



The Florida House of Representatives
Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council
Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee

Larry Cretul
Speaker

Dorothy L. Hukill
Chair

November 4, 2009
212 Knott Building
8:15 AM – 9:45 AM

MEETING PACKET



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AGENDA

November 4, 2009
212 Knott Building (Webster Hall)
8:15 AM – 9:45 AM

- I. Opening Comments by the Chair
- II. Economic Impact of the Military in Florida, Rick Harper, Ph.D., Director, UWF Haas Center
- III. Florida Laws Affecting Military Installations and Personnel, Jason Fudge, Chief Attorney, Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee
- IV. Florida National Guard, Colonel Glenn Sutphin, Legislative Affairs Director, Department of Military Affairs
- V. Florida Veterans, Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr., Executive Director, Department of Veterans' Affairs
- VI. Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support, Joe Marino, Defense Coordinator, Office of Tourism Trade & Economic Development
- VII. Closing Remarks

Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis

**Rick Harper, Ph.D.
Director**

UWF Haas Center

11/4/09

In FY 2005, defense-related spending accounted for:

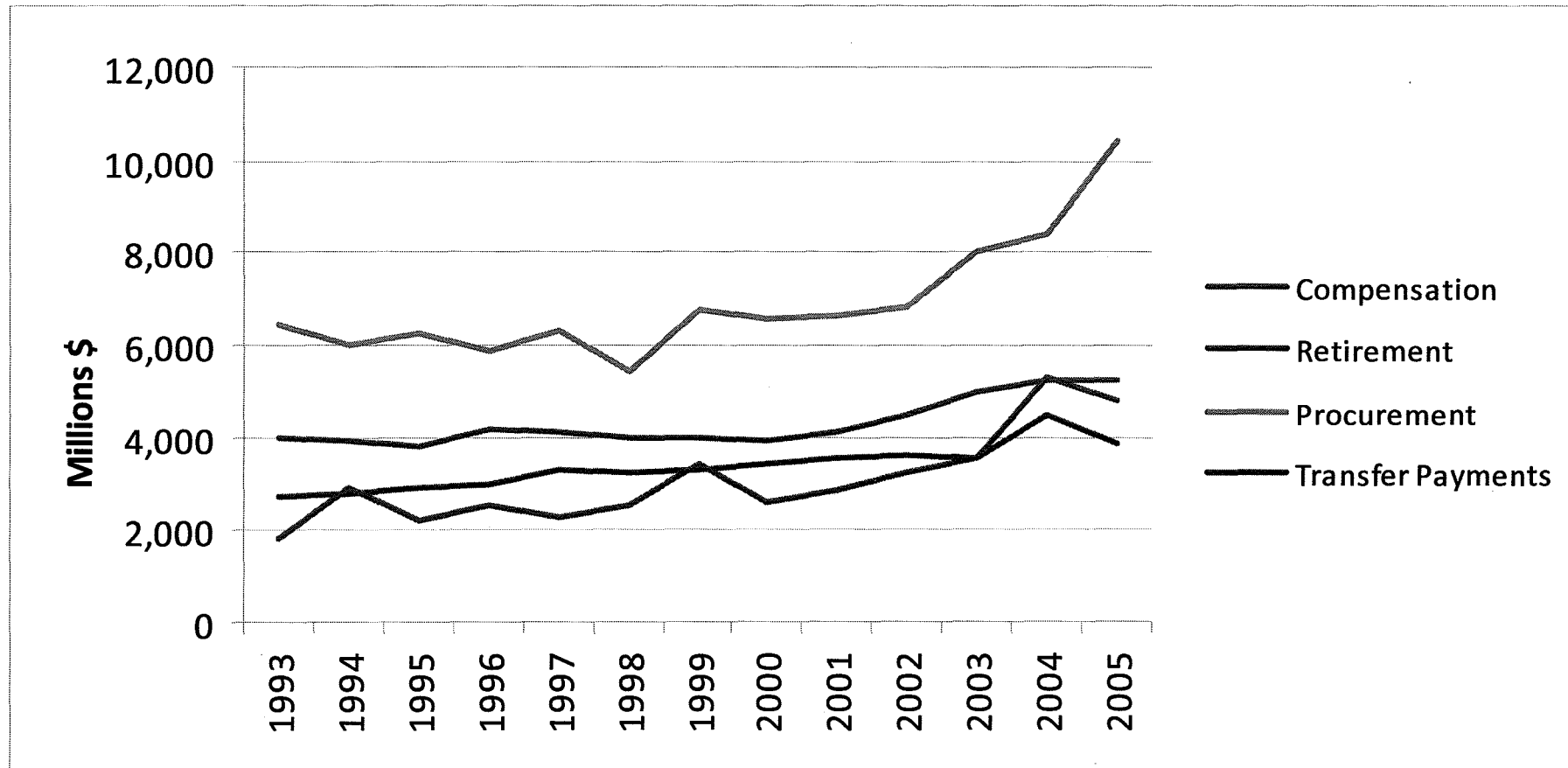
- \$52 billion in GSP (Florida's Gross State Product)
 - 7.5% of total GSP
 - 732,300 jobs
 - \$1 billion in tax revenue (state and local)

These impacts flowed from direct spending of:

- \$10.4 billion in procurement of goods and services
- \$12.4 billion for pensions and transfer payments
- \$4.3 billion for wages and salaries

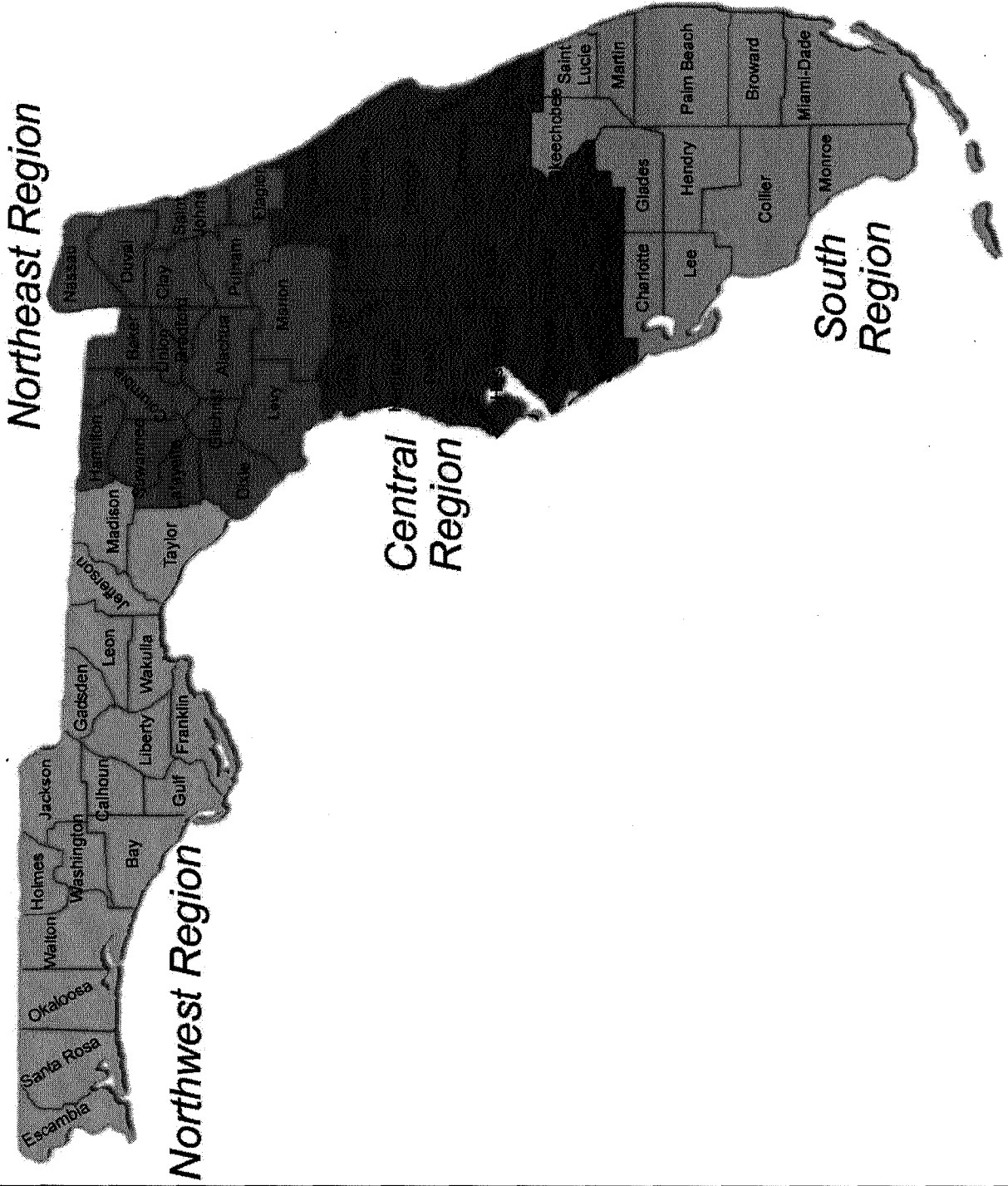
Impact increased by 18% over 2003 – 2005 period

