



Veterans & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Wednesday, October 9, 2013
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
12 HOB

Meeting Packet

Will Weatherford
Speaker

Ronald Renuart
Chair



The Florida House of Representatives

Veterans & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Will Weatherford
Speaker

Ronald Renuart
Chair

Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, October 9, 2013
Room 12, House Office Building
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

- I. Call to Order**

- II. Roll Call**

- III. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- IV. Presentations**
 - a. Department of Military Affairs**
 - b. Department of Veterans' Affairs**

- V. Adjournment**



THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

*Command Briefing for
House VA and Military
Subcommittee Brief*

October 09, 2013

*Major General Emmett R. Titshaw Jr.
Adjutant General of Florida*



Agenda



- **Mission and Organization**
- **Federal Role**
- **State Role**
- **Community Role**
- **Military Construction and Florida Army
Revitalization Program**
- **Economic Impact**



Our Mission



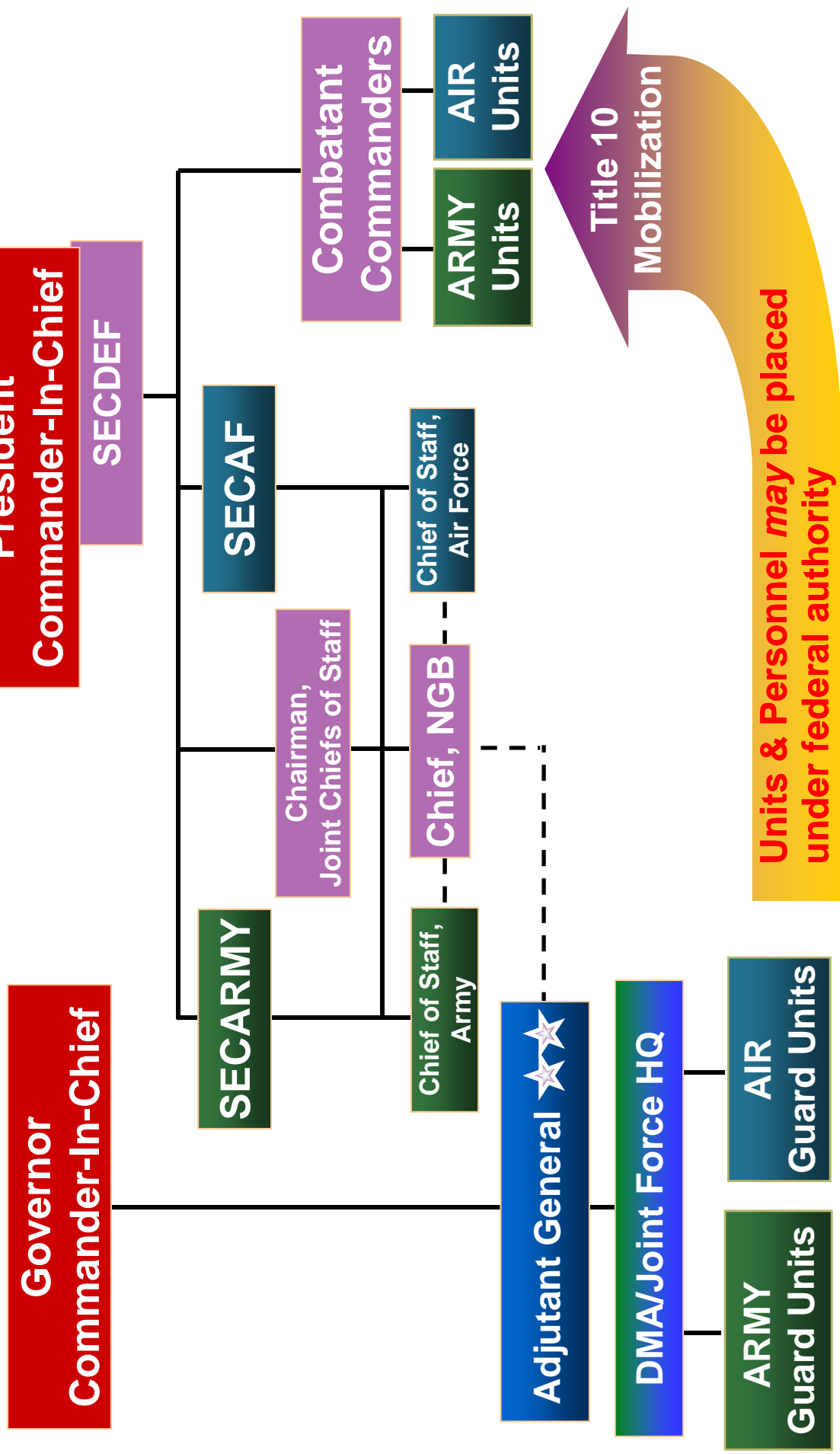
Provide highly trained units and personnel to:

