



**Family Support Working Group Zoom
Conference Call
Thursday, January 14, 2021
9:00 AM EDT to 9:39 AM EDT**

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Chair, Teri Wanamaker, NAS Jacksonville – Child & Youth Programs
Lacey Allen, Hurlburt Field
Jack Ballantyne, Military Child Education Coalition
Maria Barkmeier, Florida Military Family Special Needs Network
Cindy Brown, Florida Senate
Diana Caldwell, Florida Senate
Ray Collins, Enterprise Florida
Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville
Kandi Debus, Navy Region Southeast
Ryan Fierst, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Laura Fogarty, Clay County School District
Barbara Gerdes, Duval County Public Schools, Assistant Principal
Michelle Griggs, Enterprise Florida
Annamaria Haley, Command Spouse Leadership Course
Damera Hopkins, Florida State University Schools
Donna Huneycutt, WWC Global/Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Tim Jones, FDA Board/Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair
Tyrone Martin, Office of the Florida Attorney General
Beth Medina, Enterprise Florida
Chris Middleton, NW Florida Defense Alliance
Liz Miller, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance
Lavender Morrison, Humana
Chuck Nygaard, Crowley Maritime
Gary Pheabus, Office of Representative Michelle Salzman
Patty Piazza, Military Spouse/ Family Employment Advocate for NE FL
Erin Pickard, SLO, NSA Panama City
Kay Rasmussen, TCDSI/Okaloosa County EDC
Jennifer Renner, Florida House of Representatives
Representative Michelle Salzman
Liz Sherr, Steven A. Cohen Clinic at Centerstone Director
Jamal Sowell, Secretary of Commerce, President & CEO Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Sharon Strickland, NS Mayport
Michele Taylor, Navy Region Southeast
Charlie Tramazzo, USO
Yolanda Triplett, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Felicia Trumpler, Florida Department of Education
Clarence Zarnes, St. Cloud, Florida

Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA Chair), welcomed everyone to the meeting

- Thanked Teri Wanamaker and her Team on the Family Support Working Group (FSWG) for their hard work to move the Purple Star School of Distinction (PSSD) program forward

- Moving quickly in the Department of Education
- Most important part now is to make sure that we end up with the product that will make a difference both to our families and students and get the recognition needed at DoD
- Turned the meeting over to Teri Wanamaker, Family Support Working Group (FWSG) Chair

Presentation on Blanket Support for Purple Star Schools of Distinction by Chair, Teri Wanamaker

- The work the FWSG has done with the PSSD program is solidly in the hands of the Florida DOE
- We have consulted on a couple of issues, but the DOE will work through the program to develop a distinction that is unique to Florida and meets the needs of our military population.
- To frame our FDA's FWSG next steps let's use an educational strategy: **So What, Here's What, Now What**

So What:

- The goal is to provide support and assistance to schools throughout the state when seeking the Purple Star Distinction
- The 5 pillars of the PSD outline the criteria for achieving the distinction – most are best practices, but a some will need support.
- DOE has added a sixth pillar: Academic Achievements
- How can we assist, and where is our assistance needed?
 - Staff Development
 - Extracurricular Star/Additional Requirements
 - Hosting an event: Military Appreciation, Month of the Military Child, Veterans Day, Memorial Day
 - Public displays throughout the schools honoring veterans and active-duty military members
 - Adopt a school
 - Yellow Ribbon Program
 - Junior ROTC
 - Provide outreach for military parents/children to connect with and feel supported by the surrounding community
 - Relief fund for struggling students
 - Scholarship opportunities funded by the local community
 - Cooperative community projects
 - Structures to provide parents with community resources
 - Involvement from Girl Scouts

Here's What

- Map of Base Locations: gap between the Panhandle and NE Florida, also between Central Florida and Central South Florida
- Map of Florida Military Reserve Units: wider distribution but gaps between the Panhandle and East Florida; South Central Florida
- Map of Florida National Guard Units: the FDA FWSG used a wide definition when making recommendations to the DOE; wanted the National Guard included as well as reserve units; those families should also be supported and benefit from the PSSD program; the Florida National Guard covers the state in 55 communities
- This process benefits both military students and all students who attend PS schools
- This distinction should be accessible to all schools; not only schools in proximity to military bases
- PS can be a point of pride for schools in their community, especially when the entire community is involved
- FDA's next step is looking to blanket the state schools with a network of support for this distinction

- Military School Liaisons Designated Area of Responsibility (AOR)
- Most will look to Military School Liaisons as a natural support; most are prior educators; most have firsthand experience with the military whether through direct service or the spouse/parent/child of servicemembers; natural fit
- Questions asked such as:
 - Can the school count on the SLO for training?
 - Can the schools contact the SL for special events?
 - Will the SLO help our school with the application process?
 - Our school is not near a base, who can help us with programming and application?
- Military schools' liaisons throughout the state and their areas of responsibility:
 - Panhandle: six SLs in the panhandle to help schools with this process
 - Gap between the Panhandle and NE Florida
 - NE Florida: two SLOs covering Nassau, Duval, Clay and St. John's counties
 - Central Florida: two SL who cover a very large area; located at Patrick SFB and MacDill AFB
 - Gap in South Central Florida
 - South Florida: two SLOs covering the southern part of the Florida
 - Shocked there's not more coverage by SLOs
 - Regional SLO covers seven states, as well as GITMO; located in Jacksonville; her responsibility is to cover all counties/schools/districts not currently covered by an installation SLO
- Where military populations reside within the state:
 - Data from DOE from past 2019-2020 school year
 - Counties marked with yellow dot are counties that have close to or over 100 military students that are not covered by a SLO
 - 13 districts do not have a connection to a SLO
 - Palm Beach County: over 500 military-connected students; no SLO
 - How to get support to these counties?

Now What:

- Can we identify organizations in those remote/uncovered counties to support the PSSD?
-
- Create a database of resources; if you have information to add to the database, please contact the FDA FSWG through Michelle Griggs at mgriggs@enterprise-florida.com or (850) 661-7871
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- Revisit needs after Florida Department of Education finalizes details of PSSD

Damera Hopkins, DOE:

- Currently finalizing
- Discussing requirements as opposed to something that the school can choose from
- Military 101 course used as an overall aspect for the entire state; up to the district to decide on another course to benefit their school
- Providing the schools information on the military, military families

- **Teri Wanamaker:** Sharon Strickland, Monika Woods and Bob Buehn: involved in/participated in the Military 101 course at UNF; good resources

- **Kellie Jo Kilberg:** Look at the services and work with their POCs on their Military 101; might be tweaks; have a Navy, Air Force, Army, National Guard, Coast Guard, have several 101s depending on location and which services they're working with; place online;

IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS:

Erin Pickard, SLO, NSA Panama City:

- Girl Scout Troop Leader
- Girl Scouts are vested in their communities and believe it's important to give service back to the community
- Believe military families are a good priority right now, especially since communities need more love and kindness
- Girl Scouts is a good organization
- Scouts can help at the schools, especially those that don't have a strong military presence

Rick Miller:

- Once the program is through DOE and active/finalized, put together a robust online resource page on both on the FDA and the state DOE site as a starting point for schools in those uncovered counties
- Include How To lists, Frequently Asked Questions to get a running start on their own
- Outreach campaign to all uncovered county school officials to make aware of program and where to go for immediate online support
- **Teri Wanamaker:** This is the goal; want to ensure the uncovered counties have access to information, application and process; housing it on the FDA website is a good idea, as well as putting it in the hands of the regional SL **Michele Taylor**, so she can make the connections to those in their area
- FDA can provide strong support; need everyone's help

Felecia Trumpler, DOE:

- Everything discussed today is pivotal in what we do when it comes to PSSP implementation, once everything is up and running
- Hopeful this program will provide great services on top of what's already provided for students and families
- Will take ideas presented today take back to team at DOE and see if they can make some movement

Jack Ballantyne, Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC):

- Encouraged by the State of Florida and where they're headed
- MCEC can assist school campuses to meet the criteria to be awarded the PSSD
- Requirements align with the services they provide and can assist districts and campuses to achieve certification

Liz Sherr:

- Offering Military 101 course throughout the state
- Working on training with General Mike Fleming
- Can do something that can be tailored more to military children, from a mental health perspective, as well
- **Kellie Jo Kilberg:** Also working with the Florida Defense Support Task Force and those representatives who work directly with the legislators on issues that need to work through the legislative process; looking at having a coordinated front on this matter, so consistent message with everyone on the same page; get support behind this to move quickly and get it established as soon as possible
- **Teri Wanamaker:** we will look to the DOE representatives to communicate where they're at in the process and how we can continue to support, as the Governor wanted the DOE to bring this forward, either legislatively or administratively

Felecia Trumpler, DOE:

- DOE is moving forward and will keep everyone updated on the process
- Confident it's moving in the right direction
- Need to ensure the program is comprehensive when implemented and meets the needs of the military-connected families

Laura Fogarty, Clay County School District:

- Very excited about this upcoming program
- Looking forward to earning the PSSD
- Working on preparations, as soon as finalized they can move forward

Barbara Gerdes, Duval County School District:

- Looking forward to participating and want their schools on board
- Early stages, will have questions as they continue forward
- Wonderful opportunity and want all their military-connected parents/families/students to have these opportunities

Teri Wanamaker:

- Monika Woods suggested working closely with the Navy League
- Need names, organizations, phone numbers, emails to create database

Michele Taylor:

- Look into local Chambers of Commerce, often will have non-profits to reach out to someone willing to make those contacts

Kellie Jo Kilberg:

- Working with the state group that works with the local chambers and the Florida Economic Development Council to get information to the local economic development groups to create a broad base group
- Will also work with local regional planning councils and school Superintendents Association
- We'll have a communications plan in place that hits many different associations to make sure all aspects are covered

- Thank you to everyone and look forward to working with everyone as we roll out this program

The presentation from this meeting can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2021.pdf>

Information from Zoom Chat:

Gary Pheabus: Good morning, I'd like to introduce myself. I am Gary Pheabus, the Legislative assistant for District-1, Rep. Michelle Salzman. You are welcome to email me any time at Gary.Pheabus@myfloridahouse.gov

Kay Rasmussen: Good morning, Gary. I'm Kay Rasmussen in Okaloosa County. Feel free to contact me: kay@oneokaloosa.org

Elizabeth Sherr, LMHC: Cohen Veteran Network in Jacksonville offers a Military 101 training
Elizabeth Sherr, LMHC: Mike Fleming does the training

Jack Ballantyne: Terri and FDA members, you can count on MCECC supporting PSSDP adoption in FL.

Lacey Allen, Hurlburt Field School Liaison: Would MCEC be available to provide support to help those remote districts who may not have a School Liaison?

Jack Ballantyne: Lacey, yes, MCEC can assist remote districts who may not have a School Liaison. Please contact me at:

John Ballantyne

Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

Military Child Education Coalition

Desk: 254.953.1923 ext. 1124

Mobile: 254.541.3152

John.Ballantyne@Militarychild.org

Jack Ballantyne: For information about PSS program, please visit

<https://www.militarychild.org/purplestarschools>

Jack Ballantyne: Also see

https://www.militarychild.org/upload/files/purple%20star/Purple_Star_One_Pagers_SCHOOLS_2.06.pdf

Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance Teleconference on Wednesday, March 17, 2021

The Florida Defense Alliance held a teleconference from 09:00 AM – 10:37 AM EDT.