Florida Defense-Related Spending by Spending Type



Actual Program Growth 2005 – 2008 by Major Category

Program Name	2005	2008	growth	share
Procurement	10,378,135,142	12,228,148,129	17.8%	51.2%
Retirement/Disability	3,826,269,000	3,793,637,000	-0.9%	15.9%
Active Military Salaries/wages	2,737,821,000	2,391,169,000	-12.7%	10.0%
Veteran's Comp. for Svc-related disability	1,934,499,878	2,434,566,263	25.8%	10.2%
DoD Civilian Salaries and Wages	1,176,298,000	1,158,807,000	-1.5%	4.8%
Percentage increase 2005 to 2008	9.7%			

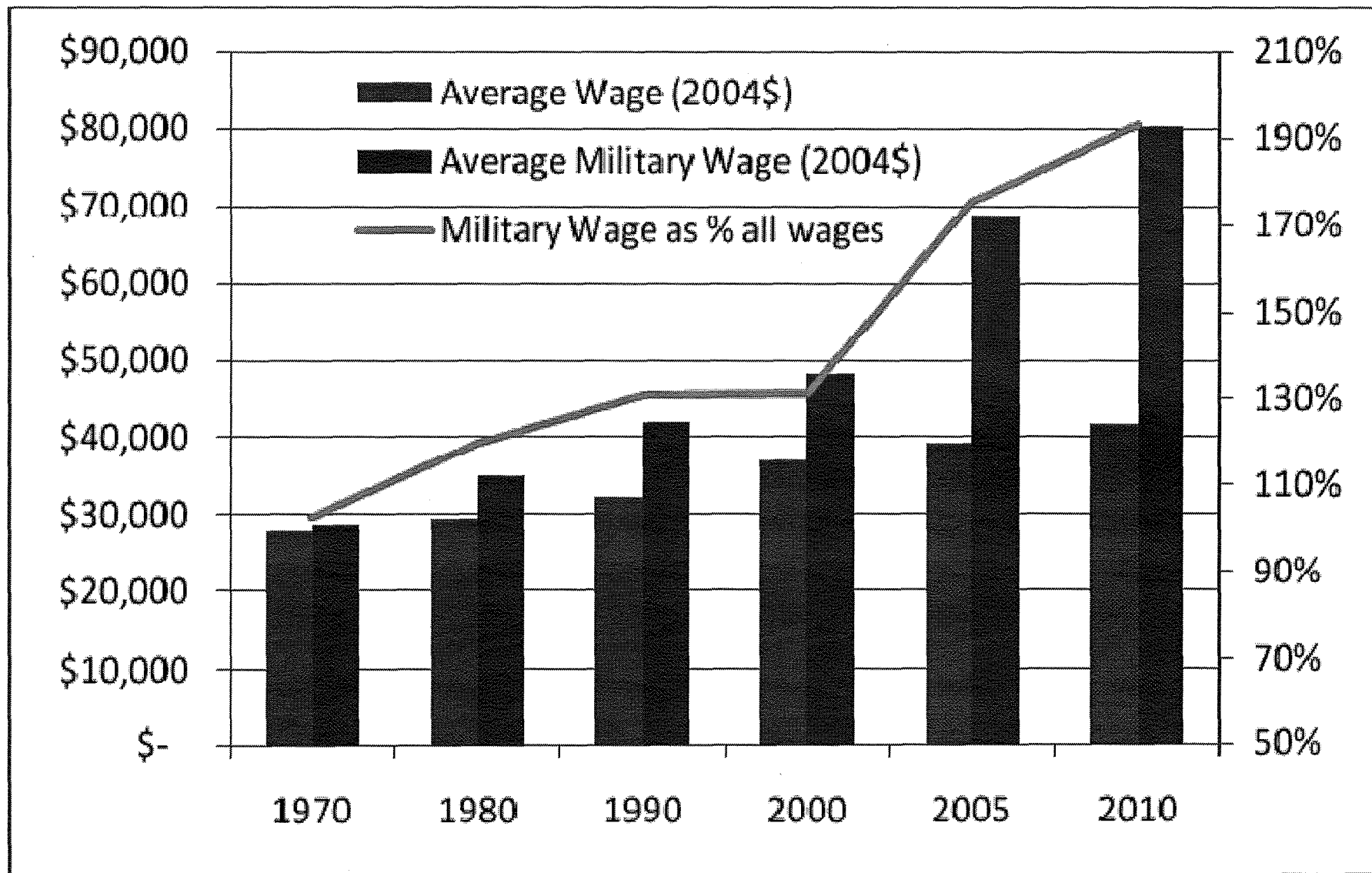


Defense-related spending drives GRP in Florida:

- 35% in Northwest FL
- 18% in Northeast FL
- 5% for Central FL
- 3% for South FL

All but 6 counties have at least \$3 million per year in direct defense spending

Florida Military Wages, 1970 - 2010



Conclusion:

Defense-related spending is one of Florida's most important economic drivers. It has experienced consistent and substantial growth in recent years, with the largest increases coming via procurement spending (i.e., the private sector).

Defense-related spending generates high-skill, high-wage jobs across the state, in technology-intensive sectors. The national wage scale paid by military and civilian contractor jobs is particularly important to economic well-being in less-wealthy parts of Florida.

While economic conditions for Florida deteriorated substantially over the last several years, particularly in areas hardest hit by the real estate slowdown, high-wage, defense-related jobs are somewhat immune to downturns in the business cycle.

Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis

Questions?

**Rick Harper, Ph.D.
Director**

UWF Haas Center

Overview of Florida Laws Affecting the Military

Florida has taken great steps to support its military bases, its military host communities, its military personnel and veterans. The goal of this overview is to summarize laws unique to Florida; this paper does not address Federal law even though Florida may have a role in implementing those provisions. In addition, because of the breadth of the material covered the specific qualifications for particular programs are not covered in detail.

Defense Industry

First, Florida has enacted growth management provisions that encourage compatible land use, help prevent incompatible encroachment, and facilitate the continued presence of major military installations in this state. Future land use plans must address and include criteria to be used to achieve compatibility of uses on lands adjacent to or closely proximate to military installations.¹ Local governments are required to notify the commanding officer of a military installation of any proposed changes to local comprehensive plans or land development regulations that would affect the intensity, density, or use of the land adjacent to or in close proximity to the military installation. The affected local government must take into consideration any comments provided by the commanding officer when making decisions regarding comprehensive planning or land development regulations. In addition, a representative of any military installation serves as an ex officio member of the land planning or zoning board in which the installation is located.²

One way in which Florida has addressed land adjacent to military installations has been to acquire adjacent land to act as a conservation land buffer, protect surrounding water bodies, and allow for expanded recreation opportunities. Since 2000 the state, through the Florida Forever program has contributed over \$62 million to acquire over 33,000 acres adjacent to military bases throughout Florida. Of the 110 projects on the Florida Forever project list one out of every four has some relation to the military.

In 2003, the state of Florida, the U.S. Department of Defense and The Nature Conservancy signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Partnership to establish a 100-mile protected corridor that connects Eglin Air Force Base and the Apalachicola National Forest. This greenway helped strengthen the regional economy by sustaining the mission capabilities of the military in the region and enhancing outdoor recreation and tourism.

Florida was the first state in the nation to partner with the U.S. Department of Defense under the federal Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative which provides funds for the dual purpose of environmental protection and national defense.

Florida has created the Florida Defense Alliance, an organization within Enterprise Florida, to support activities related to the retention of military installations. The Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, administers three grant programs created by the Florida Economic Reinvestment Initiative.

¹ § 163.3177(6)(a), F.S.

² § 163.3175, F.S.

- The Florida Defense Reinvestment Grant Program is designed to provide support to defense-dependent communities for reinforcement of positive relations between the community and the defense facility.
- The Military Base Protection Fund³ is intended to provide the State with the necessary means to assist communities with military installations that could potentially be adversely affected by federal base realignment or closure actions.
- The Defense Infrastructure Grant Program⁴ is used to support local infrastructure projects deemed to have a positive impact on the military value of installations within the state.

In Fiscal Year 2009/2010 a total of \$1.35 million in defense grants were appropriated by the Florida Legislature.

Finally, in 2009, the Legislature created the Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support. The council's mission is to support and strengthen all United States Department of Defense missions and bases located in this state, know the capabilities of all military installations, and support local community efforts by acting as a liaison between the local communities and the Legislature.⁵

Tax and Financial Benefits

There are various homestead tax exemptions that are available from an additional \$5,000 exemption for certain disabled veterans⁶ and a 100% exemption for totally and permanently disabled veterans⁷. Veterans over the age of 65 with a combat related disability receive a property tax exemption equal to the percentage of their disability.⁸ In general, homestead exemption inures to the surviving spouse of a veteran so long as the spouse continues to reside on the property or until he or she transfers the property or is remarried.

In 2009, House Joint Resolution 833 was approved which proposes an amendment to the state constitution to provide an additional property tax exemption for members of the U.S. military or its reserves, U.S. Coast Guard or its reserves, or Florida National Guard who receive homestead exemption and were deployed in the previous year on active duty outside the continental US, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by Legislature. The additional amount is equal to a percentage of the taxable value of the homestead property. The percentage is calculated as the number of days in the preceding year the member was deployed divided by the number of days in that year. This amendment will be on the November 2010 ballot.

Florida law also provides that those military personnel who are ordered away from Florida, and who continue to satisfy the requirements for a homestead exemption, will not lose the exemption solely because of their absence from the state.⁹

In addition, if a servicemember is unable to file for their homestead exemption in person because of their service, they may file through next of kin or a duly authorized representative.¹⁰

³ § 288.980, F.S.

⁴ §288.980(4), F.S.

⁵ § 288.984, F.S.

