of the Florida team from other agencies including Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, various Veterans' Service Organizations, several health care organizations, first responder organizations and the Executive Office of the Governor. This cross-agency team worked with the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as well as teams from five other states. Going into this week Florida's strategy to reduce the suicide rate among military, veterans and their family members had four major lines of effort. With help from experts brought in by SAMHSA the team developed one line of effort more completely and to use as a template to develop the other three lines between now and the next team meeting in May.

U.S. Air Force Approves Criteria for Military Family Support as a Basing Consideration – On Monday the U.S. Air Force approved criteria to assess states' policies for accepting professional, career licenses and a community's public education system support of military children as part of its strategic basing process. Among other services, the Air Force has stated this issue is so important for personnel retention that it will become a base selection criterion, but this is the first formal publication of such criteria. While mission requirements remain the most important consideration, the Air Force will also now give weight to the quality of schools for military children and the extent and ease of licensure portability for military spouses when service members are transferred to a new state. The Air Force will formally begin using these new criteria this spring.



For feedback or additional information please contact:

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The complete U.S. Air Force press release is available [HERE](#).

FY 2021 DoD Budget – On Wednesday, Secretary of Defense Esper testified before the House Armed Services Committee on the FY 2021 Department of Defense budget request. Esper stated publicly before sending the budget request to Congress that when last year's request came in, he had very little time in office and couldn't alter much but this year's budget request would reflect his vision of future priorities and demonstrate significant change. Most notable is a reduction in requests for new Navy shipbuilding with more money going to repair and maintain existing ships getting worn out. This budget also shows an emphasis on replacing older nuclear weapons systems with new technology developed after the Cold War. Overall, the budget remains at about the same level of spending but considering inflation, would represent a slight decrease in true spending power.

Extension of the Gulf of Mexico Drilling Moratorium – On Tuesday Senator Marco Rubio told reporters that he is confident President Trump will support extending the ban on drilling for oil east of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico. The current prohibition is due to expire in 2022 but the House of Representatives has already passed a measure which would extend that restriction indefinitely. Rubio introduced a Senate version for a five-year extension he believes more likely to pass.

Attachments

None this week

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MILITARY AND DEFENSE



Upcoming Task Force Meeting

March 19, 2020
9:00 AM

Hilton Garden Inn
Jacksonville Airport
13503 Ranch Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218
(904) 421-2700

Call In Information:
(888) 585-9008

Conference Room:
262-492-927

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task Force Events](#)
 - [Florida Defense Alliance](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance Florida Events](#)
 - [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)

Florida Defense Support Task Force Weekly Update

March 6, 2020

Information

Senators Rubio and Scott Pushing 10-Year Extension of Gulf of Mexico Drilling Moratorium – On Wednesday, Florida Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott filed an amendment which would extend the drilling moratorium in the eastern Gulf of Mexico by 10 years to S. 2657 (116), an energy bill that had been moving quickly through the U.S. Senate. As of Wednesday evening, various senators had filed over 150 amendments to this bill, but Florida's Senators and staff are continuing to work this issue.

U.S. Space Force Expanding Options for Headquarters Location Nation-wide – On Tuesday, Lieutenant General David Thompson, Vice Commander, U.S. Space Force testified before the House Armed Services Committee's Readiness Subcommittee that they have been instructed to reexamine the options for the permanent home of the U.S. Space Command. Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral AFS in Florida are options among other states and bases. On Wednesday, Secretary of the Air Force, Barbara Barrett announced the Department will invite states and communities to present their arguments for hosting USSPACECOM HQ. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee that he made the decision to re-examine this issue and does not expect to announce a final decision before November 2020.

U.S. Space Force Will Have a Reserve Component – On Wednesday, Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett and Chief of Space Operations General Jay Raymond told the House Armed Services Committee there will be a guard and reserve component of the U.S. Space Force. Raymond stated the U.S. Space Force will publish its first doctrine document which guides



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strategy, force structure and budgeting decisions this spring.