Present at the Meeting:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Pauline	Akauola	Duval County Public Schools
Katie	Allen	Bay Defense Alliance
Jack	Ballantyne	Military Child Education Coalition
Brian	Baluta	EDC of Florida's Space Coast
Maria	Barkmeier	FL Military Family Special Needs Network
Pamela	Berkowsky	South Florida Defense Alliance
Diana	Caldwell	Senate Military Affairs Committee
George	Cheros	National Center for Simulation
Jennifer	Codo-Salisbury	CFRPC/FDA Exec Board
Ray	Collins	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Eli	Converse	Office of Senator Tom Wright
Chad	Corriveau	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Dave	Dahl	Navy Region Southeast
Kandi	Debus	Navy Region Southeast
Tim	Farrell	Military Child Education Coalition
Igor	Garcia	JAS Alloy
Barbara	Gerdes	Duval County Public Schools
Ileana	Gonzalez	USSOUTHCOM
Debi	Graham	Greater Pensacola Chamber
Michelle	Griggs	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Sarah	Hayenga	Homestead Air Reserve Base
Jim	Heald	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Paul	Hirsch	Madison Government Affairs
Donna	Huneycutt	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Keith	Hoskins	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Tim	Jones	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/FDA Board
Penny	Justice	Interactive Government
Dawn	Kaunike	NAS Whiting Field
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	FDA Chair

Buck	MacLaughlin	Avon Park Air Force Range
Joe	Marino	Veterans Florida
Tyrone	Martin, Esquire	Florida Attorney General's Office
Ernest	McClees, Jr	Saint Leo University
Beth	Medina	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Chris	Meinhardt	Veterans Florida
Chris	Middleton	West Florida Defense Alliance
Liz	Miller	Department of Economic Opportunity
Rick	Miller	South Florida Defense Alliance
Dawn	Mills	Navy School Liaison Officer at MWR
Steve	Murray	Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
Dave	Murzin	Escambia County, FL
Tom	Neubauer	FDSTF/Bay Defense Alliance
Chuck	Nygaard	Crowley Maritime
Mark	Oglesby	Florida Department of Military Affairs
Amy	Phillips	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jim	Philpitt	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Kay	Rasmussen	Okaloosa County EDC/DSI Committee
Leslie	Reed	Department of Environmental Protection
Gaye	Sharpe	Polk County
Matt	Schellhorn	Navy Region Southeast
Eric	Sherman	DoD Liaison for the State of Florida
Barbara	Sistrunk	Duval County Public Schools
Chris	Smith	96 th Test Wing Eglin AFB
Ted	Spangenberg	Gulf Power
Ruthy	Srun	Hurlburt Field
Michele	Taylor	Navy Region Southeast
Cassandra	Thomas	University of South Florida
Luis	Visot	United Way Suncoast
Teri	Wanamaker	NAS Jacksonville Child & Youth Programs
Laura	Waterman	Florida Department of Emergency Management
Venetia	Waters	MacDill AFB School Liaison Officer
Kent	Wimmer	Defenders of Wildlife
Monika	Woods	Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

Agenda: See below

ZOOM / Teleconference Meeting Agenda

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98180190394?pwd=UVhZcnBScG9NSXIMOFdGd0M2RTdGdz09>

Meeting ID: 981 8019 0394

Passcode: 603356

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

0900 – 1030 EDT / 0800 – 0930 CDT

0900 – 0905 Welcome & Topic Overview..... Kellie Jo Kilberg, Chair

0905 – 1015 Partner Updates for Session..... Beth Medina

- DEM - Statewide Mitigation Meeting Laura Waterman
 - FEMA BRIC 2020 Update

- DEP - Resilient Florida Update Leslie Reed
 - HB7019/SB1954: Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience
 - HB1211/SB1480/SB1510: Florida Forever

- FDSTF Update Ray Collins
 - HB1357/SB1796: Military Installations
 - HB0429/SB0938: Purple Star School Campuses
 - HB3783: Hillsborough PSSD

- DMA Update Mark Oglesby
 - HB1069/SB0654: Public Records
 - SB0770/HB0873: DMA Statute Updates
 - DMA Budget

- FDVA Update Steve Murray
 - HB0231/SB0260: Services for Veterans & Families
 - HB0071: Veterans Suicide
 - Veterans' Benefits Guide 2021

- Veterans Florida Update Joe Marino
 - HB0435/SB0586: Veterans Employment & Training (Statewide Skillbridge)

- FRCA/RPC Update Jennifer Codo-Salisbury
 - SB0062: Regional Planning Councils

1015 – 1025 Other Bills of Interest.....By Region

1025 – 1030 Closing Comments & Adjournment.....Kellie Jo Kilberg, Chair

A quorum being present, **Michelle Griggs** began the call on March 17, 2021 at 9:00 AM EDT.

1) Agenda Item I: Welcome & Topic Overview

Tim Jones, FDA Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly discussed the meeting's agenda.

2) Agenda Item II: Partner Updates for Session

Beth Medina thanked the partners for participating in the meeting, during which will be presenting several important local, state and federal bills with key updates.

Leslie Reed, Chief of Staff at the Department of Environmental Protection, provided an update and discussion on current bills the DEP is following. leslie.reed@floridaDEP.gov; (850) 245-2011

HB7019: Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience

Establishes Resilient Florida Grant Program within DEP to fund costs of community resilience planning; requires DEP to complete data set & assessment, develop Statewide Flooding & Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan, & submit plan to Governor & Legislature; requires water management districts to submit proposed projects to DEP; provides for legislative funding of certain projects; authorizes local governments to create regional resilience coalitions; establishes Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research & Innovation within USF; requires hub to submit report to Governor & Legislature; requires OEDR to include flood control information in certain assessments.

SB 1954: Statewide Flooding and Sea-level Rise Resilience

Establishing the Resilient Florida Grant Program within the Department of Environmental Protection; requiring the department to notify the Legislature when specifically referenced sources or standards are updated or replaced; requiring the department to develop a Statewide Flooding and Sea-Level Rise Resilience Plan and annually submit the plan to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; establishing the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation within the University of South Florida College of Marine Science for a specified purpose; requiring the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to include specified information relating to inland and coastal flood control in certain assessments, etc.

HB1211: Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Extends date by which Legislature intends for bonds issued to fund Florida Forever Act to be retired; requires specified annual appropriation to Florida Forever Trust Fund.

SB 1480: Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Extending the date by which bonds issued to fund the Florida Forever Act are intended to be retired, etc.

SB 1510: Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Extending the date by which the Legislature intends for bonds issued to fund the Florida Forever Act to be retired; requiring a specified annual appropriation to the Florida Forever Trust Fund; prohibiting the use of certain moneys distributed from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for specified costs, etc.

Ms. Reed also discussed the Governor's support of Florida's environment, \$2.5 billion invested during his first term, environmental priorities, the Resilient Florida grant program (grants to state and local governments to address the sea level rise, flooding, storms; provide funding to key regional assets), investments in properties through Florida Forever (\$50 million) and the strength of this program, need to find opportunities to build partnerships for conservation and base buffering opportunities (Avon Park Air Force Range and NAS Whiting Field), challenges of climate change and sea level rise, Governor's announcement of \$1 billion over the next four years to be invested using federal funding from Relief Act for resiliency efforts, the Governor's proposal will help local communities with vulnerability assessments and critical preparation of climate change and sea level rise.

Ray Collins, Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force, provided an update and discussion on current bills the FDSTF is following. rcollins@enterprise-florida.com; (850) 878-4578

HB1357: Military Installations (Representative Thad Altman)

Authorizes conveyance to natural person or private entity property taken by eminent domain if it is used in buffering military installations against encroachment.

SB 1796: Military Installations (Senator Tom Wright)

Authorizing the conveyance to a natural person or private entity certain property taken by eminent domain if it is used in buffering military installations against encroachment, etc.

HB 0429: Purple Star Schools (Representative Patt Maney)

Requires DOE to establish Purple Star School Program; requires department to adopt certain procedures; requires department, in consultation with certain entities, to adopt program criteria; specifying minimum criteria; requires annual reporting.

SB 0938: Purple Star Campuses (Senator Tom Wright)

Requiring the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus program; specifying program criteria for participating schools; authorizing the department to establish additional program eligibility criteria; authorizing schools to partner with school districts to meet such criteria; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules, etc.

HB 3783: Supporting Military Students & Families in Hillsborough County Public Schools

Provides an appropriation for the Supporting Military Students & Families in Hillsborough County Public Schools. APPROPRIATION: \$277,476

Mr. Collins discussed the movement of each of these bills in the House and Senate, various versions and amendments.

Teri Wanamaker added her concern over the discrepancy between the bill being available to all educational organizations, as the framework that the DOE is working on specified K-12 public education institutions. The PSSD program looks to be inclusive of private schools, universities and pre-schools.

Kay Rasmussen is tracking the PSSD bills from Okaloosa County area and created a task force to help regional schools understand the application and apply once legislation is passed. She will contact **Representative Patt Maney** to discuss changing the language to include charter and private schools/ modify the language in the bill. *(Please see Kay's bill comparison at the end of these minutes)*

Beth Medina noted that bill that went through the Senate yesterday was very inclusive of schools (campuses) as the Senate Bill uses the word **campuses** while the House Bill uses the word **schools**. The bill language needs to be worked for common, preferred language as it comes through legislation.

Alex Kerr, the Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs at the Florida Department of Military Affairs, provided an update and discussion on some bills the DMA is following. alexander.p.kerr.mil@mail.mil; (850) 414-9049

HB1069: Public Records/Department of Military Affairs

Provides exemption from public records requirements for records in custody of Department of Military Affairs which are protected from disclosure under federal laws; provides certain information may be disclosed only in accordance with federal & state laws; provides for retroactive application; provides for future legislative review & repeal of exemption; provides statement of public necessity.

SB 0654: Public Records/Department of Military Affairs

Providing an exemption from public records requirements for certain records in the custody of the Department of Military Affairs which are protected from disclosure under specified federal laws; providing that certain information may be disclosed only in accordance with applicable federal and state laws; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc.

SB 0770: Military Affairs

Deleting a provision requiring that certain military personnel have the same salary and benefits as career service employees; modifying minimum qualifications and duties of the Adjutant General; specifying that a court-martial is an administrative procedure under the executive branch of state government; authorizing the Adjutant General, the Adjutant General's designee, or a military judge to issue and execute search authorizations under specified circumstances, etc.

HB 0873: Military Affairs

Revises provisions relating to military positions in certain employment classes & officer appointments; requires Adjutant General to serve as Commanding General of militia; establishes Florida Code of Military Justice (FCMJ); authorizes courts-martial to try Florida National Guard members for offenses punishable by FCMJ; revises provisions relating to courts-martial & punishments adjudged thereby; authorizes military judge to issue pretrial confinement warrants & subpoenas; revises membership, terms, & meeting requirements of Armory Board; provides members of Florida National Guard are subject to FCMJ regardless of status; revises circumstances under which physician may practice medicine during emergency, disaster, or federal military training.

DMA Budget

Governor DeSantis has recommended adding \$41.7 million in Federal funding to the FLNG budget to update the Immokalee Armory.

Steve Murray, the Communications & External Affairs Director at the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, provided an update and discussion on current bills the FDVA is following.

MurrayR@fdva.state.fl.us; (850) 491-1092

HB0231: Services for Veterans and Their Families

Authorizes DVA to establish Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide behavioral health care referral & care coordination services for veterans & their families; authorizes DVA to contract with certain nonprofit entity to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants to provide such services; provides for statewide delivery of specified services by program teams; requires Florida 211 Network participants to collect program implementation data & submit such data to DVA; requires DVA to submit report to Governor & Legislature.