⁶ § 196.24, F.S.

⁷ § 196.081, F.S.

⁸ § 196.082, F.S.

⁹ § 196.061, F.S.

Educational Benefits

Florida has placed a high priority on meeting the K-20 education needs of our military. For example, the Department of Education must assist the transition of school-aged children of military personnel. In addition, these dependent children who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for special academic programs, such as magnet schools, advanced studies programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, Advanced International Certificate of Education, and International Baccalaureate, are given first preference for admission.¹¹

The state also provides specific scholarship programs for certain military personnel and their families. Some of the programs include:

- **Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans:** Four-year college educational opportunities are provided for dependent children and spouses of deceased or total and permanently disabled veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.¹²
- **The Education Dollars for Duty Program** provides members of the Florida National Guard with tuition for in-state institutions of higher learning.¹³
- **Waiver of undergraduate-level tuition** at state universities and community colleges for Florida recipients of the Purple Heart and other combat-related decorations superior in precedence to the Purple Heart.¹⁴
- **Tuition deferment** for any veteran or other eligible student under Title 38, U.S.C.¹⁵

Family Support

The federal Servicemember Civil Relief Act, is intended to postpone or suspend certain civil obligations to enable service members to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on the family members of those deployed. In addition to those protections afforded by federal law, Florida has extended the protection to include termination of telecommunications service contracts¹⁶, motor vehicle leases¹⁷, and installment contracts¹⁸.

The Family Readiness Fund administered by the Department of Military Affairs provides emergency assistance to eligible servicemembers of the Guard and Reserve and their dependent family members for up to 120 days after returning home. Eligible services include: reasonable living expenses, housing (primary residence), vehicles (primary), and health care (not met by other benefits/entitlements).¹⁹

¹⁰ § 196.071, F.S.

¹¹ § 1003.05, F.S.

¹² § 295.01, F.S.

¹³ § 250.10(7), F.S.

¹⁴ § 1009.26(9), F.S.

¹⁵ § 1009.27, F.S.

¹⁶ § 364.195, F.S.

¹⁷ § 520.14, F.S.

¹⁸ § 250.5204, F.S.

¹⁹ § 250.5206, F.S.

Employment Support

State and local government employees who are members of the Guard or Reserve engaged in training are entitled to up to 17 days²⁰ of military leave and up to 30 days²¹ of leave when engaged in active duty. In addition, Guard and Reserve members who are called to state active duty may not be discharged, reprimanded, or in any other way penalized because of his or her absence by reason of state active duty.

The federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act ensures that persons who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, Reserves, National Guard or other “uniformed services:” (1) are not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their service; (2) are promptly reemployed in their civilian jobs upon their return from duty; and (3) are not discriminated against in employment based on past, present, or future military service. Florida has enacted similar provisions.

Job placement services are available to veterans in the form of One-Stop Career Centers where they receive priority workforce services and Vets First a website that provides all veteran benefit information in one place. A network of Professional Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialists as well as Local Veterans Employment Representatives provide priority workforce services to veterans, transitioning servicemembers and spouses. Spouses can also receive additional services through the Military Family Employment Program. In addition, state and local governments of the state must give preference in employment and retention to:

- Veterans with a VA service connected disability;²²
- Spouses of veterans with permanent and total service connected disability;²³
- Honorably discharged veterans with wartime service;²⁴
- Unremarried widow or widower of a veteran who died as a result of a service connected disability;²⁵
- Veterans who have served in a qualifying campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized.

The Florida Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act promotes access for service-disabled veteran business to state contracts and encourages such veterans to start businesses.²⁶

November is Hire A Vet month. The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs will be introducing a campaign reminding employers of the work-ethic, leadership, discipline, teamwork and maturity veterans bring to the workplace.

²⁰ § 115.07, F.S.

²¹ §§ 115.14 and 250.48, F.S.

²² § 295.07(1)(a), F.S.

²³ § 295.07(1)(b), F.S.

²⁴ § 295.07(1)(c), F.S.

²⁵ § 295.07(1)(d), F.S.

²⁶ § 295.187, F.S.

Licensing, Registrations, and Fees

Professional occupational licenses²⁷ remain in effect while a member of the Armed Forces is on active duty and for 6 months after discharge from active duty.²⁸ Likewise, spouses of active duty members are exempt from license renewal provisions for all boards under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, if their absence from the state is because of their spouse's duties with the Armed Forces.²⁹ Similar provisions exist for paramedics and emergency medical technicians³⁰, radiologic technologists³¹, radon measurement inspectors³², water well contractors³³, health professionals under the Department of Health³⁴, surveying and mapping³⁵, funeral-related personnel³⁶, teachers³⁷, pest control operators³⁸

Nurses who are relocating to Florida because of his or her spouse's military orders and who are licensed in another state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact are issued a license by endorsement upon submission of the appropriate application, fees, and background screening.³⁹

Those veterans with a disability rating of 50% or more may have their notary public fees waived,⁴⁰ and also receive free fishing and small games licenses.⁴¹

Veterans with a 100% total and permanent service-connected disability rating may receive an identification card from the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs,⁴² are exempt from driver license fees,⁴³ and building permit fees for accessibility improvements to their dwelling are waived.

The National Guard⁴⁴ and Disabled Veteran⁴⁵ license plates are provided free of charge to those that qualify.

There are other specialty license plates, subject to a \$15 fee, such as Florida Salutes Veterans⁴⁶ U.S. Paratrooper⁴⁷, United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard,⁴⁸ Support Our Troops⁴⁹, and Marine

²⁷ § 250.4815, F.S., provides that professional licenses of any member of the National Guard or the United States Armed Forces shall not expire while the member is on federal active duty and for up to 90 days after his or her return from federal active duty.

²⁸ § 455.02(1), F.S.

²⁹ § 455.02(2), F.S.

³⁰ § 401.271, F.S.

³¹ § 468.309, F.S.

³² § 404.056, F.S.

³³ § 373.324(7), F.S.

³⁴ § 456.024, F.S.

³⁵ § 472.016, F.S.

³⁶ § 497.168, F.S.

³⁷ § 1012.585(4), F.S., provides a renewal for those involved in wartime service or military training service equal to the amount of spent in military service, upon proper application.

³⁸ § 482.111(11), F.S., only covers member on active duty and does not extend waiver of requirements to spouse.

³⁹ § 464.009(3), F.S.

⁴⁰ § 117.01(2), F.S.

⁴¹ § 379.353, F.S.

⁴² § 295.17, F.S.

⁴³ § 322.21(7), F.S.

⁴⁴ § 320.0846, F.S.

⁴⁵ § 320.084, F.S.

⁴⁶ § 320.08058(4), F.S.,

Corps⁵⁰ the proceeds of which support the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund. These fees along with voluntary contributions resulted in approximately \$1.6M for FY 08/09.

⁴⁷ § 320.0891, F.S.

⁴⁸ § 320.08058(38), F.S.

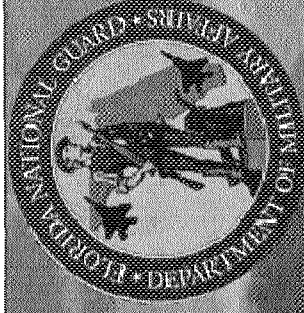
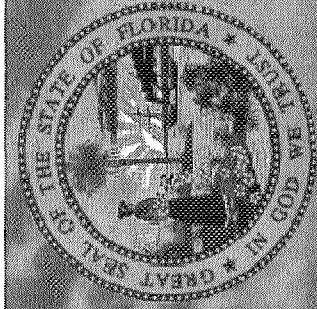
⁴⁹ § 320.08058(64), F.S., the fees collected by this plate are allocated 25% to Support Our Troops, Inc., and the remaining 75% is distributed 65% to Support Our Troops and the 35% to the State Home for Veterans Trust Fund.

⁵⁰ § 320.08058(28), F.S., the fees collected by this plate are allocated 35% to the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund and 65% to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

PROPERTY TAX PROVISIONS

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF		
Art. VII § 3(b) §196.24, F.S.	\$5,000 Disability Exemption for Ex-service member	An ex-service member disabled at least 10% in war or by service-connected misfortune may be entitled to a \$5000 exemption on any property owned by the ex-service member.
Art. VII § 3(b) §196.081, F.S.	Service Connected Total and Permanent Disability Exemption	<p>An honorably discharged veteran with service-connected total and permanent disability may qualify for total exemption of homesteaded real estate used and owned as a homestead, less any portion used for commercial purposes. An existing exemption can be transferred to a new qualifying residence. Application must be made on the new residence and all other criteria met for the continued homestead exemption. Under certain circumstances the benefit of this exemption can carry over to the surviving spouse.</p> <p>If filing for the first time, bring proof of your service connected disability: such as, a letter from the United States Veterans' Administration.</p>
Art. VII § 6(e) §196.082, F.S.	Homestead Property Tax Discount For Veterans Age 65 and Older With a Combat Related Disability	This amendment provides a property tax discount on homestead property owned by eligible veterans. To be eligible, a veteran must have an honorable discharge from military service, be at least 65 years old, be partially disabled with a permanent service connected disability all or a portion of which must be combat-related, and must have been a Florida resident at the time of entering military service.
STATUTORY PROVISIONS RELATED TO PROPERTY TAXES AND MILITARY PERSONNEL		
§ 196.061, F.S.	Rental of Homestead to Constitute Abandonment	Section 196.061 provides that rental of a dwelling previously claimed to be a homestead constitutes abandonment. However, this provision does not apply to a member of the Armed Forces whose service is a result of a mandatory obligation imposed by the Selective Service Act or who volunteers for service as a member of the Armed Forces.