Governor's Base Commanders Meeting – The next Governor's Base Commanders Meeting is set for May 13, 2020 at Naval Station Mayport.

Attachments

[President Trump's Message to Florida on the State's 175th Anniversary](#)

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Upcoming Task Force Meeting

March 19, 2020
9:00 AM

CONFERENCE CALL /
WebEX

Call In Information:
(888) 585-9008

Conference Room:
262-492-927

WebEx Meeting Number:
738 635 549

Meeting Password:
March@19

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task Force Events](#)
 - [Florida Defense Alliance](#)
 - [Florida Defense Alliance Florida](#)

Florida Defense Support Task Force Weekly Update

March 13, 2020

Information

Next Meeting – As a precautionary measure, we are **changing the MARCH MEETING to a CONFERENCE CALL/WEBEX ONLY**. This call will be at the previously scheduled date/time, March 19, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT.

FDSTF Strategic Plan Update – The FDSTF staff moved into a new phase of development of a draft of the revised Task Force Strategic Plan this week. The Task Force members will discuss this with the staff during the Closed Session next week as it gets closer to being published.

Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony – This past Monday the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs inducted 16 distinguished Floridians into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. Each of these persons was honored for their contributions to Florida that followed an exemplary military career. The list of inductees and more information is available [HERE](#).

Attachments

[March 19, 2020 FDSTF Meeting Agenda](#)

- [Events](#)
• [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)



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Upcoming Task Force Meeting

April 16, 2020
9:00 AM

CONFERENCE CALL /
WebEX

Call In Information:
(888) 585-9008

Conference Room:
262-492-927

WebEx Meeting Number:
TBD

Meeting Password:
TBD

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task Force Events](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance](#)

Florida Defense Support Task Force Weekly Update

March 23, 2020

Information

March FDSTF teleconference – The Task Force conducted its March 2020 meeting last week via a teleconference/WebEX. The Task Force discussed concern that defense contractors be exempted from restrictions if Florida needs to consider harbor in place measures in the future. The federal government addressed this issue with a memo from the Department of Homeland Security that includes defense contractors on a list of workers essential to national security. There was also discussion on the status of: encroachment prevention measures regarding several bases, the extension of a drilling moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico, and changes to the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) & FDSTF meeting schedules caused by the COVID-19 response. The Task Force received a briefing from Chip White of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation on the new “Salute Our Soldiers” program and an update from Liz Miller, DEO, that the deadline to apply for Defense Infrastructure Grants (DIG) & Defense Reinvestment Grants (DRG) has been extended 30 days.

FDSTF switching to virtual meetings until further notice – The Task Force is switching to teleconference/WebEX meetings until the current COVID-19 crisis is past. There is a link below to the adjusted FDSTF meeting schedule.

- [Florida Defense Alliance Florida Events](#)
- [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)



For feedback or additional information please contact:

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(850) 878-4578
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How to contact EFI Military & Defense staff – Staff hours and email addresses remain the same. Phone contacts are:

Beth Medina, (850) 294-8854
Ray Collins, (850) 266-1865
Marcy Muldrow Sanders, (850) 491-0030
Michelle Griggs, (850) 661-7871

Direct COVID-19 resources – With the changes each day, here are a few agencies and websites that are the best sources for updated COVID-19 data for the Florida military community:

[Florida Department of Health](#)
[Florida Department of Emergency Management COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
[Department of Defense Coronavirus Update](#)
[US Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

Attachments

[Adjusted FDSTF 2020 Meeting Schedule](#)

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Upcoming Task Force Meeting

April 16, 2020
9:00 AM

CONFERENCE CALL /
WebEX

Call In Information:
(888) 585-9008

Conference Room:
262-492-927

WebEx Meeting Number:
TBD

Meeting Password:
TBD

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task](#)

Florida Defense Support Task Force Weekly Update

March 27, 2020

Information

Defense Budget – The U.S. Senate and House passed this week, and the President immediately signed, a \$2 trillion emergency funding bill that includes \$10.5 billion for the Department of Defense. In this fully approved package, \$1.4 billion is direct funding for National Guard deployments, \$1.5 billion will expand military hospitals and mobile medical centers, and \$1 billion is to produce medical supplies such as personal protective equipment and medical equipment.