SB 0260: Services for Veterans and Their Families

Services for Veterans and Their Families; Requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide behavioral health care referral and care coordination services for veterans and their families; requiring the department to contract with a certain nonprofit entity to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants to provide such services; requiring Florida 211 Network participants to collect program implementation data and to submit such data to the department; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date, etc.

SB 764: Veterans Treatment Courts

Authorizing certain courts to create and administer veterans treatment courts for specified purposes; providing standards for admission to a veterans treatment court program; specifying eligibility requirements for participation in the program; revising eligibility for certain pretrial programs to include certain individuals eligible to participate in a veterans treatment court program; specifying applicability of the act to participants in certain court programs in existence as of a specified date, etc.

HB 7023: Veterans Treatment Court Programs

Authorizes courts to create & administer veterans treatment court programs; requires such programs to adopt certain policies & procedures; provides eligibility criteria for participation in program; authorizes court to impose condition requiring certain probationers or community controllees to participate in treatment programs.

HB0071: Recognizing Veteran Suicide

Urges Congress to recognize veteran suicide & fully fund suicide prevention efforts by United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans' Benefits Guide 2021

FDVA has just published the 2021 edition of the Florida Veterans Benefits Guide. Please email him or the Team an email to have some sent directly out.

Mr. Murray also discussed the Florida Veterans Support Line which helps veterans, active duty servicemembers and family members in crisis; they are looking to expand the 211 Crisis Center with legislation and place skilled veterans who have backgrounds in behavioral health at those centers; and FDVA's website <https://floridavets.org/> has a button on their homepage to track all veteran-related legislation in real-time.

Joe Marino, Executive Director of Veterans Florida, provided an update and discussion on current bills Veterans Florida is following. marino@veteransflorida.org; (850) 296-8116

HB 0435: Veterans Employment & Training

Directs Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to serve as state's principal assistance organization under United States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program; prescribes duties of corporation to facilitate administration of SkillBridge program.

SB 0586: Veterans Employment and Training

Directing Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to serve as the state's principal assistance organization under the United States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program; prescribing duties of the corporation to facilitate the administration of the SkillBridge program, etc.

Mr. Marino discussed the creation of a statewide SkillBridge awareness initiative throughout the state; this will create an opportunity for an active duty servicemember who's separating or retiring to work for an employer through an internship, apprenticeship or fellowship during their final six months in uniform, while DoD continues to pay their salary and benefits; creates a talent pipeline; no limit on the industries/employers who can participate; movement of the bills through committees; the SkillBridge program will not require any new funding; will promote existing SkillBridge programs; and they will have a standard template for organizations with whom they work.

Kay Rasmussen added that the SkillBridge program is one of the most successful in their area. There is no obligation/risk free to the employer to retain the servicemember/employee at the end of the program, but that happens often. **Terry Cowan** at CareerSource Okaloosa will be happy to discuss the success of this program in their area.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Deputy Director/Planning & Administrative Director of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, provided an update and discussion on current bills CFRPC is following. jcodosalisbury@cfrpc.org; 863-534-7130 Ext. 178

SB0062: Regional Planning Councils

Revising a requirement for the Executive Office of the Governor to review and consider certain reports, data, and analyses relating to the revision of the state comprehensive plan; eliminating the advisory role of regional planning councils in state comprehensive plan preparation and revision; repealing provisions

relating to the Florida Regional Planning Council Act; authorizing local governments to recommend areas of critical state concern to the state land planning agency, etc.

Ms. Codo-Salisbury added that the bill has been heard in the Senate Community Affairs Committee in January, it passed with an amendment, since then the next Committee that the bill was referred to was the Judiciary Committee, but it has not been placed on their agenda at this time. If it passes the Judiciary Committee it would then need to be heard by the Rules Committee. At this time no House Companion bill has been filed. There has been a significant amount of testimony in support of the importance of the Regional Planning Councils in Florida which includes local programs such as transportation planning; statewide programs including emergency management and the statewide evacuation planning as well as the regional collaborations that benefit resiliency, sustainability and military installation mission protection. She will notify the Team if anything changes.

Laura Waterman, Florida Department of Emergency Management, provided an update and discussion on FEMA BRIC Grants. Laura.Waterman@em.myflorida.com; (850) 815-4512

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) is a new FEMA program funded by taking 6% of every disaster response in the country each year and placing that into a fund. Each year FEMA pulls out a certain amount, unsure of the amounts each year, which is a significant increase in mitigation funding compared to previous years. This year there was over \$400 million available nationwide. FEMA will put out the notice of funding in the fall then the states can also send out an additional notice of funding. The application period will be in the fall as the state will review the applications and contact the applicants to ensure they are complete, so once submitted to FEMA they have the best chance possible to receive funding since this program is nationally competitive. There is also a small funding available to each state, this year was \$600,000. The submitted grants will be graded by FEMA against all the other projects. The application period ended in January 2021 for the first fiscal year of the new BRIC program, DEM received 68 applications and submitted 22. FEMA is now in the process of reviewing those applications and she is hopeful she will receive notice in the summer as to which projects are selected. Next year's cycle will begin again in the fall. FEMA wants to fund resiliency, large infrastructure projects that improve an entire community, as opposed to just one structure, one residence. The BRIC program is intended to focus on the larger infrastructure projects such as military installation projects that are within the county that also affects the installations; two different jurisdictions would be higher on FEMA's list. The program will continue to evolve as this is its first year and the guidance was intended to be vague for room to evolve, improve the program over time. Priorities change each year, state agencies and local governments are eligible applicants, would require coordination with the local communities. Florida has Local Mitigation Strategy working groups set up in each county. She recommends getting involved with those folks because they're the coordinators of all mitigation within the county and the municipalities. They are the first to learn about grant opportunities with BRIC and other programs and the main group with whom they communicate daily.

Kellie Jo Kilberg suggested scheduling Zoom calls after awards have been given out, noting the areas who received funding/what projects have been funded and work on how we can coordinate funding from different grants and the strategy moving forward.

Beth Medina updated that DoD has initiated a grant program for the compacts on license reciprocity. **Eric Sherman** added that for this grant program Congress granted the DoD seed money to help the create these license compacts. There are three levels of effort in license portability: implementing existing policy; working on improving that policy so spouses can proceed through the process using an existing license; and licensing compacts which represent true reciprocity moving from state to state. Florida is moving toward that final stage of becoming a member state with the licensing compacts and now has enough funding for five new professions (teachers, dentistry, cosmetology, plus two others). Six compacts are currently moving through the Legislature. Florida is a member of the nurse licensure compact. Next year he'll work with Florida to join five other compacts.

Beth Medina introduced **Chad Corriveau** as the newest member of the EFI Military and Defense Team, as the Communications and Research Specialist.

3) Agenda Item III: Other Bills of Interest

Northwest Florida:

Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance, briefed that they are focusing on the Range Task Force and issues involving cyber and homeland security.

Kay Rasmussen, Okaloosa County EDC/Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative Committee, discussed that they are tracking the Military Mission Line and permanent Federal legislation to continue that moratorium.

Chris Smith, 96th Test Wing Eglin EFB. He is tracking the status of federal Senate Bill S.28 introduced by Senator Rubio and referred on 22 January this year. [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) does not report any progress beyond that date. Hopefully, this bill will gain some traction towards passage as its secondary purpose is to extend, via law, the GOMESA moratorium through 30 June 2032. His concern is that the Bill will not progress for passage, and the only protection of GOMESA for the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, and the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range will then be former President Trump's memo to the Department of Interior withdrawing the moratorium area from energy exploration, development and production after GOMESA terminates on 30 June 2022. Recognizing that current or future administrations could rescind/revoke that memo, my hope is that the current rhetoric regarding U.S. and the global energy transition from less dependence on fossil fuels might have a positive influence on progress towards passage.

Jim Heald, Florida Defense Support Task Force, added that they don't have anything they are tracking but are working with the Federal Legislators on issues to try and help the ranges and protect the base. He is also on the Range Task Force.

Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, briefed that they are not tracking but are happy to assist with the Military Mission Line issue as there is a short window to put that into legislation and protect it long-term. The Chief of Staff announced that First Air Force AFNORTH at Tyndall AFB will be the support component for US Space Command.

Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife, updated that they are not tracking any legislation but will submit their pre-proposal for the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape next week. They have received much support from their partners and are optimistic they have a good application and hope they will be invited to submit a full proposal this summer. Three (3) to five (5) Sentinel Landscapes will be designated before the end of this year.

Northeast Florida:

Eric Sherman, DoD Liaison for the State of Florida, highlighted the work that the FDA has done to help with issues to avoid legislation. He thanked **Teri Wanamaker** and **Beth Medina** who helped him identify the policy that makes virtual schools available to military children as they are transferring out of state.

Chuck Nygaard, Crowley Maritime, updated that the NDIA chapter is looking for ways to connect and discussed the building of a new ship's simulator.

East Central Florida:

Brian Baluta, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast, briefed that they are excited about the Florida SkillBridge program and look to establish a more concrete network among their investors to pair with their Chamber's Hire Our Heroes Program.

West Central Florida:

Tim Jones, FDA Vice Chair, congratulated **Donna Huneycutt** on her new position as President of the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance.

South Florida:

Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA), updated that USSOUTHCOM Commander Admiral Faller was on the Hill yesterday with his USNORTHCOM counterpart testifying about hemispheric security threats. It was recently announced, pending Senate confirmation, that later this year Admiral Faller is anticipated to be relieved by Lieutenant General Laura Richardson from USNORTHCOM Army North Command to be the new USSOUTHCOM commander. He is watching all resilience related topics and are working with the state funding previously received using grant funding to leverage OLDCC funding for greater resilience work, will line up for follow-up activities leveraging with FEMA BRIC or other resilience implementation solution dollars in the upcoming year. Within the Mission Sustainment Working Group he recently stood up a Florida Test and Training Range Task Force, **Chris Middleton** is co-chair, includes **Jim Heald** and are putting together a better narrative and informative education campaign related to the comprehensive network of test and training ranges across the state.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury bought up SB 496 which looks like it will pass.

Growth Management; Specifying requirements for certain comprehensive plans effective, rather than adopted, after a specified date and for associated land development regulations; requiring local governments to include a property rights element in their comprehensive plans; prohibiting a local government’s property rights element from conflicting with the statement of rights contained in the act; providing that the consent of certain property owners is not required for development agreement changes under certain circumstances, etc.

4) Agenda Item IV: Closing Comments and Adjournment

Chair, Kellie Jo Kilberg thanked everyone for attending and asked members to please contact **Ray Collins** with any updates to bills as we’re working with **Representative Thad Alman** and **Senator Tom Wright** on opportunities and challenges.

Best wishes to **Beth Medina** as she leaves EFI on Friday. We look forward to her continued engagement with the FDA as a volunteer.

The next FDA meeting will be IN PERSON!

- **Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at the Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown**

The conference call was adjourned at 10:37 AM EDT.