§ 196.071, F.S.	Homestead exemptions; claims by members of armed forces	Every person who is entitled to homestead exemption in this state and who is serving in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, shall file a claim for such exemption as required by law, either in person, or, if by reason of such service he or she is unable to file such claim in person he or she may file such claim through his or her next of kin or through any other person he or she may duly authorize in writing to file such claim.
PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PASSED BY THE 2009 LEGISLATURE FOR THE 2010 BALLOT		
HJR 833	Additional Exemption for Military Personnel	Proposes amendment to s. 3, Art. VII & creation of s. 31, Art. XII of State Constitution to require Legislature to provide additional property tax exemption by law for members of U.S. military or its reserves, U.S. Coast Guard or its reserves, or Florida National Guard who receive homestead exemption & were deployed in previous year on active duty outside continental US, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by Legislature; base exempt amount upon number of days in previous calendar year that person was deployed on active duty outside continental US, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by Legislature; & schedule amendment to take effect January 1, 2011.



THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

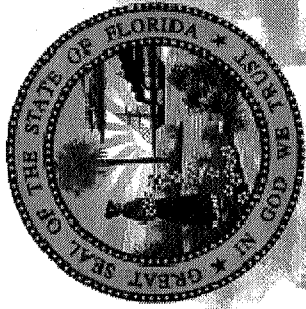
53rd Infantry Brigade Deployment Brief

*Military and Local Affairs Policy
Committee*

November 4th, 2009

MAJOR GENERAL DOUGLAS BURNETT

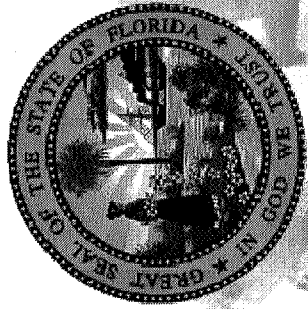
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF FLORIDA



PURPOSE

**Update Military and Local Affairs Policy
Committee on:**

- **53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployment**
- **Affect on emergency response readiness**
- **Support for Guard families**



53rd IBC T DEPLOYMENT

- 2,500 Soldiers from 53rd IBC T deploying
 - Home locations Pinellas Park, Miami, Orlando, Panama City
 - Mobilize on January 2, 2010 for 1 year
 - Deploying to Iraq and Kuwait
- 53rd IBC T role during hurricane response
 - Security
 - Quick reaction forces
 - Points of distribution
 - Transportation



HURRICANE RESPONSE

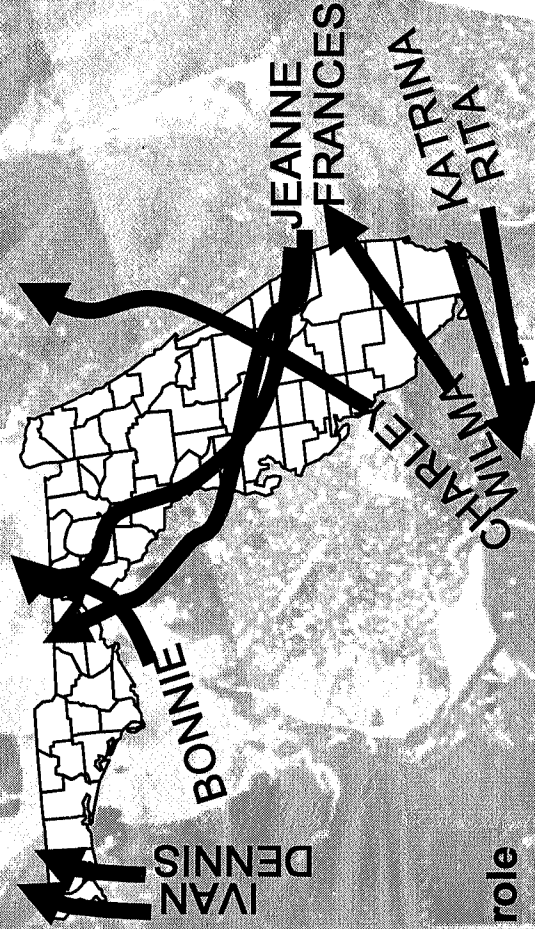
2009 Hurricane Season

- Capability much improved since demanding 2004/2005 seasons
- 53rd IBCT is available if needed
- Equipment levels significantly improved

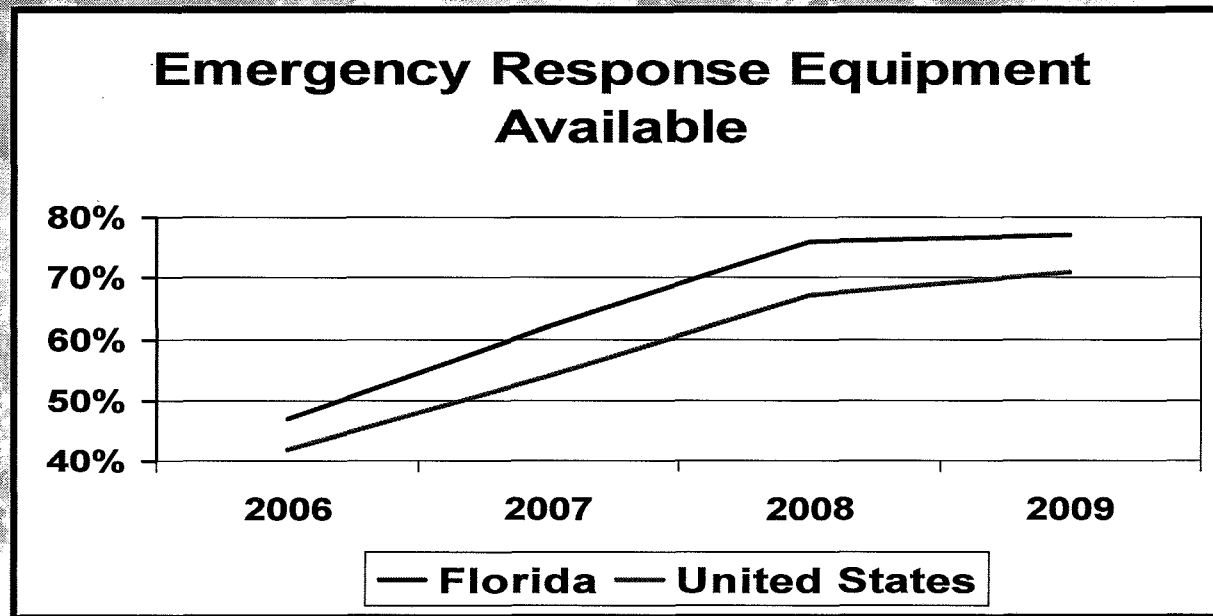
2010 Hurricane Season

- Equipment levels expected to improve even further
- 53rd IBCT overseas / 164th AD Bde assumes role
- 6,500 residual forces available in Florida
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact for additional resource requirements

9 Major Storms in 2004/2005



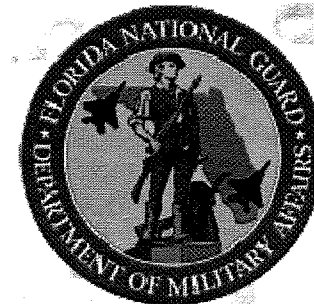
EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR 2010



- Dramatic increase from FY 06
- Trend continues to improve
- Florida is significantly better off than other States



FAMILY ASSISTANCE PLAN



Extensive Family Support Programs available to Guard Families

Department of Defense Joint Family Support Assistance

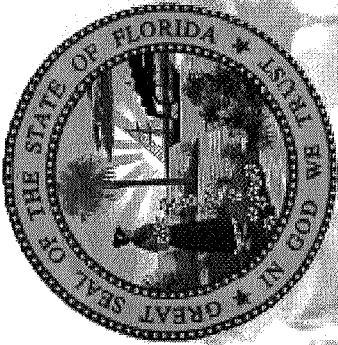
- Supports all service members, families, and military children
- Compliment of resources such as Military OneSource, American Red Cross, Operation Military Kid, and no cost/confidential counseling

National Guard Bureau Child and Youth Program

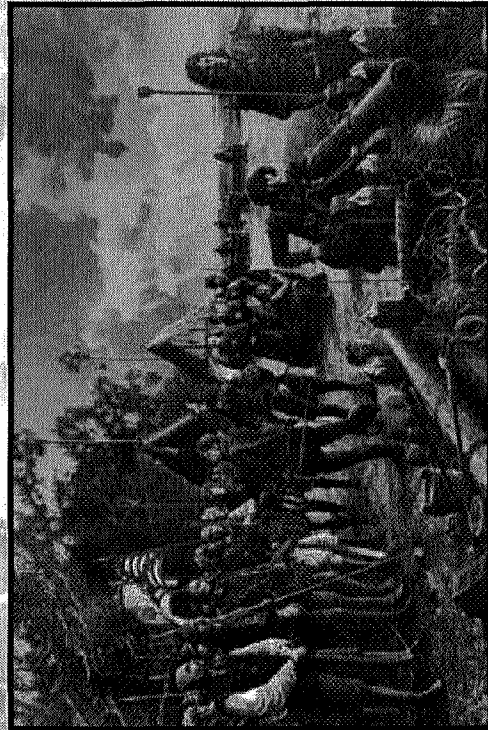
- Empowers and supports the social, emotional and academic needs of Florida National Guard children and youth
- Provides youth activities and summer camps, a Youth Advisory Council, and creates awareness statewide in schools of military children and resources to support them

Florida National Guard Family Readiness Group

- 8 Regional Family Assistance Centers throughout state
- All units establish a Family Readiness Group
- Comprised of family, friends, and community members



FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD



- A proud tradition since 1565
- Community-based
- Committed to Florida's citizens
- Answering our country's call



- A Team of Teams
- Efficient, Effective, Dependable
- Ready to Serve



Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins Jr.
U.S. Navy Reserve (Ret.)
Executive Director

House Committee on Military and Local Affairs
Representative Dorothy Hukill, Chairman
November 4, 2009



Origins of FDVA

- **Florida creates state office of Veterans' Services in 1944**
- **Florida voters approve 1988 Constitutional Amendment creating FDVA in 1989**



Training aircraft over Miami during World War II.