- ***Support national security objectives***
- ***Respond to emergencies and disasters***
- ***Support programs which add value to our state and nation***



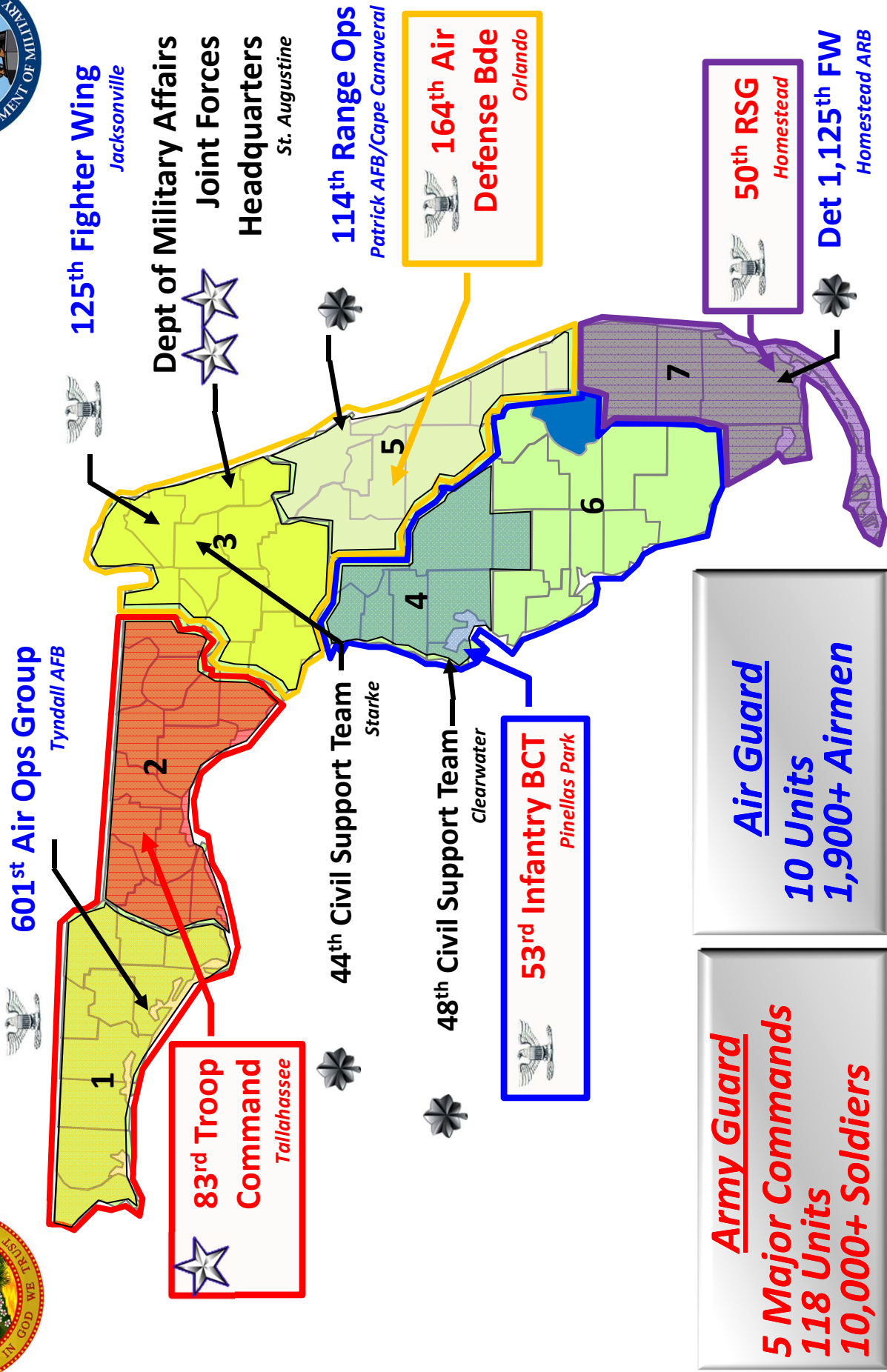
Chain of Command

Normal





Florida National Guard

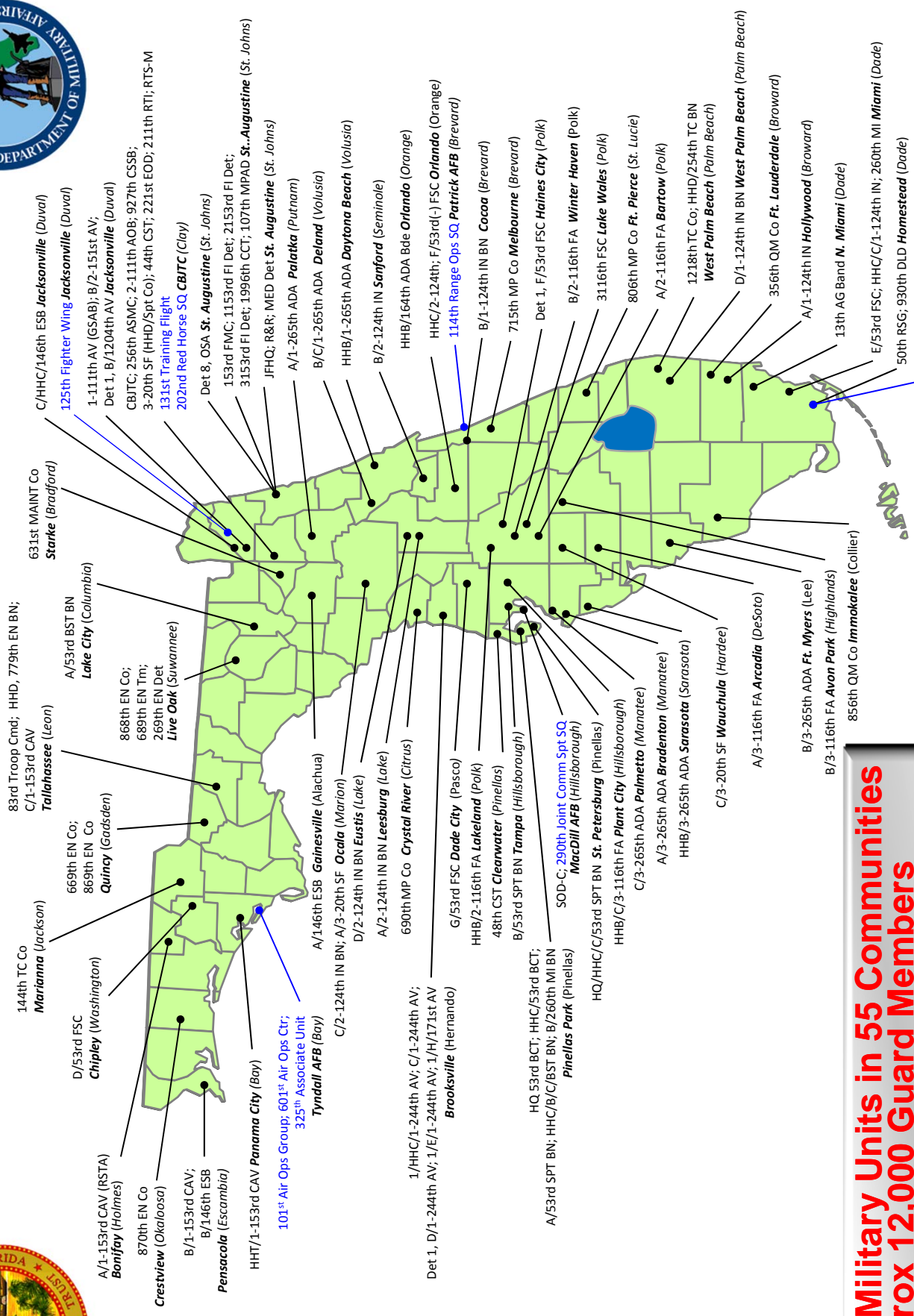


Army Guard
5 Major Commands
118 Units
10,000+ Soldiers

Air Guard
10 Units
1,900+ Airmen



Florida National Guard Units



128 Military Units in 55 Communities
Approx 12,000 Guard Members
82,000 Acres and 900+ Buildings



Federal Mission

- Iraq
- Pakistan
- Kuwait
- Qatar
- UAE
- Djibouti
- Jordan
- Turkey
- Bosnia
- Germany
- Congo
- Afghanistan
- Uzbekistan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Saudi Arabia
- Bahrain
- Yemen
- Israel
- Kenya
- Kosovo
- Cuba
- Philippines



Operation Noble Eagle