To execute oversight for the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, the Senate Armed Services Committee decided to continue their work remotely via “paper” hearings for which testimony and statements will be posted on a Senate website. Instead of live questions and answers, the committee will post member questions and witnesses will return written answers posted to the site in response. Updates can be found [HERE](#).

Military Work Continues – Yesterday, the U.S. Space Force launched an Atlas V carrying the final Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF) communications satellite into orbit. This satellite, AEHF-6, completes the AEHF constellation for DoD.

How to contact EFI Military & Defense staff – Staff hours and email addresses remain the same. Phone contacts are:

- [Force Events](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance Florida Events](#)
- [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)



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rcollins@enterpriseflorida.com

Marcy Muldrow Sanders, (850) 491-0030
msanders@enterpriseflorida.com

Michelle Griggs, (850) 661-7871
mgriggs@enterpriseflorida.com

Attachments

None this week

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MILITARY AND DEFENSE



Upcoming Task Force Meeting

May 21, 2020
9:00 AM

CONFERENCE CALL /
WebEX

Call In Information:
(888) 585-9008

Conference Room:
262-492-927

WebEx Meeting Number:
476 052 786

Meeting Password:
May@21

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task Force Events](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance Florida](#)

Florida Defense Support Task Force Weekly Update

May 1, 2020

Information

Next meeting – The next Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) meeting will be via teleconference/WebEx on May 21, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT.

Task Force Strategic Plan – The staff has been editing the FDSTF Strategic Plan based on comments from the Task Force members during the April meeting closed session. An updated draft will be going out to the Task Force via a separate E-mail.

ICYMI, Governors' Base Commanders Meeting Postponed – In case you missed it, the May Governor's Base Commanders meeting has been postponed, the future date yet to be determined. The Department of Military Affairs is still going to schedule that meeting to take place in Jacksonville.

Governor's Challenge Planning Continuing – During April the Governor's Challenge committee members met in small working groups then as the full committee to edit and expand the plan to reduce the number of service member, veteran and family member suicides in Florida. During the full-group meeting, we received assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs and their subject matter experts. This work will continue in both small groups and a full committee meeting during May.

Happy Birthday, Department of the Navy – The Navy and Marine Corps celebrated the anniversary of a

- [Events](#)
- [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)



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significant date this week. On April 30, 1798 - Congress established the Department of the Navy (as distinct from the U.S. Navy) as a separate cabinet department naming Benjamin Stoddert as the first Secretary of the Navy. Previously, naval matters were under the War Department.

Staff will Continue Telework Through May –

Following Governor DeSantis's guidance to maximize telework for the coming weeks, the staff will continue remote operations through May.

How to contact EFI Military & Defense staff – Staff hours and email addresses remain the same. Phone contacts are:

Beth Medina, (850) 294-8854
bmedina@enterpriseflorida.com

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msanders@enterpriseflorida.com

Michelle Griggs, (850) 661-7871
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Attachments

None this week

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MILITARY AND DEFENSE



Upcoming Task Force Meeting

July 16, 2020
9:00 AM

Cocoa Beach

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task Force Events](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance Florida Events](#)
- [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)



For feedback or additional information please contact:

Florida Defense Support Task Force Update

June 16, 2020

Information

Next meeting – The next Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) meeting will be on July 16, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT and is currently scheduled to be an in-person meeting in the Space Coast. The Task Force staff is continuing to monitor the state's reopening plan and may change the meeting to a conference call if necessary.