Veterans Facts

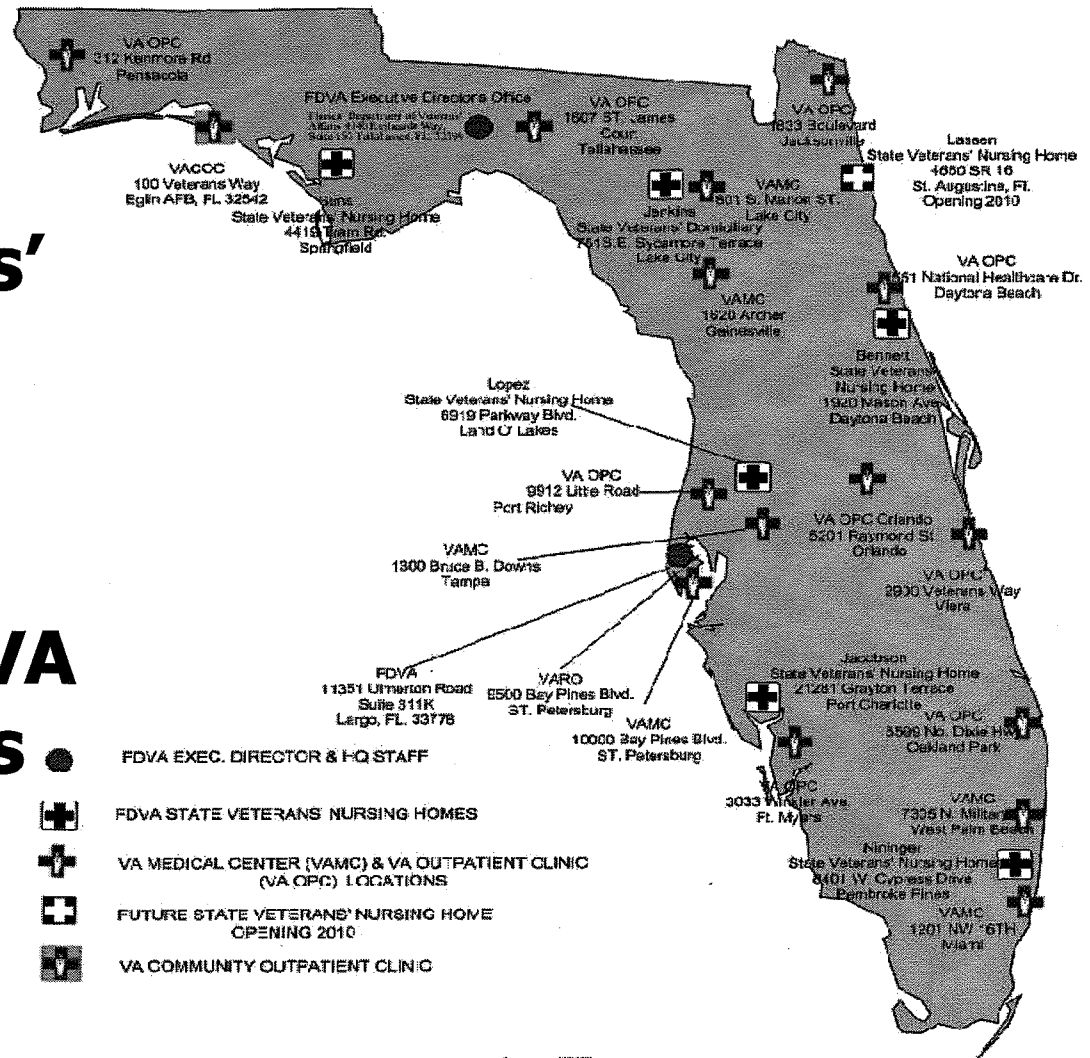
- **Second largest Veteran population:**
More than 1.7 million Floridians
- **Fastest growing Veteran population:**
Largest in nation by 2020 says census
- **Largest military retiree population:**
213,500 retirees and surviving spouses
- **174,000 OEF/OIF Veterans claim the Sunshine State as home of record**



FDVA Locations

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA)
Veterans' Assistance Locations

- 25 locations
- 6 State Veterans' Nursing Homes
- 1 Domiciliary
- 15 field offices staffed with FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners
- 3 division headquarters