648 Florida Guard Members Currently Mobilized
Over 17,200 Florida Guard Members Mobilized Since 9/11
As of 19 SEP 13



Responding to Emergencies



1992 to 2012 - 72 Activations - 781,258 Total Work-Days



Responding to Emergencies Disaster Response Capabilities



• Currently Available and Accessible

- 8,000 Soldiers and Airmen
- 500 member quick reaction force
- Rapidly available capabilities:

Security Transportation Engineers

Liaisons Aviation * **loss of fixed wing assets**

- Emergency Management Assistance Compact



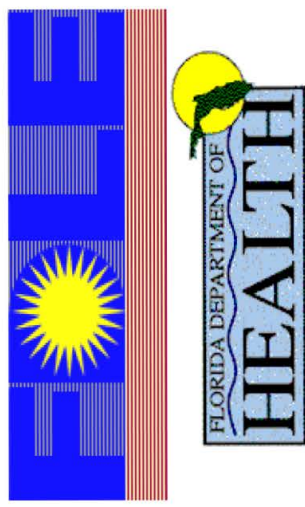
• Unparalleled Experience in Support to Civil Authorities

- Long-standing relationships with local and state authorities
- Hurricanes, storms, floods, wildfires, tornadoes, mass evacuation
- Immigration Control – Haiti, Southwest Border