Florida Purple Star School Distinction Legislation Comparison submitted by Kay Rasmussen

House Bill 429	Senate Bill 938
Purple Star Schools	Purple Star Campuses
--	Defining “military student”; Enrolled in a school district, charter school, or any school or educational institution participating in an educational choice scholarship program established pursuant to chapter 1002; dependent of current member...;

Purple Star School Program	Purple Star School Campus Program
Requiring the Department	Authorizing the Department
Consultation with certain entities	--
Adopt program criteria	Establish additional program eligibility criteria
Specify minimum criteria	--
Requiring department to annually submit a report	--
Providing construction	--
Providing for rule making	Requiring department to adopt rules
--	Authorizing schools to partner with school districts to meet criteria
Designation and training of a staff member to serve as the POC between school and military families	Designate a staff member as a military liaison
Student-led programs to create social connections	Maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning into the school
A dedicated webpage on the school website with information for military families	Maintain a webpage on the school's website which includes resources for military students and their families
Professional development opportunities for school staff	Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students [<i>transitions</i>]
By December 31, 2021, and each year thereafter, the department shall submit a report ...	--
--	The department may establish additional program eligibility criteria by rule.
--	A school may partner with a school district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance necessary for the school to meet the criteria specified in subsection (2)
Designation as a Purple Star School does not affect the substantial interests of a party and does not constitute a final agency action. The Purple Star School Program and designation are not subject to Chapter 120.	--



Purple Star School Program

The Purple Star Program is a state-sponsored recognition designed to emphasize the importance of assisting military children with school transition, and developing programs that recognize the value of military service and civic responsibility.

Discussion Points:

1. Military children face issues such as gaps and overlaps in curriculum, different graduation requirements, and course placement disruption, as well as difficulties related to socially and emotionally connecting with a new school and community.
2. State-sponsored Purple Star programs primarily designate schools as military friendly once they demonstrate a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. States such as Ohio, Texas and Virginia have recognized schools meeting criteria that:
 - Designate school staff as a point of contact for military students and families
 - Require professional development for staff assigned as a POC for the military
 - Designate a page on its website featuring resources and information for military families
 - Add at least one supplemental activity such as additional professional development, or the school board passing a resolution in support of military children
3. Through the Purple Star Program, states have also recognized schools with few military families that have used the criteria to emphasize military service and recognize veterans and active members of the National Guard and reserves in their community. Schools have established programs that:
 - Recognize the accomplishments of veterans and active members
 - Sponsor special events recognizing military service
 - Celebrate class members who commit to serving in the military



The average military-connected child will experience six to nine different schools during their K-12 education experience. With more than 1.1 million such students attending schools, issues surrounding school transition have become a top priority for families and some schools.

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Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance Bi-Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2021

The Florida Defense Alliance of Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) held a meeting from 8:30 AM EDT-4:36 PM EDT.

Present at the Meeting:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Katie	Allan	Bay Defense Alliance
Lacey	Allen	Hurlburt Field
Mike	Aller	FloridaMakes
Pamela	Berkowsky	South Florida Defense Alliance
Laura	Bowes	Duval County Schools
Isabel	Cosio-Carballo	South Florida Regional Planning Council
Matt	Chesnut	Space Florida
Jennifer	Codo-Salisbury	Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Ray	Collins	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Harrison	Conyers	City of Jacksonville Military Affairs
Dave	Dahl	Navy Region Southeast
Ryan	Fierst	Department of Economic Opportunity
Neal	Finkelstein	National Center for Simulation
Brooke	Trawick-Gilbert	Bay Defense Alliance
Maria	Goodwin	CareerSource Gulf Coast
Debi	Graham	Greater Pensacola Chamber
Michelle	Griggs	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Sarah	Hayenga	Homestead Air Reserve Base
Annamaria	Haley	CORE Jacksonville
Jim	Heald	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Paul	Hirsch	Madison Government Affairs, Inc.
Keith	Hoskins	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Donna	Huneycutt	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Tim	Jones	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Dawn	Kaunike	SLO NAS Whiting Field
Jacqueline	Kelley	Duval County Public Schools
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	Kilberg & Associates
JJ	Loschinsky	MacDill AFB

Buck	MacLaughlin	Avon Park Air Force Range
Terry	McCaffrey	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Beth	Medina	
Chris	Middleton	West Florida Defense Alliance
Rick	Miller	South Florida Defense Alliance
Kay	Rasmussen	EDC of Okaloosa County
Scotta	Rawls	
Maxie	Reyes	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Eric	Sherman	DoD Defense State Liaison Office
Teri	Wanamaker	NAS Jacksonville
Kent	Wimmer	Defenders of Wildlife

Semi- Annual Meeting Agenda
Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown, Tallahassee, FL

May 19, 2021

0830-1700 EDT

0830-0845	Welcome Remarks/Introductions	Kellie Jo Kilberg
0845-945	Family Support Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Military Family Challenges - Scotta Rawls• Spousal Employment - Donna Huneycutt• CareerSource Gulf Coast – Maria Goodwin• Purple Star Schools – Teri Wanamaker• Licensure Testimony – Jason J. Loschinsky	Teri Wanamaker
0945-1000	BREAK	
1000-1030	Resilient Grant	Rick Miller
1030-1100	Regional Statement of Capabilities	Roto Reuter/ Mark Bontrager
1100-1125	Alzheimer’s Association - Veterans	Jenny Tillman
1125-1155	FDSTF Update	Ray Collins
1155-1205	Legislative Update	Terry McCaffrey
1210-1345	Lunch	
1345-1530	Working Groups Meet <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission Sustainment• Family Support	Rick Miller Teri Wanamaker
1530-1540	BREAK	
1540-1600	Working Groups’ Report / FDA Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission Sustainment• Family Support	Rick Miller Teri Wanamaker
1600-1645	Economic Development Community Significant Current Initiative Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northwest<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa & Bay• Northeast<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Duval & Clay• East Central Florida<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Brevard & Orange• West Central Florida<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Highlands, Polk, Tampa & Pinellas• South Florida	Local Defense Partners

- o Miami-Dade & Monroe

1645-1655	Next Meeting Planning There will be an FDA teleconference in the summer, date to be determined. The next in-person FDA meeting is Wednesday, November 17, 2021 in Orlando.	Kellie Jo Kilberg
1655-1700	Closing Comments/Adjourn	Kellie Jo Kilberg
1800-2000	FDA / Florida Defense Support Task Force No-Host Dinner – Bird’s Oyster Shack	

Thank you to our Refreshment Sponsor: **ENTERPRISE FLORIDA, INC.**



*A quorum being present, **Chairwoman Kellie Jo Kilberg** began the meeting on May 19, 2021 at 8:30 AM EDT.*

I. Agenda Item I: Welcome & Introductions

Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She took a moment to remember Jim Breitenfeld and held a moment of silence in his honor. Introductions were made around the room and she reminded everyone that the meeting is being broadcast on The Florida Channel. She asked all Zoom participants to raise their hand or post in the chat box with any questions or comments.

II. Agenda Item II: Family Support Panel

Scotta Rawls discussed the challenges of today’s military families. Local community support for military families is an important factor in total force readiness and the relationships that are built with the Commanders and their spouses is a bridge between the Commander in the community and with civic leaders, making it easy to share the needs and struggles of military families.

She discussed the pre-command course offered to incoming Commanders’ spouses at Maxwell AFB which includes briefings on:

- Employment
 - o License reciprocity
- Schools, both on and off base
 - o Magnet schools
 - o School ambassador programs
 - o Athletic eligibility and pre-enrollment
- Childcare

- Housing
 - Ease of utility hook-ups
- New community orientation

Teri Wanamaker discussed the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) contract and some hardships associated with it as it does not assist when families move out of the country or within the same state. She briefed on the Purple Star Schools of Distinction program, which is a way for the state to acknowledge those schools that are military friendly. Legislation was recently passed, and the Family Support Working Group (FSWG) is working with partners to develop units of study for staff development within the schools. This bill is currently waiting on the Governor's signature and the Department of Education to present a program of distinction to recognize the military friendly schools throughout the state. School Liaison Officers (SLOs) are working with DoE to implement the Purple Star Schools of Distinction program in all of Florida's 67 counties.

For the FSWG's next project, the Department of Defense has developed a list of key issues for the State of Florida supporting family readiness servicemembers and their families. FSWG is the perfect vehicle to align those DoD key issues to advance those issues and concerns in coordination with DoD partners. Next they will tackle spouse employment licensing compacts and licensure portability.

JJ Loschinsky provided a licensure testimony as he's active-duty Air Force, currently in Florida on his 13th assignment, and a licensed civil engineer since 2000. His wife is a teacher and approximately two months prior to their relocation to Florida, it took about 30 days to complete her license and receive her teaching certificate, however it's not been so easy for his engineer's license. The Florida Board of Professional Engineer's requirements for new engineers versus reciprocity are identical. The Board's rule states he is required to submit his experience as an engineer intern and provide endorsement from supervising engineers, but he's not been supervised in decades. The issue is that those past connections used as a reference when he originally applied for licensing have passed away, are unavailable or no longer practicing engineers, so these are references he cannot provide which leaves him stuck in a gap where he cannot receive his license.

Eric Sherman, DoD State Liaison Office, added that he's be happy to assist JJ with obtaining his license, mentioning 2017 House Bill #615 which states that if a person has an active license, passes a background check and pays all expenses to the respective association, Florida will grant that person a license. He believes this is a misunderstanding and will be happy to work the Florida Department of Professional Regulation to remedy this issue.

Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg added that she'll contact Senator Tom Wright and Representative Thad Altman to assist with the implementation of this bill.

Donna Huneycutt presented on how, as a military spouse, she created her own company while on deployment with her husband in Italy by focusing on a permission within the SOFA marketing themselves as contractors. This saved the military hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars in what they would otherwise have paid not only for contractors to be PCSed overseas, DOD school expenses and family expenses, but also for the HRO and the GS hires they rediscovered were already there.

She discussed drivers such as student debt, which forces servicemembers to leave their service early to focus on a two-career family; the importance of licensure reciprocity; employment organizations such as In Your Career (her company), Hiring our Heroes and Joining Forces; the possibility of remote careers for the post-COVID era military spouse; Florida's interest in military spouse employment; and keeping spouses and families happy in

Florida so they remain after their military service with their excellent skillsets developed while in the service, now available on the Florida market.

Maria Goodwin, CareerSource Gulf Coast, presented on their Military Family Employment Program noting that their programs are funded by both federal and state funding as well as special grants. Florida provides priority of workforce services to active-duty spouses and family members through Military Family Employment Advocates located in Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach, Panama City, Jacksonville, Rockledge, Tampa and Miami.

Other topics discussed:

- Employment services
 - Local labor market information
 - Career planning and counseling
 - Job search assistance and referrals
 - Resume and interviewing assistance
 - Aptitude and skills assessments
 - Employability workshops
 - Job Development
- Training Services
 - Scholarships
 - Programs
- Key components to their programs
 - Installation partnerships
 - Employer education

III. **Agenda Item III: Resilient Grant**

Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA) and Isabel Cosio-Carballo, South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC), presented on their Military Installation Resilience Initiative Collaboration discussing their partnership to address military/civilian resilience challenges protecting installations and commands in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

South Florida installations in the DoD resilience crosshairs:

- USSOUTHCOM
- USAG-M
- NAS Key West
- Homestead ARB

The SFDA and SFRPC are working to bring together the military's multiple command inter-dependencies and the community's multiple regional initiatives and approaches to resiliency.

The SFRPC discussed their mission and the services they provide to South Florida.

The SFDA and the SFRPC are working together on opportunities to expand relationships and engagement in their region as they coordinate on grant from the DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation on a collaborative effort to develop and lead regional DoD Military Installation Resilience grants/studies in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Their goals are to improve community-military integration to address resilience challenges; protect regional installations from declining budget environment; and set the foundation to leverage multiple other authorities and programs for follow-on solutions to leverage state grant as matching funds 10:1.

IV. **Agenda Item IV: Regional Statement of Capabilities**

Mark Bontrager, Space Florida, and Bill “Roto” Reuter, R-Squared Solutions, presented on Space Force and Florida opportunities and next steps.