Florida Defense Support Task Force Approves Three Grants – The Florida Defense Support Task Force held its May meeting via teleconference on May 21, 2020 and during that meeting heard presentations from, and voted on Grant awards for, the Florida Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and two communities. DMA requested a grant to build a fence around part of the north side of Homestead ARB to protect the base from encroachment. The Bay County Board of Commissioners requested a grant to conduct a comprehensive assessment of community infrastructure improvements needed to support the base during and after the rebuilding process from Hurricane Michael. The City of Jacksonville requested a grant to purchase restrictive easements around NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport and OLF Whitehouse in order to protect those bases from encroachment. The Task Force decided to award DMA \$129,000, Bay County \$270,900 and Jacksonville \$322,500.

Florida Forever Land Acquisition Helps Protect Tyndall AFB From Encroachment – On May 28, Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet approved a 17,080-acre land acquisition within the Dickerson Bay/ Bald Point Florida Forever project from The Nature Conservancy. The

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acquisition of this property (also known as The Bluffs) in Wakulla and Franklin counties, protects lands essential to the protecting the military missions of Tyndall Air Force Base which use the airspace above these lands.

Florida Military Communities Video Production In Work – Kennetic Productions, Inc., the contractor hired by the FDSTF to produce a set of videos to showcase the military value of all of Florida’s assets, including the Gulf Range Complex, and Florida’s military-friendly environment recently began contacting community POCs to begin planning their visits. Those of you who haven’t yet heard from Kennetic should hear from them soon. Kennetic will produce 35 final approved videos (each between 30 to 180 seconds long) based on at least 15 separate video shoots and or compilations of existing video in 15 different counties (featuring the 20 major military installations in each county). We will make the full set of videos available and shareable across the state to aid in creating a unified message from our communities and to show how Florida’s bases form a unified complex whose total value is greater than the sum of its parts.

Eastern Gulf of Mexico Drilling Moratorium – Florida’s congressional delegation efforts to include language to extend the drilling moratorium in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico in appropriate legislation continue. Last week the Senate did not allow amendments to the Great American Outdoors Act or approve of moratorium language for the National Defense Authorization Act in the Senate Armed Services Committee. Florida continues to implement and expand an 8-point plan that integrates the work of the FDSTF, the Florida Defense Alliance, the Congressional Delegation, the Governor and all other interested Floridians.

DoD Lifts Travel Bans in Almost 50 Places – On June 8 DoD lifted travel restrictions for 39 states, the District of Columbia and five foreign countries. On Friday DoD added two additional foreign locations to that list. Florida is not one of the locations in which the travel ban has been removed yet. DoD personnel can still travel to or from Florida if they obtain a waiver through their chain-of-command.

Attachments

None this week

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Upcoming Task Force Meeting

July 16, 2020
9:00 AM

Conference Call/WebEx

Call in Number
(888) 585-9008

Conference Room
262-492-927

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task Force Events](#)
 - [Florida Defense Alliance](#)
 - [Florida Defense Alliance Florida Events](#)
 - [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)

Florida Defense Support Task Force Weekly Update

June 30, 2020

Information

Next meeting – The next Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) meeting will be via teleconference/WebEx on July 16, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT.

July Task Force meeting changed to Conference Call

– The staff converted the July 16 Task Force meeting, originally scheduled to be held in the Space Coast, to a conference call / WebEx. We will send out more details on the meeting as we get closer to the meeting date.

At this time the remainder of the schedule (August – conference call; September – Tallahassee; October – conference call; November – Orlando; December – no meeting) is unchanged. The staff will continue to monitor the progress of the state's reopening plan and if necessary, will adjust the meeting schedule and advise you if/when any changes occur.

Task Force Membership Changes – Each year the Chair of the Florida Defense Support Task Force rotates between the Senate and the House of Representatives on July 1. Last week, Speaker of the House Jose Oliva appointed Representative Thad Altman to be the next Chairman of the Task Force taking over for Senator Broxson whose term ends on June 30, 2020. We look forward to a productive year under Representative Altman's leadership.