1992 to 2013 - 72 Activations - 781,258 Total Work-Days

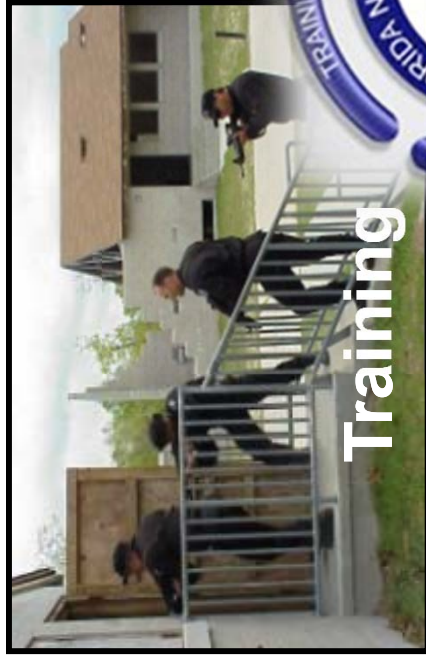


Long-Standing Joint/Interagency Relationships





Florida Counterdrug Program



Making Communities Safer



Programs that Add Value Community Role



Coalition
Development



Youth Challenge

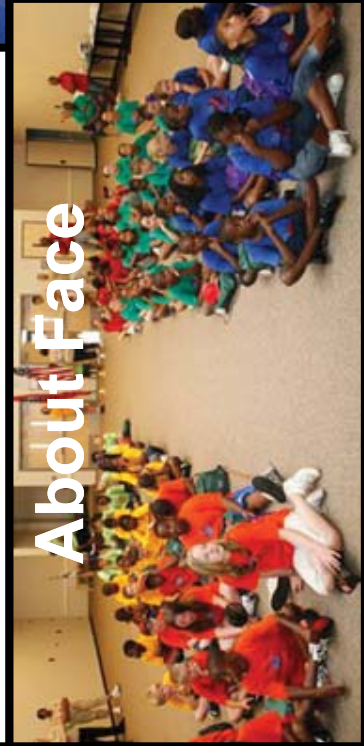


Civil
Operations



STARBASE

A Key Responsibility



About Face



Forward March



Camp Blanding Domestic Emergency Training



Vision:

A world class, full spectrum, collective, multi-agency, multi-national training complex providing realistic, real time, challenging, and immersive training scenarios aimed at emergency operations staff, decision makers and functional response teams.

Purpose:

- Provide Local, State, Regional, National and International response teams, incident command staffs, and consequence management agencies a state-of-the-art, multi-echelon training and education complex.
- Test and evaluate new emergency operations technologies, techniques, tactics and procedures and formulate emergency response doctrine.





Camp Blanding Joint Training Center



Overview

- Identified as Regional Collective Training Capability (RCTC)
- One of eleven National Guard RCTC
- “State-of-the Art” National Guard training site
- More than 150 training areas and live fire ranges
- Supported more than 353,911 training days in 2012
- Premier Unmanned Aerial System training location

Facilities

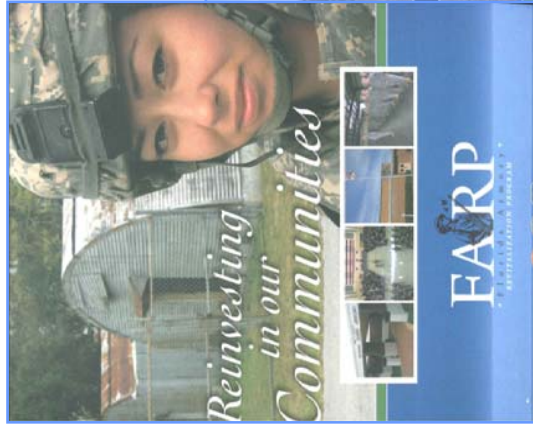
- Continuity of Government
- Continuity of Operations Site
- Joint Operations Training Facility
- World Class Regional Training Institute



“State-of-the-art” Training Location for the Nation



Florida Armory Revitalization Program



The Goal:

Jobs: Economic benefit through construction and on-going economic growth through jobs and money to support operation, administration, and training at the facilities

Savings: Delays in renovation will result in greater future cost of repairs

Duty: Safe, modern, and efficient facilities better prepare our Guard Members for their mission and fosters community partnerships



The Goal

Jobs: Armory revitalization will provide economic benefit to communities during construction. Armories provide on-going economic growth through facilities and part-time jobs and money to support operation, administration, and training at the facility.

Savings: Current condition of armories requires higher operating cost. Delays in renovation will result in greater future cost of repairs.

Duty: Offer our National Guard Soldiers and Airman safe, modern, and efficient facilities to

ARMORY RENOVATIONS

- Emergency Repairs: Replacing antennas, updating doors, and power windows.
- Public Health and Safety: Removing asbestos and upgrading electrical systems, using walkways, and repairing elevators and stairs, and updating kitchen to comply with fire codes.
- Energy Conservation: Installing energy efficient windows and upgrading heating and air conditioning.

Florida Statutory Requirements

Florida Statute 218.04
 "There shall be provided suitable buildings for housing the business of the Department of Military Affairs and for the proper storage, repair, and issuance of military property..."