- Understanding the Landscape –US Space Force, USSPACECOM and Strategic Basing Process
 - Space Force history and mission
 - The 11th combatant command
 - USSPACECOM established August 29, 2019
 - Conducts operations in, from and to space to deter conflict and, if necessary, defeat aggression, deliver space combat power for the joint/combined force and defend U.S. vital interests with allies and partners
 - Defeat our nation's enemies through posture and preparedness
 - Deliver space combat power
 - Defend U.S., allied and partner interests
 - Space Force Nomenclature
 - Field Commands
 - Space Deltas
 - Garrisons
 - USSPACECOM Headquarters Background
- Future Space Force Program Opportunities
 - USSF Space Operations Command
 - Space Force Bases and Major Installations
 - Commercial and DoD Space Industry Potential
 - Market Summary
- Florida's Next Steps
 - Next Steps for Florida Criteria Development
 - Statement of Capabilities Strategy
 - Statements of Capabilities Outline
- Military & Defense Landscape and Statewide Tools
 - Statewide Partnerships
 - Space Florida Project Map

V. **Agenda Item V: Alzheimer's Association - Veterans**

Angela McAuley, Florida Alzheimer's Association, presented on their organization including their vision, symbol and mission. The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. We address this global epidemic by providing information, education and support to the millions who face dementia every day, while advancing critical research toward methods of treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.

Nearly half a million American veterans have Alzheimer's and evidence indicates that moderate and severe traumatic brain injury increases the risk of developing certain forms of dementia.

The Alzheimer's Association provides a comprehensive continuum of community-based programs and services to meet the increasing need for care and support for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

These services include:

- 24/7 Helpline -800.272.3900
- Care Consultations
- Education Programs
- Early Stage Social Engagement Programs
- Support Groups
- Information and Referral

Statewide network of support

- Family caregivers support groups
- Early stage support groups
- Specialty support groups: Spanish, gentlemen caregivers, LGBT caregivers, younger-age onset, and more

Current engagement

- Offering a support group at James A. Haley
- Engaged with the new Caregiver program for VISN 8
- Offering 10 Warning Signs to Caregiver Support Group, Miami (June)
- Scheduled to present Effective Communication at VISN 8 Caregiver conference in August
- Participated in Project Vital 2.0
- Engaged with the GRECC in Gainesville for caregiver education and support for timely detection and diagnosis
- Support Group in progress at Bay Pines
- Partnership with VISN 8 & AARP to increase awareness of support services for veterans

VI. Agenda Item VI: FDSTF Update

Ray Collins briefed on the current affairs of the Florida Defense Support Task Force to include:

- Their yearly meeting schedule
- The 2021 Legislative Session
- \$2 million appropriation
- DIG, DRG and MBP grant funding
 - The loss of \$200,000 within that funding
- New member, the Honorable Thomas Bowman, replacing Colonel Bill Dudley
- The rotation of the Chairmanship from the House to the Senate on July 1st
- Partnering with Space Florida on the basing elements of the U.S. Space Command
- The Governor's Challenge Program
- New version of the Military Friendly Guide
- Strategic Plan update

VII. **Agenda Item VII: Legislative Update**

Terry McCaffrey updated on important Legislative appropriations coming out of the recent Session:

- Florida Defense Support Task Force Budget – \$2,000,000:
- Defense Grants Budget (DEO):
 - Military Base Protection & Defense Reinvestment – \$800,000
 - Defense Infrastructure – \$1,600,000

He also discussed the military/defense bills passed during the 2021 Legislative Session:

- Passed by the Legislature and Signed into Law by the Governor
 - HB 7045 – School Choice
- Passed by the Legislature, but not yet signed into law by the Governor
 - SB 366 – Educational Opportunities Leading to Employment
 - HB 429 and (SB 938) – Purple Star Campuses
 - HB 435 and (SB 586) – Veterans Employment and Training
 - HB 1069 and (SB 654) – Public Records/Department of Military Affairs
 - SB 676 -- Special and Specialty License Plates
 - HB 873 and (SB 770) – Military Affairs
 - SB 1028 – Education
 - SB 1954 and (HB 7019) – Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience

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

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

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

Rick Miller, Chair of the Mission Sustainment Working Group (MSWG), reported to members that their working group's focus over the next six months will be on the three Rs of mission sustainment: Ranges, Resilience and Resources. He recapped the recent work of the FDA Range Task Force and highlighted the projects recently pitched to the FDSTF for funding support. He discussed resiliency issues and challenges presented from around the State and that future MSWG efforts will focus on leveraging new grant programs to ensure the protection of Florida's coastal bases from problems such as sea level rise. The MSWG is working to ensure that State focus on resourcing is both sufficient and with the right authorities and where and how those smartly targeted funds can be used.

Teri Wanamaker, Chair of the Family Support Working Group (FSWG), reported that the group discussed historical perspective of spouse employment, spouse licensing compacts and licensure portability.

Nursing Licensing Compact – 34 states
EMS/Paramedics Licensing Compact – 21 states
Psychology Licensing Compact – 15 states
Physical Therapy Licensing Compact – 29 states
Audiology/Speech Language Pathologist Licensing Compact – 6 states
Newest compacts: Occupational Therapists and Counselors

Florida is only a member of the nursing licensing compact.

The FSWG heard from a variety of experts in the field, from military spouses and their stories, to hiring agents, organizations who hire military spouses to financial experts, establishing a need for these compacts to enable our military spouses to gain employment in the State of Florida. Their next steps are to get the compact representatives to attend their next meeting to discuss how we push these compacts forward.

Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg discussed the importance of bringing these issues to Legislators during committee weeks later this year, prior to next year's Legislative Session, having conversations and informing them of the importance of these compacts and getting the legislation going earlier rather than later. This is very important in retaining missions, but also in recruiting new missions.

Donna Huneycutt suggested the FSWG should focus on employer and employee taxation for those who have a home in one state but are physically stationed in another.

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

Northwest Florida:

Debi Graham reported that Pensacola State College announced the opening of a charter school on their west campus which will be attended by primarily by military dependents, funded by Gulf Power; Pensacola State College will be the host site of the first Military Family Expo in July to assist military members coming into the community with resources such as finance, real estate, CareerSource, veterans affairs, health care, child care, etc. If successful they'll host a second Expo at NAS Whiting Field later in the year.

Kay Rasmussen reported that their Defense Support Initiatives Committee is currently engaged in Congressional Delegation Pentagon leadership outreach advocating for their top priorities, which include the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range, Military Mission Line and Gulf Range Enhancement. The Tri-County Partnership Initiative (TCPI) has been discussing the implementation of the Purple Star Campuses Program and stood up an ad hoc Task Force back in January. Now that legislation has passed, they are engaged in outreach efforts to the schools within the Tri-County area to find out which schools are interested in implementing this program, which schools need assistance and which schools need information. Last month the TCPI stood up an ad hoc task force to focus on Tri-County infrastructure programs that might qualify for DCIP funding. The West Side Area Development is a plan to push the military gate and fence further outside of the installation, providing for more land footprint to the installation itself so that Eglin AFB has more secure property to develop. This will also include a major Highway 85 reconstruction of the transportation infrastructure which will be transformational to the civilian community and open areas for new development. Eglin AFB and Okaloosa County have an MOU they are executing currently as they're working on a design plan.

Brooke Gilbert reported that three new F-35 squadrons will be hosted at Tyndall AFB, the first squadron is expected to arrive in FY 23. This past week Tyndall AFB has been hosting a Checkered Flag exercise, a large air-to-air combat simulation exercise offered by the Department of Defense. It's brought in more than 2,000 personnel and more than 70 fighter jets from all over the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy for training. NSA Panama City held a change of command ceremony in March as Commander Keith Foster was installed, replacing Commander Kevin Christensen. Bay District Schools in partnership within NSA PC and Tyndall AFB honored graduating military dependents with a drive through honor cord recognition on April 29th. These honor cords are provided to military dependents from all branches of the military to wear during graduation. The Dive Center celebrated the launch of its Human Performance Center on March 4th. This facility will be shared by all four services

and accommodate 1,400 students annually. The Center will help military divers through data driven performance to increase physical readiness and decrease injuries.

Northeast Florida:

Harrison Conyers reported on the decommissioning or shipping out of the large ships from NS Mayport to create space for the Littoral Combat Ships and new DDGs. They are currently focusing on advocacy to ensure they receive the infrastructure needed for the incoming ships to fill the basin. Two changes of command, Rear Admiral Wes McCall is now the commanding officer of Navy Region Southeast and Captain Jeff Hill is the new Commanding Officer at NAS Jacksonville. Navy is meeting today on their revenue program, submitting proposals for expected needs for the coming year, which links to what they're doing with DIG and TF money as they're tying it to what they believe they're able to bring in as match. The City of Jacksonville has a multi-year agreement with the Navy for a 3:1 match. With many of their closings, they bundle multiple years of funding, as they are focused on a 297-acre parcel next to NAS Jacksonville and in the next 10 days they're going into phase 2 of a 5-phase acquisition on that property with closing on another 35-acres of the 297 (they did 100 acres last year) using five-year's of funding. They are working on additional funding to take them into phase 3 to acquire some less-expensive lands around OLF Whitehouse. The Navy and Marines participated in hurricane exercises this past week to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. Jacksonville has the largest Memorial Day observance in the county and this year's celebration will, once again, be virtual with participation from the 3 bases, the Congressional Delegation, an award-winning choir and some of their Gold Star families. He will send out the link as it comes available. Saturday they are doing a wreath-laying at the wall for their Gold Star families.

East Central Florida:

Paul Hirsch reported on a new USSPACECOM information video which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DcN9Pfgg0Vw>. He discussed the growing amount of launches from the Space Coast each year, especially in the commercial arena.

West Central Florida:

Buck MacLaughlin briefed that they're working with the Florida Guard to see how Avon Park Air Force Range can better support the Army, in terms of small arms ranges, and the eventual deployment of F-35 to Jacksonville. They will be supporting the 58th Fighter Squadron out of Eglin AFB in mid-June as F-35s will be travelling to central Florida and operating out of MacDill AFB to use the facilities at the Range.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury reported that the Central Florida Regional Planning Council is working on a Compatible Use Plan, working with the Board of County Commissioners, to prevent development encroachment. They continue welcoming partners to the Avon Park Sentinel Landscape as Ducks Unlimited recently joined.

Donna Huneycutt reported that the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance recently had a meeting with the Commander at MacDill AFB to define what support to the base would look like. They have a meeting set up with Congresswoman Cathy Castor's office to give a state of the defense community briefing. They're scheduling and planning an influencer event with the TAG to bring in the stakeholders in the Tampa Bay area regarding the help and support of the military community. They are supporting an appreciation event for military and veterans which was picked up financially by the Port Authority. They continue to focus on encroachment land use/compatible use issues. MacDill AFB has made the short list for the KC-46 and they're working hard to make sure that mission comes to Florida.

Kent Wimmer reported that Northwest and Northeast Florida have submitted Sentinel Landscape pre-proposals to the Department of Defense Agriculture and Interior. He's hoping

to hear back by the end of May with an invitation to present full proposals, which would be submitted by August. He anticipates three (3) to five (5) Sentinel Landscapes will be designated.

South Florida:

Rick Miller discussed the kickoff of their resilient grant efforts; an upcoming virtual Military Innovation Session on June 8th; the recent visit to NAS Key West and JIATF South by several State House Representatives; a recent meeting with Space Florida and HARB; and the change of command at USSOUTHCOM this fall.