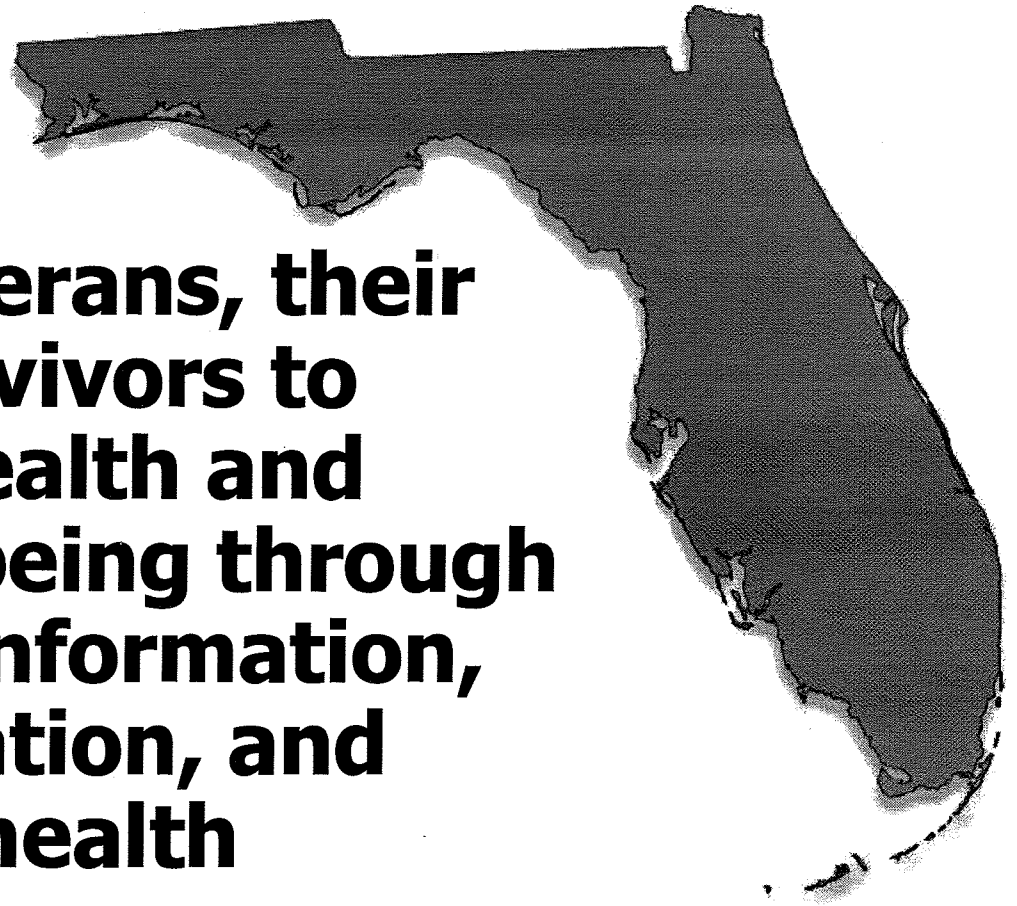


January 2009



Our Vision

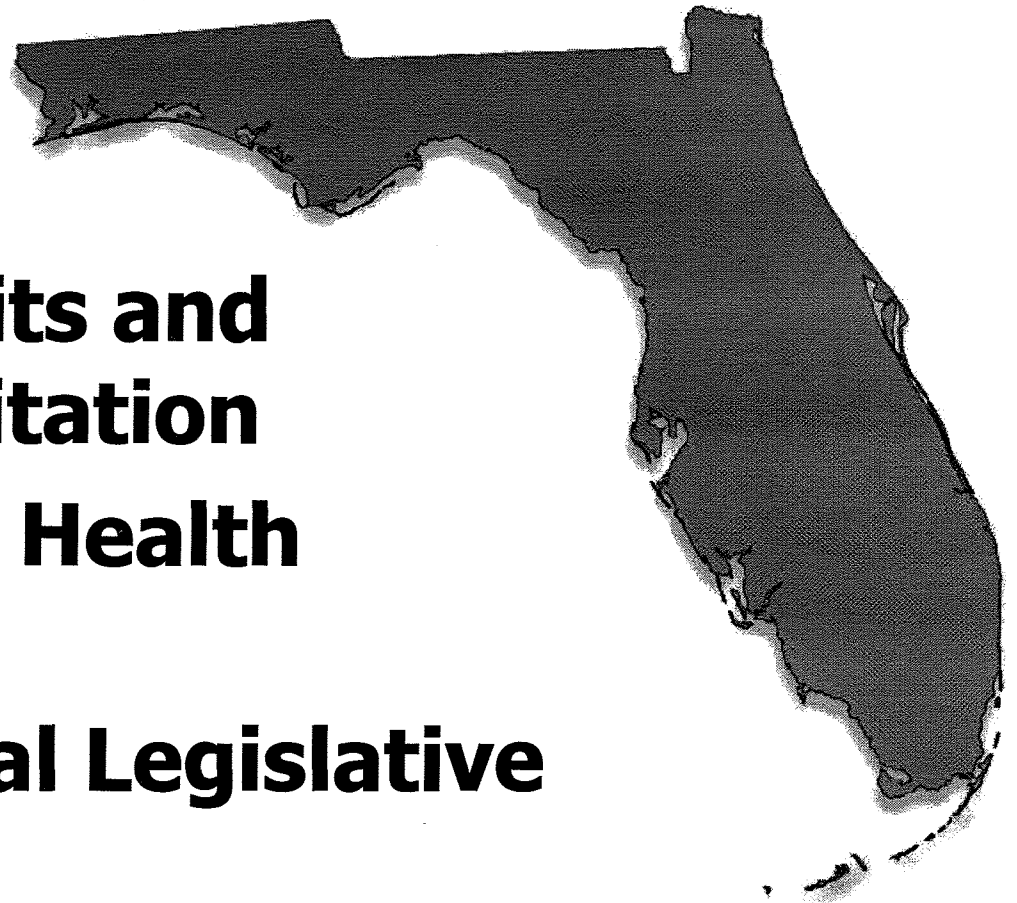
- **Help Florida veterans, their families and survivors to improve their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy, education, and long-term care health services**





How We Serve

- **Veterans' Benefits and Assistance Facilitation**
- **Long-Term Care Health Services**
- **State and Federal Legislative Advocacy**





Economic Impact

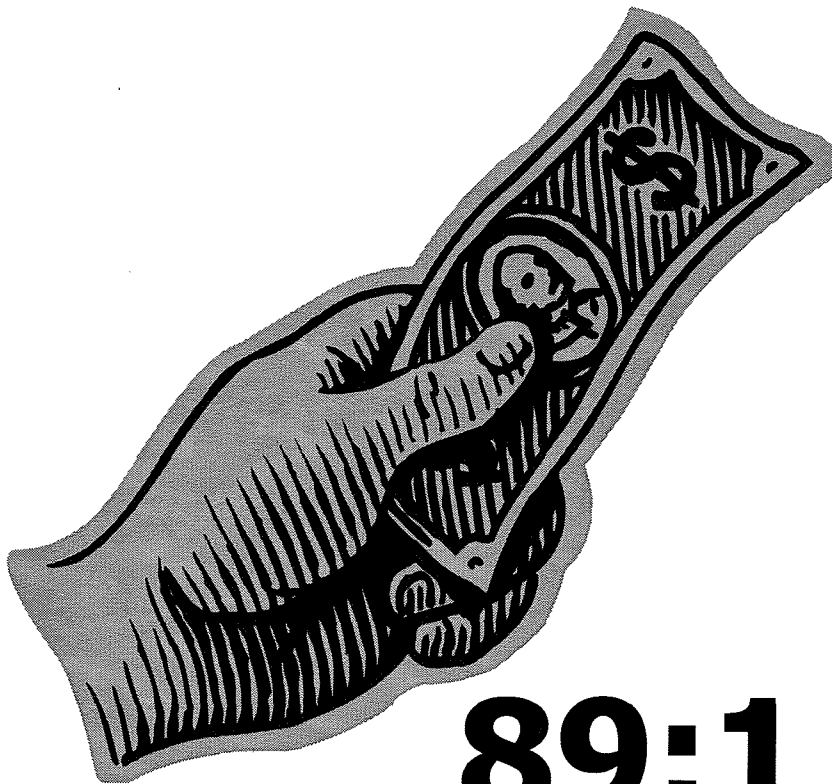
- **Veterans are a major fiscal force in Florida**
- **More than \$10 Billion Federal dollars for veterans flow annually into Florida's economy**





Return on Investment

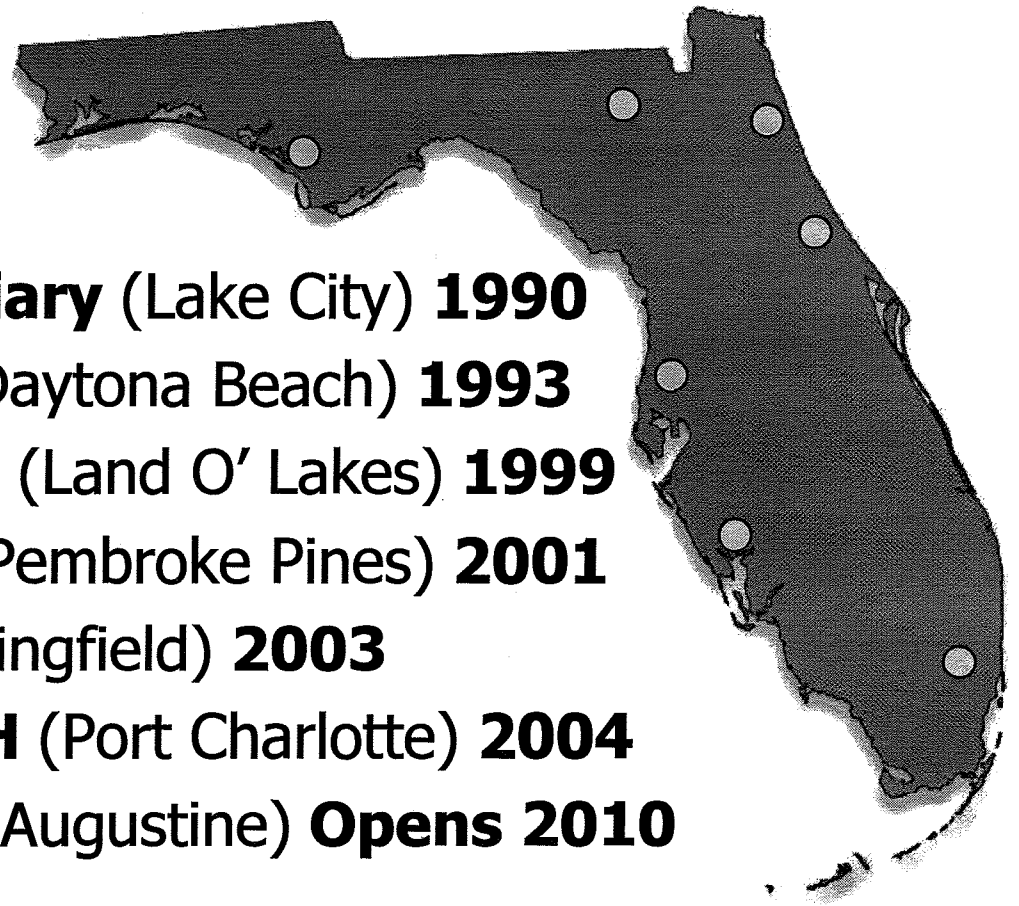
- **FDVA Benefits and Assistance Budget: \$4.5 million**
- **Money coming to Florida through VA Benefits, Retroactive Compensation, Debt Waivers and Issue Resolutions: \$342.5 million**