Florida Statute 218.05
 "...And the expenses of the National Guard for any duty shall be paid by the State with the Federal Government, and said Federal Government property for shared sites by the respective, state and federal governments."

QUICK FACTS

- 1,000 Soldiers and 200 Civilians
- 10,000 sq. ft. of space
- 10,000 sq. ft. of space
- 10,000 sq. ft. of space

...and Future Success

The District leaders of St. Augustine expressed their local communities for more than 145 years. They have and have success. The site of the Armory of the Florida National Guard - has been a program - the Florida Armory Revitalization Program - the Florida National Guard across throughout Florida communities. They get back by providing facilities, and other case events. The Armory of the Florida National Guard is comprised of about 100 personnel, many 200 local employees, and

...and Future Success

The District leaders of St. Augustine expressed their local communities for more than 145 years. They have and have success. The site of the Armory of the Florida National Guard - has been a program - the Florida Armory Revitalization Program - the Florida National Guard across throughout Florida communities. They get back by providing facilities, and other case events. The Armory of the Florida National Guard is comprised of about 100 personnel, many 200 local employees, and

ARMORY RENOVATIONS

...and Future Success

The District leaders of St. Augustine expressed their local communities for more than 145 years. They have and have success. The site of the Armory of the Florida National Guard - has been a program - the Florida Armory Revitalization Program - the Florida National Guard across throughout Florida communities. They get back by providing facilities, and other case events. The Armory of the Florida National Guard is comprised of about 100 personnel, many 200 local employees, and