XI. Agenda Item XI: Next Meeting Planning

Chairwoman, Kellie Jo Kilberg announced that there will be an FDA teleconference sometime this summer. The next in-person FDA meeting is Wednesday, November 17, 2021 in Orlando, Florida.

XII. Agenda Item XII: Closing Comments / Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM EDT.

This meeting can be seen on The Florida Channel at:

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/5-19-21-florida-defense-alliance-morning-session/>

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/5-19-21-florida-defense-alliance-family-support-working-group/>

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/5-19-21-florida-defense-alliance-mission-sustainment-working-group/>

<https://thefloridachannel.org/videos/5-19-21-florida-defense-alliance-afternoon-session/>

Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance Teleconference on Wednesday, September 21, 2021

The Florida Defense Alliance held a teleconference from 10:01 AM – 11:56 AM EDT.

Present at the Meeting:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Katie	Allen	Bay Defense Alliance
Nydia	Baez	
Maria	Barkmeier	FL Military Family Special Needs Network
Pamela	Berkowsky	South Florida Defense Alliance
Dennis	Billig	USAF Deputy Division Chief
Tim	Bowers	Tyndall AFB
Cindy	Brown	Senate Military Affairs Committee
Diana	Caldwell	Senate Military Affairs Committee
George	Cheros	National Center for Simulation
Josh	Cockrell	Clay County Development Authority
Jennifer	Codo-Salisbury	CFRPC/FDA Exec Board
Ray	Collins	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Harrison	Conyers	City of Jacksonville
Chad	Corriveau	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Dave	Dahl	Navy Region Southeast
Ron	Demes	NAS Key West
Casey	Evans	Orlando Economic Partnership
Tim	Farrell	Military Child Education Coalition
Ryan	Fierst	Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)
Michelle	Griggs	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Sarah	Hayenga	Homestead Air Reserve Base
Paul	Hirsch	Madison Government Affairs
Donna	Huneycutt	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Sharon	Kasica Strickland	NS Mayport
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	FDA Chair
Katie	Lopez	Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce
Elaine	LaJuenesse	Eglin Air Force Base
Elizabeth	May	Society of American Military Engineers
Ty	Martin, Esquire	Florida Attorney General's Office

Terry	McCaffrey	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Trudy	McCarthy	EDC of Florida's Space Coast
Chris	Middleton	West Florida Defense Alliance
Hunter	Miller	Oceana
Rick	Miller	South Florida Defense Alliance
Jonathan	Mwakyanjala	The Florida House
Dave	Murzin	Escambia County, FL
Latanya	Peterson	Department of Education
Jim	Philpitt	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Patty	Piazza	Navy Region Southeast
Kay	Rasmussen	Okaloosa County EDC/DSI Committee
Diane	Suddes	The Florida Senate
Larry	Ventura	HARB
Teri	Wanamaker	NAS Jacksonville Child & Youth Programs

Agenda: See below

ZOOM / Teleconference Meeting Agenda

Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84666069848?pwd=SnVGRktrc1NXenBaMGVxRU8vek52QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 6606 9848

Passcode: 319551

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1000 – 1200 EDT / 0900 – 1100 CDT

- 1000 – 1005 Roll Call..... Michelle Griggs**
- 1005 – 1010 Opening Remarks..... Kellie Jo Kilberg**
- 1010 – 1020 DIG / DRG Grant Update.....Ryan Fierst**
- 1020 – 1030 Eastern Gulf Range Update..... Erin Handy/Hunter Miller**
- 1030 – 1045 Mission Sustainment Update..... Richard Miller**
- 1045 – 1110 Family Support Update Teri Wanamaker / Latanya Peterson / Kellie Jo Kilberg**
 - Purple Star School Implementation update
 - Spousal Employment Compacts update
- 1110 – 1125 AF Quality of Life Study Discussion..... Kellie Jo / Terry McCaffrey**
- 1125 – 1155 Around the State/Top challengesBy Region**
 - *Northwest: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa and Bay*

- Northeast: Duval and Clay
- East Central Florida: Brevard and Orange
- West Central Florida: Highlands, Polk, Tampa, and Pinellas
- South Florida: Miami-Dade and Monroe

1155 – 1200 Closing Comments & Adjournment.....Chair

A quorum being present, **Terry McCaffrey** began the call on September 21, 2021 at 10:01 AM EDT.

1) Agenda Item I: Roll Call

Michelle Griggs announced that all attendees are shown via Zoom but asked that anyone participating by phone please email her at mgriggs@enterpriseflorida.com for identification.

2) Agenda Item II: Opening Remarks

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending noting that it's important to meet via Zoom every so often to catch up and ensure everyone is on the same page. She asked that everyone be aware of best practices and if you come across any innovative ideas (from other states), please pass that information on to the Team at EFI. Also, please be thinking of how the State can be innovative in tackling issues, such as encroachment or family support.

3) Agenda Item III: DIG / DRG Update

Ryan Fierst, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), presented on the Defense Infrastructure Grants (DIG) and Defense Reinvestment Grants (DRG) recently announced by Governor DeSantis. Grant awards are as follows:

Defense Infrastructure Grants

Bay County Board of County Commissioners	\$250,000
City of Jacksonville	\$450,000
Clay County Development Authority	\$300,000
Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners	\$300,000
Escambia County Board of County Commissioners	\$300,000
Total	\$1,600,000

Defense Reinvestment Grants

Clay County Economic Development Corporation	\$65,000
Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners	\$60,000
Bay Defense Alliance	\$90,000
City of Jacksonville	\$90,000
EDC of Florida's Space Coast	\$85,000
Miami Dade Beacon Council	\$75,000
Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce	\$90,000
EDC of Okaloosa County	\$90,000
Orlando Economic Partnership	\$85,000
Tampa Bay Defense Alliance	\$70,000
Total	\$800,000

They will be opening their grant application window for FY 2022-2022 in January/February 2022.

4) Agenda Item IV: Eastern Gulf Range Update

Hunter Miller, Oceana, presented on Federal actions and permanent protections from offshore oil drilling.

Executive Action on offshore drilling:

- September 2020 – President Trump Issues Memorandum
 - Used executive authority to withdraw waters off Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina from offshore drilling for 10 years.
- January 2021 – President Biden Pauses Leasing
 - Used executive authority to pause all new lease sales for offshore oil drilling while his administration conducted a review of the nation's oil and gas leasing program.

President Biden signed multiple executive actions on climate, one of which addressed leasing:

- This action put a pause on new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or offshore waters
- Launched a review of all existing leasing and permitting practices related to fossil fuel development on public lands and waters including those offshore
- And it will plan to identify steps that can be taken to double renewable energy production from offshore wind by 2030

Five-year plan:

- 5-year plan for National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program managed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Unclear if a new plan will be started from scratch
- 90-day public comment period
 - BOEM holding virtual meetings
- Timing uncertain

Appropriations:

- In July, the U.S. House passed a federal spending bill blocking funds for the expansion of offshore drilling
- Included language restricting BOEM from spending resources that would enable the expansion of offshore drilling and related activities to any unleased areas of the Atlantic, Pacific, or Arctic Oceans as well as the Eastern Gulf of Mexico
- Symbolic victory. Will not proceed through the Senate

National Defense Authorization Act:

- NDAA Developments- 9/20/2021 Rep Castor introduced an amendment to the NDAA that would ban offshore drilling and related activities in the OCS areas of Florida
 - Rules Committee is meeting to determine if the amendment is in order
 - If so, there will be a floor vote on the amendment. House members would need to be urged to vote yes on this amendment

Stand Alone Legislation for Permanent Protections

- Florida Coastal Protection Act (H.R. 2836), Florida (Eastern Gulf)- Rep Castor (FL)
 - Florida Reps still not on this bill: Reps Dunn, Cammack, Webster, Waltz, Steube
- COAST Anti-Drilling Act (H.R. 3116); Atlantic- Rep Pallone (NJ)
- Only 2 Florida Reps on this bill: Reps Rutherford, Crist
- American Shores Protection Act- (Senator Scott/Rubio)
 - Rep Michael Waltz (FL-06) introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives
 - Would codify President Trump's 10-year extension of Florida's offshore drilling moratorium into law
 - Effectively nothing new

Reconciliation is probably the only chance to get permanent protections enacted from Congress this year. It would likely only ban leasing in new areas, but it's a real possibility this can happen. It avoids the necessity to gain a filibuster-proof majority, but because it will be part of a larger Climate and Infrastructure package, gaining a single Republican vote is very unlikely. To ensure a leasing ban becomes part of the final reconciliation package, champions who will prioritize permanent protections must be identified on the Hill. On the Senate side, any on-the-fence Senators need to be convinced, this includes encouraging freshman Senators. A Senator is needed to make offshore drilling protections a priority to include in the larger package

Budget Reconciliation - Critical next steps:

- House Leadership needs to hear from stakeholders and members.
- Which members are key to carry that message?
- Rep Castor, Crist, Wasserman-Schultz, Soto
- Critical that these members are fighting to keep the drilling protection provisions in the final package.

Protect Our Coast Call to action

1. Budget Reconciliation - Contact influential Florida Dems and urge them to fight for permanent offshore drilling protection provisions in the budget reconciliation package. (Reps Castor, Crist, Wasserman-Schultz, Soto)
2. Support Stand Alone Bills- Demonstrate strong bi-partisan support for permanent protection legislation by getting all members of the Florida Congressional Delegation to support H.R. 2836 & H.R. 3116.
3. Join/Support the FGCB - If you represent a business, chamber or industry group, join the Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition (FGCB).

Kay Rasmussen, One Okaloosa EDC, commented that in working with Oceana, the DSI Leadership Team, in particular Lieutenant General Fornell and Lieutenant Colonel Bob Marinan are co-authoring an op ED that will be finalized today and submitted to targeted papers, as well as **Kellie Jo Kilberg** and the EFI M&D Team. Also, the DSI has completed its recent update on their position paper protecting the Range and the military mission. They have 29 resolutions and proclamations from the Northwest Florida region, and they welcome more input from partners, so please step up and submit an advocacy support resolution.

5) Agenda Item V: Mission Sustainment Update

Rick Miller, Chair of the Mission Sustainment Working Group, provided an update on the three Rs: Ranges, Resilience and Resources.

Ranges: The Geollect 3D Range Model is about 90% complete. They are currently working on final adjustments and will roll it out at the November FDA meeting. UWF holds the grant for the companion piece to the Range Model and has just recently released an RFQ looking for inputs from organizations or agencies that can help produce the Florida Military Range Assessment Report and Engagement Plan.

Resilience: They continue working with Regional Planning Council's (RPC) across the state. The Tampa Regional Planning Council and South Florida Regional Planning Council were each awarded Military Installation Resilience grants from OLDCC. Any other state RPCs who might need assistance with these grants please feel free to reach out to the Tampa or South Florida RPC.

Resources: He's been working with **Major General James Eifert**, The Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard (FLNG), who is looking to expand the FLNG's presence and rebalance some of their force distribution across the State which involves funding support for new and expanded locations in areas around Florida. He's invited **Major General Eifert** and his team to present at the November Mission Sustainment Meeting to provide a statewide briefing on their goals and initiatives and where FDA and community and civic partners can help build advocacy for state and federal funds for this effort.

6) Agenda Item VI: Family Support Update

Purple Star School Implementation Update

Latanya Peterson, Florida Department of Education, briefed that they are in the process of establishing a Rule to define exactly what's involved in the Program, so she will be reaching out to the Family Support Working Group for input. They will send out an invitation to participate in a workshop in October or November with approval at their February State Board Meeting and their goal is to be ready to implement the Program by spring

Tim Farrell, Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), added that they have recently put together a number of Purple Star School Readiness packages to include best practices and lessons learned from around the country to ensure they are in step with the school district and SLO for easy Program implementation.