President of the Senate Bill Galvano recently appointed Senator Tom Wright to the Florida Defense Support Task Force. Senator



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Wright is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Space and is replacing Senator Doug Broxson for a term that will end on November 1, 2022. We thank Senator Broxson for his years of dedicated work on the Task Force as both a member and twice as Chairman of the Task Force. Please give Senator Wright a warm welcome.

Recently Signed Military-Friendly Bills – This month Governor DeSantis signed five military-friendly bills into law. Here is a summary of those changes:

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

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

CS/CS/CS/SB 662 – Education and the Military (signed June 23, 2020; takes effect July 1, 2020): This law adds the provision that beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, Junior ROTC credit for students will be an additional factor considered by the Department of Education when calculating school grades.

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

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

HASC and SASC Activity – Both the House Armed Services Committee and the Senate have been busy during the past week working on the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. The House subcommittees met last week and the full committee is set to meet this week. On the Senate side the SASC completed their work on the NDAA earlier in June and the full Senate began considering it last week. The Senate is trying to complete work on the bill prior to the July 4 Recess but may need to continue work after they return to Washington. The links below lead to the respective chamber web sites.

[House Armed Services Committee Hearings](#)

[Senate Armed Services Committee Hearings](#)

Space Command HQ Nomination Process – Eight Florida communities submitted self-nominations to become the permanent home of U.S. Space Command Headquarters to Space Florida. Space Florida forwarded them to Governor DeSantis who is currently considering them for endorsement to the US Air Force by the June 30 deadline. We expect to see an announcement of those communities that will move to the evaluation phase soon. The Task Force is standing by to provide assistance during Phase 2 of the nomination process.

Attachments

[Letter Appointing Representative Thad Altman as Chairman of the FDSTF](#)

[Letter Appointing Senator Tom Wright as Member of the FDSTF](#)

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MILITARY AND DEFENSE



Upcoming Task Force Meeting

September 17, 2020
9:00 AM

ZOOM Meeting /
Conference Call

Helpful Links

- [Florida Defense Support Task Force](#)
- [Florida Defense Support Task Force Events](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance](#)
- [Florida Defense Alliance Florida Events](#)
- [Enterprise Florida, Inc.](#)



Florida Defense Support Task Force Update

August 24, 2020

Information

Next meeting – The next Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) meeting will be via Zoom/Conference Call on September 17, 2020 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm EDT. The staff will distribute the Login information when it becomes available.

September Task Force Meeting changed to Zoom Meeting / Conference Call – The Task Force decided to convert the September 17th Task Force meeting, previously scheduled to be held in Tallahassee, to a Zoom meeting / Conference Call. The focus of this meeting will be the Task Force hearing presentations for grants for FY 2020-2021. The staff will send out more details on the meeting as we get closer to the meeting date.

FDSTF Grants – Several organizations have asked the FDSTF staff when applications for the FY 2021 – 2022 grant cycle will be opened. Due to the later than usual timing in proceeding with the FY 2020 – 2021 application process, new applications for FY 2021 – 2022 have not yet been accepted. The staff will publish the FY 2021 – 2022 application timeline after the October FDSTF meeting. We apologize for the delay.

Ongoing Major Efforts – The major, ongoing efforts in which the Task Force has been involved for some time are all continuing to move forward with a lot of work being done at the local community level.

For feedback or additional information please contact:

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Across the state the Task Force members are working with the local Florida Defense Alliance members and other community leaders on continuing to answer the Department of the Air Force basing questionnaire for the Space Command Headquarters and obtaining an extension of the Military Mission Line drilling moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico.

The production company, Kennetic Productions, who is contracted for the series of videos on the value our bases provide to the state and the nation, is moving into the Panhandle region next to focus on the topics of the Gulf Range and protection from encroachment.

The EFI military and defense staff is working with the Department of Military Affairs and the Executive Office of the Governor to get a virtual Governor's Base Commander's Meeting scheduled.

The staff also continues to work with a statewide and cross agency team on the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans and Family.

Attachments

None this week