89:1



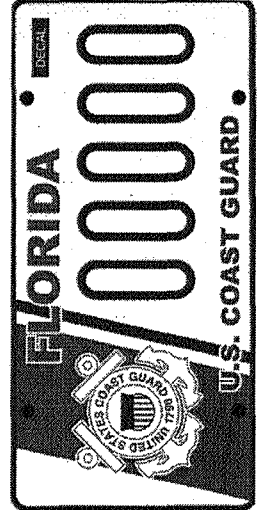
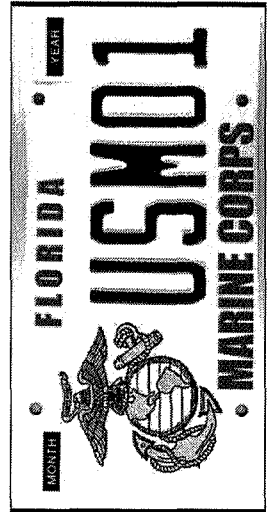
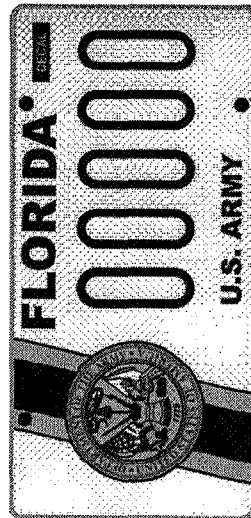
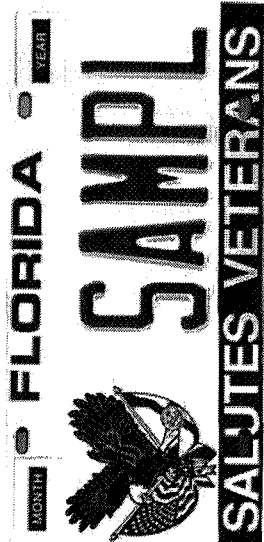
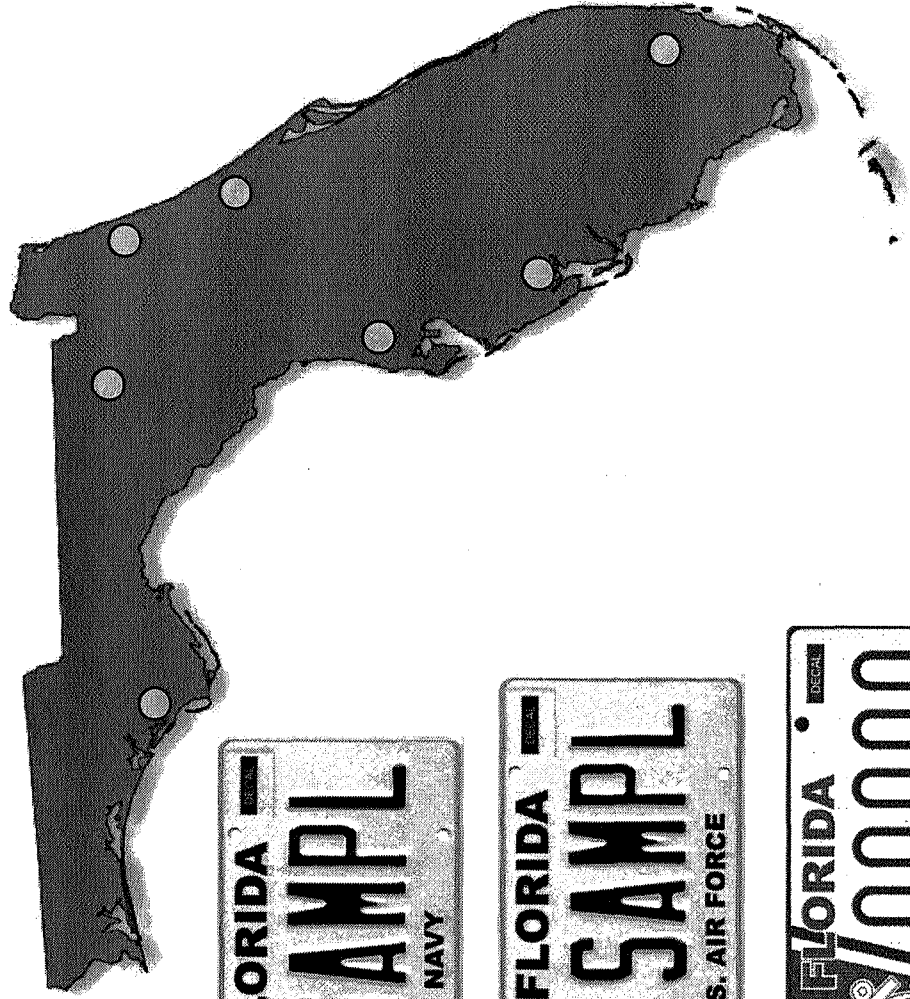
Our Veterans' Homes



- **Robert Jenkins Domiciliary** (Lake City) **1990**
- **Emory Bennett SVNH** (Daytona Beach) **1993**
- **Baldomero Lopez SVNH** (Land O' Lakes) **1999**
- **Sandy Nininger SVNH** (Pembroke Pines) **2001**
- **Clifford Sims SVNH** (Springfield) **2003**
- **Douglas Jacobson SVNH** (Port Charlotte) **2004**
- **Clyde Lassen SVNH** (St. Augustine) **Opens 2010**



Funding Our Homes





County Veteran Service Offices



- **Local assistance available through network of County Veteran Service Offices**
- **FDVA trains and certifies staff annually**
- **All services provided at no cost to veterans**



Recent Legislation

- **Sergeant 1st Class Paul R. Smith Memorial Act creates the Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc.**
- **FDVA's first non-profit direct-support organization designed to uphold agency's mission of veterans' advocacy**





Recent Legislation

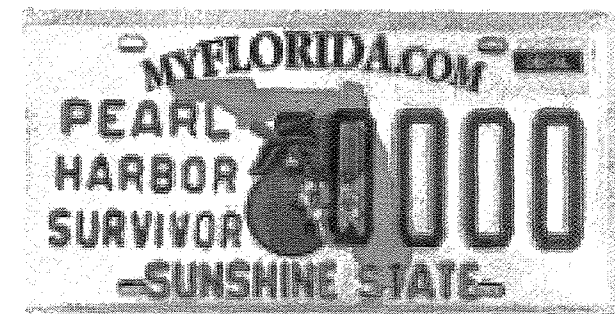
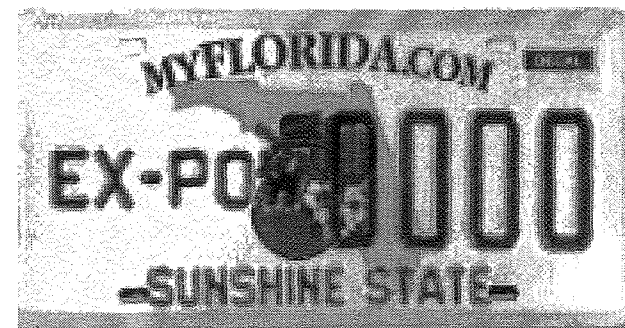
- **Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Opportunity Act**
- **Creates state contract preference for eligible service-disabled veteran owned small businesses**





Recent Legislation

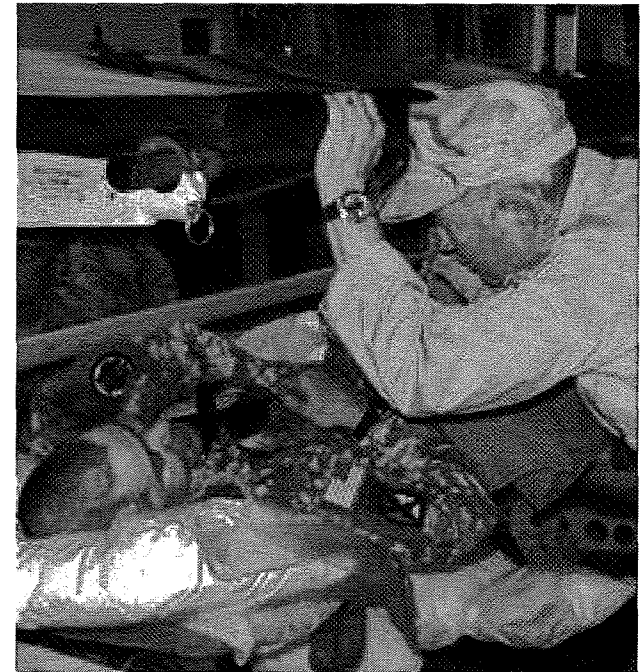
- **Increases revenue for State Veterans' Homes Trust Fund through sale of "stamped" veterans tags**
- **Provides voluntary contribution check box on vehicle registration forms**
- **No new tags, fees or taxes were created**





2009 Legislative Successes

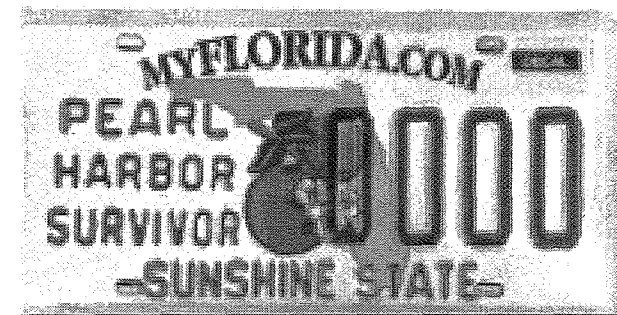
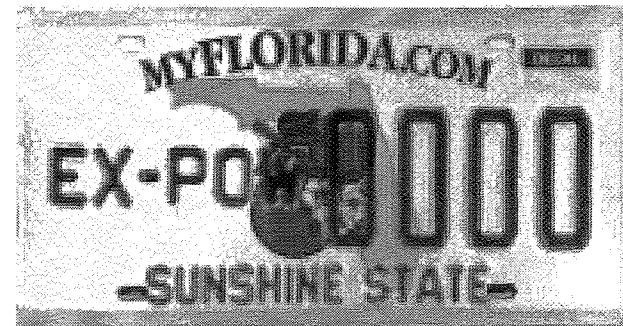
- **Building Permit Fee exemption for 100% Permanently and Totally Disabled Veterans**
- **Habitability and safety improvements to be exempt from fees not just related to wheelchair accessibility**