Teri Wanamaker, NAS Jacksonville, added that for sustainment and consistent improvement, their group has suggested a portfolio to ensure that all schools provide a quality Program.

Spousal Employment Compacts Update

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman, briefed that legislation has already been submitted for a five-year renewal of the Interstate Compact for Military Children, the first compact on which Florida signed on. Staff has drafted legislation for the Psychology Licensing Compact, the EMS/Paramedics Licensing Compact, the Physical Therapy Licensing Compact and the Audiology/Speech Language Pathologist Licensing Compact. We are not moving forward at this time is on the Occupational Therapists and Counselors licensure as the state association at this time is still working through some challenges with that compact. As time goes on, there will be additional compacts that come up every year. Compacts are the long-term solution for spousal licensing.

7) Agenda Item VII: Air Force Quality of Life Discussion

Terry McCaffrey, Enterprise Florida, Inc., provided some background on Quality of Life Report recently released by the Air Force. The education scoring issue was brought forward at the recent ADC meeting as questions were posed to Jennifer Miller, the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. They are not using data from the states but from a Federal database. The Air Force understands that the methodology is potentially flawed and that most states are unhappy with the final product as it's not a good indicator of how issues can be fixed, based on their scoring of green, red or yellow color codes. The recommendation of all the States and the ADC to the Air Force is that the results are confusing because there aren't any metrics only color codes. The bottom line on that is the states are going to ask the Air Force to explain the standard to enable comparisons and the ability to make it better because right now Florida cannot make improvements against 157 other installations that are all independently and differently measured.

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman, added that the FDA will be creating a Task Force to evaluate strengths and weaknesses to provide best practices across the state.

Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast, added that the information from last year's Quality of Life report was used in the basing decision for the U.S. Space Command Headquarters and she is concerned that the same information has been released this year. She is also concerned that other agencies may use the Air Force's model, which will not be good for Florida.

Elaine LaJuenesse, Eglin AFB, noted that SLOs in their area direct families with education questions to the Florida Department of Education Accountability Report to look at the schools, demographics, academics and grades.

Donna Huneycutt, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, stated that the biggest retention issues in the military currently is spouse employment and it's important to emphasize and showcase Florida's dedication to that issue as much as possible.

8) Agenda Item VIII: Around the State / Top Challenges

Northwest Florida:

Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance, briefed on the DCIP, DIG and DRG grants recently received by Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties; the \$60,000 Defense Task Force grant managed by UWF for the Range Task Force; and the HASC's unfunded requirement list.

Kay Rasmussen, One Okaloosa EDC/Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative Committee, discussed that they are working with Eglin Community Planners to hold an ideas workshop sometime in October; their updated Military Mission Line point paper; the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape application submitted by Defenders of Wildlife with decision sometime in December; and briefings provided by Brigadier General Scott Cain and Colonel Jack Arthaud at last week's Zoom Task Force meeting, originally scheduled to be in Fort Walton Beach.

Northeast Florida:

Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville, highlighted recent Task Force, DIG and DRG grants recently received by the City of Jacksonville and the upcoming Celebration of Valor events;.

East Central Florida:

Paul Hirsch, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast, briefed on the recent civilian launch by SpaceX; Patrick Space Force Base Commander, Brigadier General Stephen Purdy will be testifying tomorrow in front of the Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, And Domestic Security Committee chaired by **Senator Tom Wright**; Frank DiBello from Space Florida will be presenting to Senator Wright's committee soon; and wind turbines placed off the coast of Virginia to provide renewable energy but a potential problem for the military demarcation line.

Trudy McCarthy, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast, added that their military spouse employment program, Hiring Our Heroes, is partnering with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to bring spousal employment awareness to their county. Last week they released the Space Coast Salutes Military Friendly Guide, an online resource providing spouses quick access to links and area information on housing, living, quality of life, volunteering, etc. <https://spacecoastsalutes.com/>

George Cheros, National Center for Simulation (NCS), updated on some changes of command: Navy Commander Captain Tim Hill has retired and has been replaced by Captain Dan Covelli; Air Force Colonel Tim Beers has replaced the retiring Colonel Robert Epstein; both are staying in Orlando to work with private industry; Army Futures Command Synthetic Training Environment Brigadier General William Glaser replaces Major General Maria Gervais, who has moved on and received her third star in that process; Lindsay Spalding is the National Center for Simulation's new Director of STEM Education; October 19th the NCS will be hosting the 7th Annual Florida Simulation Summit at the Orange County Convention Center; and they are looking forward to the next in-person FDA meeting to be held in Orlando in November.

West Central Florida:

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, briefed that they are working with a landowner on about 100 acres (next to the RV park) in the three-mile buffer of the Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) looking at opportunities to partner on conservation; **Buck MacLaughlin** from the APAFR has contacted Air Force legal on the RV park next door within the three mile buffer as there is a new proposal for mobile homes; they have posted their Sentinel Landscape Program Coordinator Program Manager Position; they have worked with Conservation Florida to file an application for a conservation innovation grant with the Nature Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a pilot project for water storage within the landscape; recently their region has formed a Resiliency Coalition in hopes that it will be helpful as they continue to work on resiliency for the APAFR and their region; and they are working on an updated conservation easement which she'll send out as soon as it's completed.

Donna Huneycutt, Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, updated that they just had their successful annual fundraiser which attracted many community civic sponsors and provided many communications connections and awareness of their role in Tampa; they are working with **Representative Kathy Castor, Captain Jim Birdman Philpitt** and **Major General Larry Martin** on a Task Force to bring the KC-46 to MacDill AFB; and they are working with the Mayor's department and are trying to retain a non-voting seat on the City Council to head off encroachment near MacDill AFB's runways.

South Florida:

Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA), updated that with their DRG funding they are looking forward to working with Beacon Council to bring to life new defense economy initiatives in the coming year and will be supporting the South Florida Regional Planning Council with the OLDCC resiliency grant; this month, through the Miami-Dade County Commission, the Florida National Guard will be taking a lease to ultimate ownership of a significant portion of land at Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB), a great win for the FLNG as it helps with their rebalancing efforts across the state, it brings jobs and economic development to South Miami-Dade and the third pure military benefit for Homestead is it puts an inherent military activity along that whole perimeter of the Airbase, which further isolates them from any future incompatible development that might have occurred and they look to continue to protect and defend that encroachment for the future F-35 mission and others, HARB is now in a much better place; and senior leader changes in July at the Coast Guard 7th District as Rear Admiral Eric Jones commander was relieved by Rear Admiral Brendan McPherson; and the Senate recently confirmed Lieutenant General Laura Richardson for her fourth star and she'll soon be replacing Admiral Craig Faller as the Commander of USSOUTHCOM.

Terry McCaffrey provided some updates from the Military and Defense Team:

- Recently signed Governor's Proclamations:
 - Blue Star Welcome Week is scheduled next week from September 25th to October 3rd
 - September is designated as for Florida Veteran Suicide Prevention Month
- The new Military Benefits Guide is at the printer and will be released soon. Staff has rebranded it as **Advantage Florida – Military Benefits Guide** as the new name better communicates what the guide contains and the fact that Florida leads in its great support to our military servicemembers and their families. Next year Staff is contemplating shifting the guide to an online only version.
- Matrix Design Group continues working on the biannual Economic Impact Study and Staff will be meeting with them for an in-progress review in October.
- Florida has completed and submitted two Sentinel Landscape proposals and we are hoping that we'll have one or both selected for designation.
- Staff is supporting the Military Base Protection Program as inputs are coming in from the installations, they are placed in tiers and will be presented to the FDSTF for approval at their November meeting and then sent over to DEP State Lands for potential purchase.

9) Agenda Item IV: Closing Comments & Adjournment

Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chairwoman, closed with asking members to please let M&D Staff know if you are working on any local legislation attached to any military installations so they can track; she and **Terry McCaffrey** will be presenting to **Senator Tom Wright's** Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, And Domestic Security Committee in October; and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting.

The next FDA meeting will be in person

- **Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at the Celeste Hotel Orlando**

The conference call was adjourned at 11:56 AM EDT.

National Asset

In 2020, the military installations in northwest Florida provided an annual economic impact exceeding \$22 Billion and generated over 209,600 jobs.

Eglin Air Force Base, housed in Okaloosa County, is the largest installation in the Department of Defense and hosts the joint service Gulf Test and Training Range (GTTR).

The GTTR complex, the largest test and training range in the nation, is identified by Department of Defense Directive as a national asset that can not be replicated anywhere in the continental U.S., and is the only range capable of supporting future technologically advanced weapons testing.



Defense Support Initiatives Committee

Okaloosa—Santa Rosa—Walton
Counties

Sponsored by
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Gulf Test & Training Range Military Mission Line Advocacy Position



Provided by



August 2021

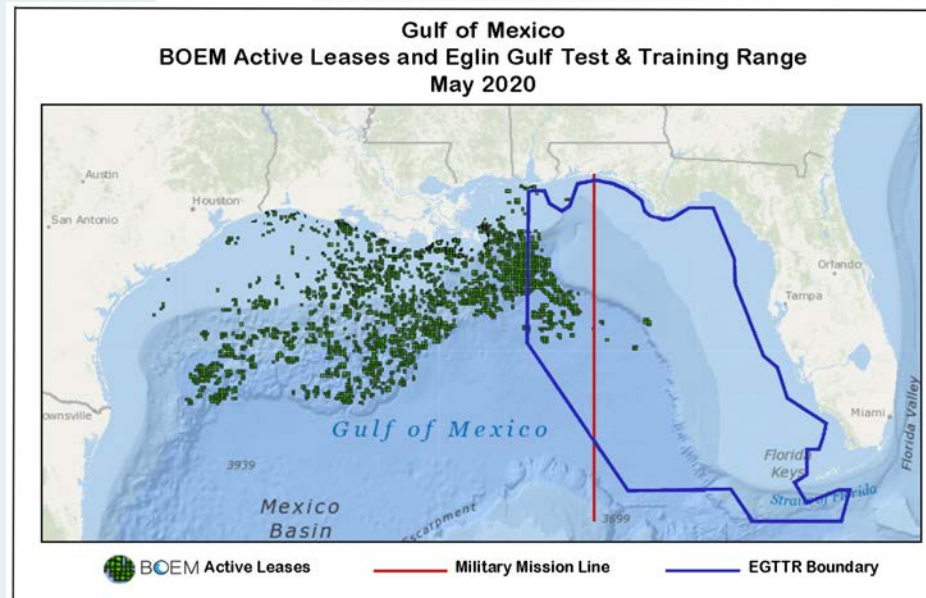
Security Interests

The GTTR connects test & training ranges and capabilities across the eastern Gulf of Mexico extending from NW Florida to Key West. This multi-service training area supports simultaneous maritime, air and land training exercises. The GTTR provides unique capabilities to test, train with, and evaluate high-altitude supersonic air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing, space launches/landings, and other activities. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, test and training ranges take on even greater importance in military capabilities and national security.

The GTTR is an integral part of DoD's Training Resource Strategy. Defense contracting awards in the Northwest Florida region have grown by 28% since 2015 with a monetary value increase of 63% during the same time period. The region's contracting value reached \$1.6 Billion in 2020.

Military Mission Line

Federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico from encroachment since 1983 by providing a buffer zone (now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2006) restricting oil and natural gas drilling, exploration and related activities. This mandated north-south Military Mission Line protects the GTTR from non-compatible activities. Oil drilling structures, associated exploratory activities and related activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact military readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority.



MML Advocacy Resolutions

- Building Industry Association
- City of Fort Walton Beach
- City of Pensacola
- Crestview Chamber of Commerce
- Destin Chamber of Commerce
- Defense Support Initiatives Committee
- Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County
- Eglin Federal Credit Union
- Emerald Coast Association of Realtors
- Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council
- Escambia County Board of County Commissioners
- ERA American Real Estate
- Florida's Great Northwest
- Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce
- Key West Chamber of Commerce
- Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce
- Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
- Navarre Beach Area CoC MAC
- Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce
- Niceville-Valparaiso CoC MAC
- Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
- Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners
- Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce
- Santa Rosa County MAC
- Technology Coast Manufacturing and Engineering Network
- Town of Cinco Bayou
- Walton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Walton County Economic Development Alliance

Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range Military Mission Line 2021 DSI Position Paper



Prepared by



DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

August 2021

c/o One Okaloosa EDC
Post Office Box 4097, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549
850-362-6467 www.oneokaloosa.org



DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

August 29, 2021

Dear Sir / Madam:

The Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) Committee is a military installation advocacy group sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County; DBA One Okaloosa EDC. It is comprised of 25 select retired military personnel, defense contractors and representatives of the seven Military Affairs Committees from Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties surrounding the Eglin Complex. The mission of the DSI is to support and promote the local military installations, missions and their positive economic contributions to the tri-county area.

As identified in the 2020 Florida Defense Factbook, northwest Florida installations contribute an annual economic impact exceeding \$22 Billion and generate over 209,000 jobs. Okaloosa County in Northwest Florida houses the largest Air Force installation in the Department of Defense; Eglin Air Force Base. Team Eglin contributes \$10B annually to the local economy and provides nearly 79,000 jobs. The 96th Test Wing, Eglin's host wing, is the test and evaluation center for Air Force air-delivered weapons, navigation and guidance systems, Command and Control systems, and AF Special Operations Command Systems. Team Eglin supports multi-service combat ready forces while delivering full spectrum support to DoD.

The 96th Test Wing manages the Eastern Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR; aka Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range, Joint Gulf Range). The EGTTR connects test & training ranges and capabilities across the eastern Gulf of Mexico extending from NW Florida to Key West. This multi-service training area supports simultaneous maritime, air and land training exercises. The EGTTR provides unique capabilities to test, train with, and evaluate high-altitude supersonic air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing, space launches/landings, and other activities. A 2012 Air Force Long Range Stand-Off Weapons study identified the EGTTR as the only U.S. continental range capable of supporting future technologically advanced weapons testing.

Due to its tremendous capabilities, the EGTTR complex is an integral part of DoD's Training Resources Strategy, is vital for testing the next generation of air armaments, and for training in conditions consistent with those expected in actual conflict. It is utilized by multiple users, including DoD, other government agencies, foreign partner countries, and private companies. Due to technological advancements, missions are being pushed farther from land into the Federal waters of the EGTTR as a result of increased utilization, faster and longer reaching telemetry, and larger safety footprint requirements. The 2021 RAND Institute analysis identified the EGTTR as a priority.

As a result of Team Eglin's collective mission and the EGTTR, Okaloosa County installations provide half of the total Northwest Florida region's military impact. Team Eglin's direct defense spending exceeds \$3.7 Billion, and provides the highest contribution in the Northwest Florida region towering at 61%—concurrent to the Northwest Florida region providing the state's highest overall regional defense impact at 23%.

Eight of the Top 10 national defense contractors have a presence in Okaloosa County supporting the highest defense personnel location in the state in 2019, and the highest personnel spending location at \$1.9 Billion annually.¹

DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

Defense contracting awards in the Northwest Florida region have grown by 28% since 2015 with a monetary value increase of 63% during the same time period. Okaloosa's contracting value exceeded \$1,428 Billion in 2020—more than double that of the other counties combined and at 75% for the region.² Additionally, with nearly 7,000 contract awards Okaloosa County supports 50% of all defense contract awards in the region. As stated earlier, the Northwest Florida region provides the largest economic impact contributions to the state's total military economy, and also offers the highest concentration of defense contracting jobs of all eight state regions.

2020 Defense Contracts

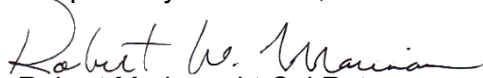
Escambia	\$ 357,382,333
Santa Rosa	\$ 85,665,657
Okaloosa	\$1,428,727,572
Walton	\$ 3,789,420
Holmes	\$ 7,015,443
Bay	\$ 2,177,824


The EGTR, the largest test and training range in the continental United States, is identified by Department of Defense Directive as a *national asset* that cannot be replicated anywhere in the U.S.³ Federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration since 1983 with a buffer zone; now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2006. This mandated north-south Military Mission Line protects the EGTR from encroachment of activities incompatible with military missions. Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities, and wind turbine infrastructure east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority.

As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, test and training ranges take on even greater importance in military capabilities and national security. The EGTR is a unique resource offering tremendous capabilities for joint test and training exercises. Due to its expansive size allowing for simultaneous maritime, air and land training exercises, the EGTR is an integral part of DoD's Training Resource Strategy.

Elimination of the MML would decrease the military capability/capacity in the EGTR. This regional position paper (consisting of 29 civic, private sector and public sector resolutions and proclamations) supports the United States military and defense strategy by extending the Military Mission Line moratorium and opposing any activities east of the MML that are deemed incompatible to the military mission. Congressional Members are respectfully requested to permanently extend protection of the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending or replacing the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, extending the moratorium protection. Thank you for your consideration and continued service.

Respectfully Submitted,


Robert Marinan, Lt Col Ret
DSI Chairman


Kay Rasmussen, CECD
DSI Manager

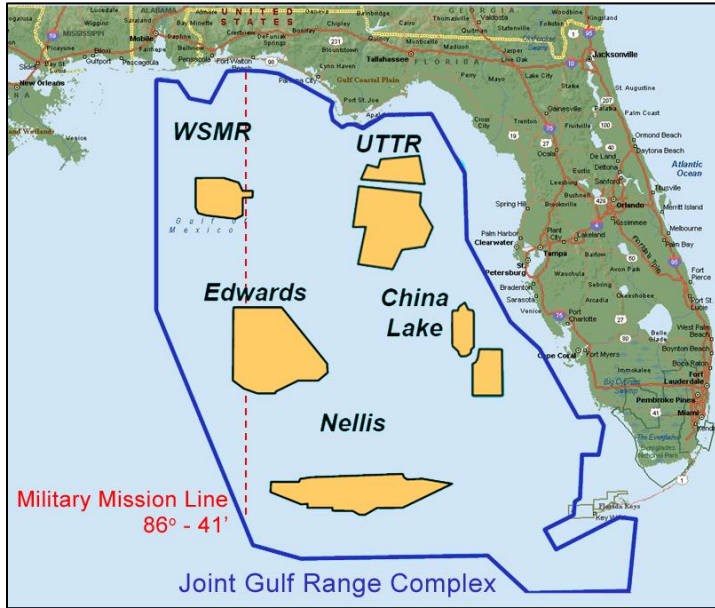
Attachments

¹ Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation – Defense Spending by State 2019

² USspending.gov

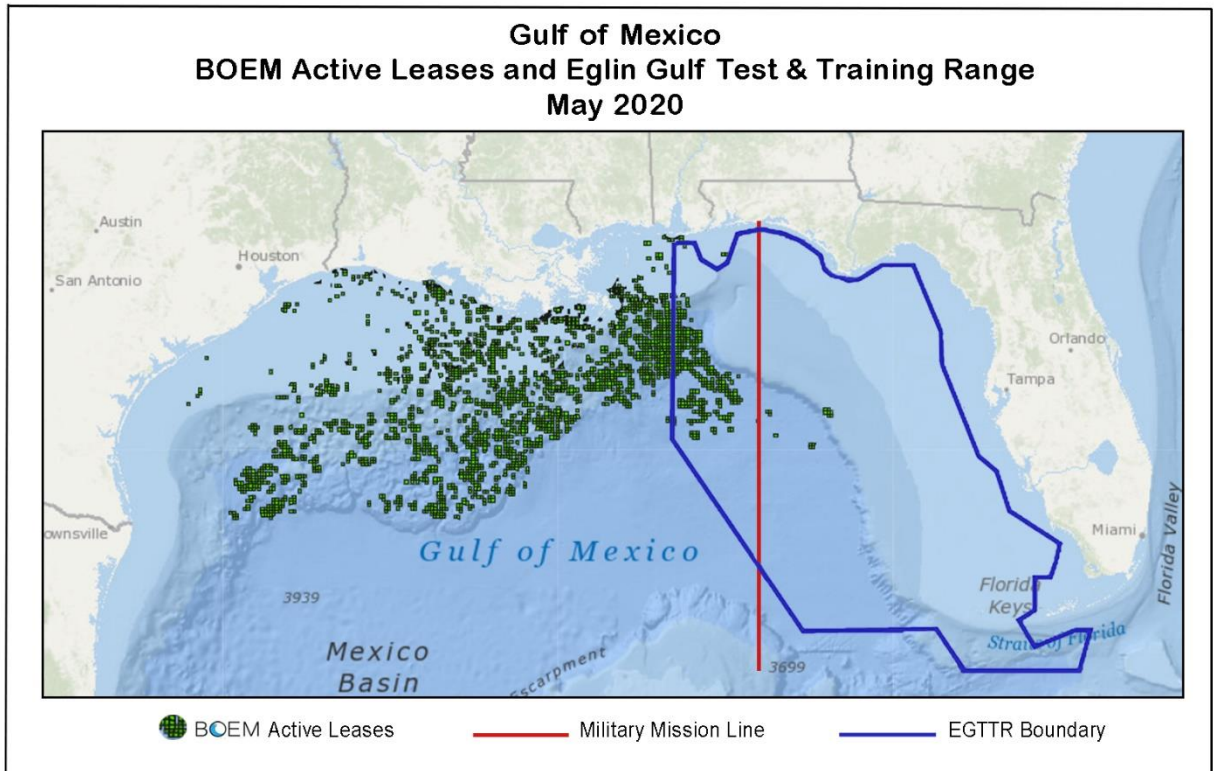
³ Department of Defense Directive Number 3200.11; Office of the Secretary of Defense, Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, May 2018

DSI EGTRR MML Position Paper



U.S. Military Ranges

- Joint Gulf Range (aka, EGTRR)
- White Sands Missile Range
- Utah Test & Training Range
- Edwards Flight Test Range
- NAWC China Lake
- Nevada Test & Training Range



Exhibits

EGTR MML Support

Public Sector

1. Florida Senate Resolution SR550
2. Escambia County Board of County Commissioners
3. Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
4. Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners
5. Town of Cinco Bayou
6. City of Fort Walton Beach
7. City of Pensacola

Private Sector

8. Building Industry Association Okaloosa-Walton
9. Crestview Chamber of Commerce
10. Destin Chamber of Commerce
11. Defense Support Initiatives Committee
12. Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County
13. Eglin Federal Credit Union
14. Emerald Coast Association of Realtors
15. Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council
16. ERA American Real Estate
17. Florida's Great Northwest
18. Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce
19. Key West Chamber of Commerce
20. Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce
21. Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
22. Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council
23. Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce
24. Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council
25. Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce
26. Santa Rosa County Military Affairs Committee
27. Technology Coast Manufacturing and Engineering Network
28. Walton Area Chamber of Commerce
29. Walton County Economic Development Alliance