2009 Legislative Successes

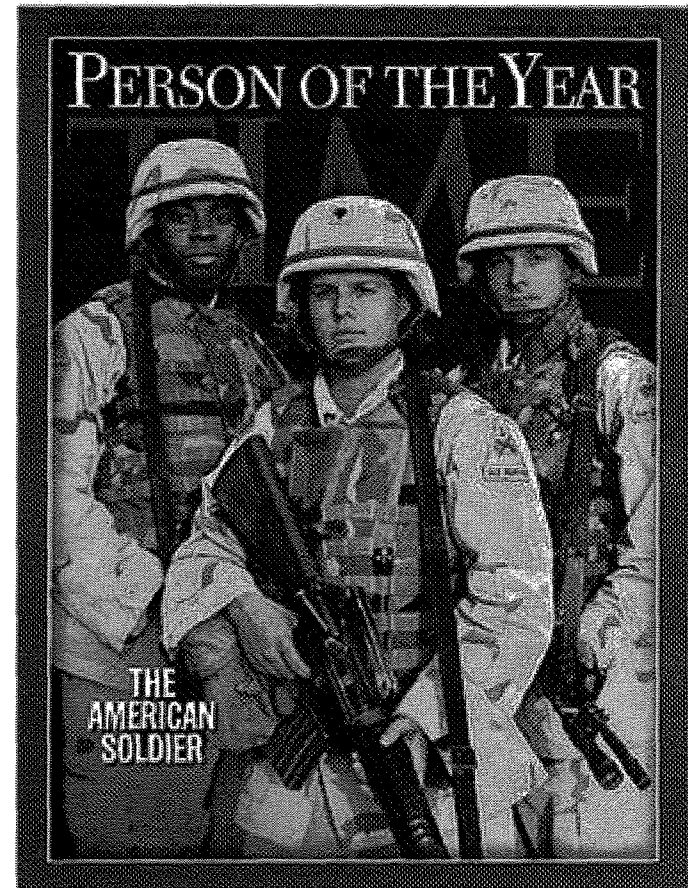
- **Military and Veteran “Stamped” Tags**
- **\$200K now deposited to State Veterans’ Homes Trust Fund from \$480K in total revenue**
- **Seeking all fees from military and veteran “stamped” tags to be deposited in Homes Trust Funds**





2009 Legislative Successes

- **GI Bill Tuition Deferrals**
- **Students using GI Bill benefits may use a deferment once a year or anytime their GI Bill payments are late**
- **Amend current Florida statute to include Chapter 33, reflecting new Post 9/11 GI Bill**





Campus Veterans Representative Program

- **Post 9/11 GI Bill took effect August 1, 2009**
- **Expecting tidal wave of Post 9/11 Veterans at Florida's colleges and universities over the next few years**
- **Campus Vet Rep assists student Veterans with accessing educational benefits and other earned state and federal benefits**

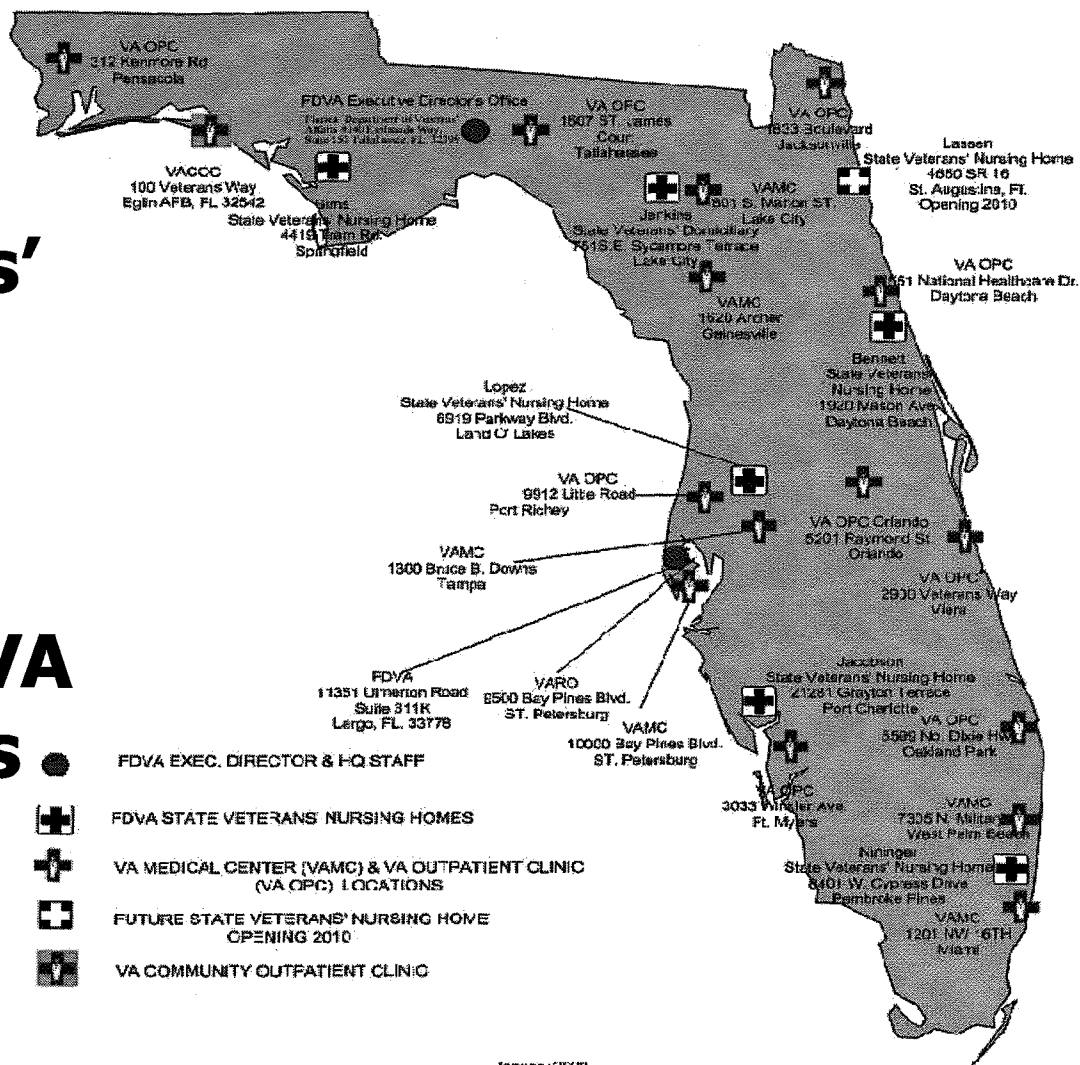




FDVA Locations

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA)
Veterans' Assistance Locations

- **25 locations**
- **6 State Veterans' Nursing Homes**
- **1 Domiciliary**
- **15 field offices staffed with FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners**
- **3 division headquarters**





Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins Jr.
U.S. Navy Reserve (Ret.)
Executive Director

1989-2009

"Twenty Years of Veterans' Advocacy"

Presentation to
Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee
on

**Florida Council on Military Base and Mission
Support**

Joe Marino, Defense Coordinator,
Governor Crist's Office of Tourism, Trade & Economic Development

November 4, 2009

Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support

Sponsored by Rep. Dave Murzin and Sen. Don Gaetz

The Council's Mission:

Support and strengthen all U.S. Department of Defense missions and bases in Florida, serve as the liaison between local communities and the Legislature, and maintain and enhance Florida's defense economy.

Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support

The council is composed of nine members.

- Three members appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom must be a member of the Senate. Of the remaining two appointees, one shall be a representative from a community-based defense support organization and one shall be a retired military general or flag rank officer or an executive officer of a defense contracting firm doing significant business in Florida.
- The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint three members to the council in similar fashion including one member of the House of Representatives.
- The remaining three council members are appointed by the Governor. These appointees shall include the director or designee of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, the vice-chairperson or designee of Enterprise Florida, Inc., and one discretionary appointee.

Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support

Members:

State Senator Thad Altman

State Representative Dave Murzin

Dr. Dale Brill, Director, Office of Tourism, Trade & Economic Development

Speaker Allan Bense, Vice-chair, Enterprise Florida or his designee

Major General Larry K. Arnold, USAF (Ret)

Brigadier General Arthur F. "Chip" Diehl III, USAF (Ret)

Mr. Tom Neubauer, President, Bay Defense Alliance

2 vacancies

November 4, 2009

Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support

Additionally:

- The Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development provides administrative support to the council.
 - First meeting is being planned in January 2010
- The Secretary or a designee of the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Transportation would be required to attend all council meetings and supply assistance and information to the council upon request.

Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support

The council would establish the following workgroups:

- **The Intrastate Activities Workgroup.** The tasks of this workgroup:
 - o Collect information regarding local communities' concerns, activities, and supporting their respective military bases;
 - o Conduct an analysis of the strengths of each military base and share that evaluation with the council and each affected community;
 - o Conduct an analysis, in partnership with the Florida Defense Alliance and local communities, of the current and any proposed changes to DoD missions, force structure, and alignment;
 - o Collect and disseminate best-practices information from and to affected communities;
 - o Ensure that all affected communities and stakeholders are informed of and invited to assist in state-level efforts relating to statewide coordination of information gathering, strategy development, and best-practice sharing; and
 - o Educate the Legislature regarding the importance of supporting the state's military bases.

Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support

The council would establish the following workgroups:

- The **Federal Activities Workgroup** is tasked with ensuring a council presence at the Pentagon and an ongoing dialogue with key Department of Defense officials;
- The **Competitive Advantages Workgroup** is tasked to research and identify best practices and strategies throughout the country with respect to other military communities in order to leverage the state's competitive advantage.
- The **Public Communications Workgroup** is tasked to increase public awareness of the presence and value of United States military installations and their missions in Florida and public investment in supporting the state's military bases.

Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support

The 20 installations and three unified combatant commands in Florida give our state a unique and vital role in our national defense. Additionally, the defense sector of Florida's economy is consistently the second or third largest driver of GSP with a \$60 billion a year impact.

It is important that the state, where it has a role, support the installations and the men and women working at them to maintain our reputation as the most military friendly state in the nation, to guard against the installations in Florida from being closed or from having their resources realigned to other states, and to ensure this sector of our economy continues to grow.

Contact

Joe Marino

Defense Coordinator

Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade & Economic Development

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850-414-1731

Joe.marino@myflorida.com