Effects of Government Shutdown on the FLARNG Maintenance Program

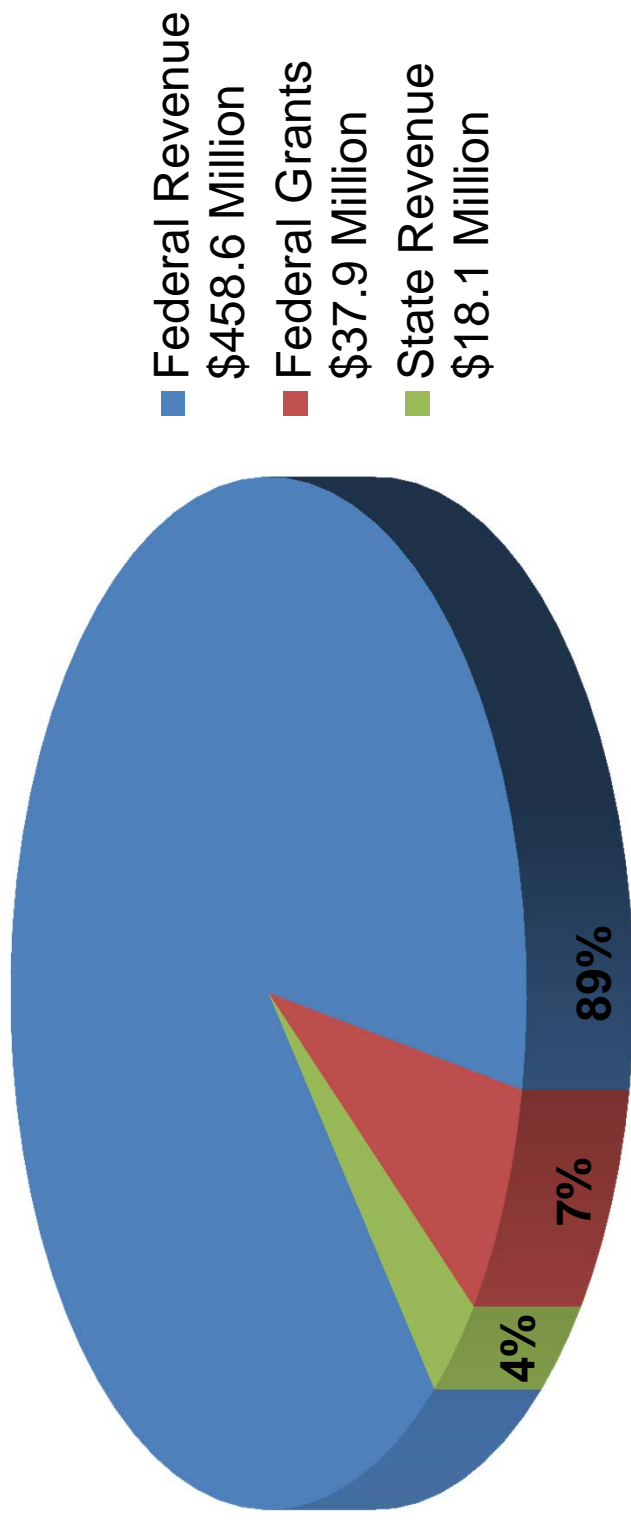


- **Maintenance**
- **State Employees**



Florida Economic Impact

Over \$514M direct federal funds brought into the state



2012 Economic Impact: \$1.17B



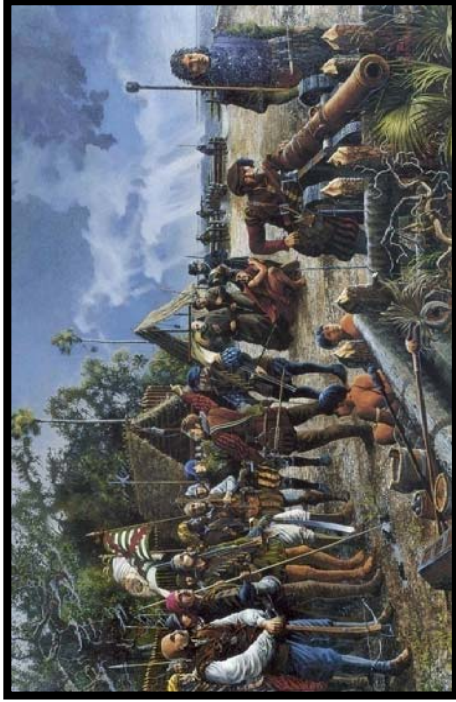
Record of Excellence

- **Counterdrug Program - “Outstanding State Drug Demand Reduction Program” (2012)**
- **Regional Training Institute 2008, 2009, & 2012 - “Institute of Excellence”**
- **125th Fighter Wing UCI 2011 - “Outstanding”/99.4% Compliance**
- **Aviation Resource Management Survey 2011 - “All Green with two Commendable”**
- **State Judge Advocate - “Legal Assistance Office of Excellence - 2011” (2nd Award)**
- **3/20th SF Support Company - “Army Award for Maintenance Excellence”**
- **114th Range Ops Sqd ORI 2009 - "Outstanding"/"USAF Outstanding Unit Award"**
- **125th Fighter Wing ORI 2009 - "Excellent"/"USAF Outstanding Unit Award"**
- **Combined Logistics Readiness Inspection 2009 - “# 1 in the Nation ”**
- **1-111th Army Air Support Facility - “Outstanding Unit 2009”**
- **Army Aviation Readiness Inspection - “1st Ever ‘Gold’ Rating”**
- **290th JCSE - “2008 USAF Outstanding Unit Award”**
- **Multiple Army Units - "Deployment Excellence Awards”**
- **202nd Red Horse Squadron ORI/UCI - “Excellent”**
- **Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment 125th FW 2010 - “Outstanding”**
- **Counterdrug Program Evaluation 2009 - “Commendable”**
- **53rd Special Troops BN - “1st Place National Defense Transportation Association Award”**





Florida National Guard Heritage to Horizons



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





HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

www.floridaguard.army.mil/news

<http://dma.myflorida.com>

www.twitter.com/flguard

www.facebook.com/floridanationalguard



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

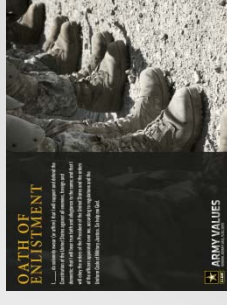
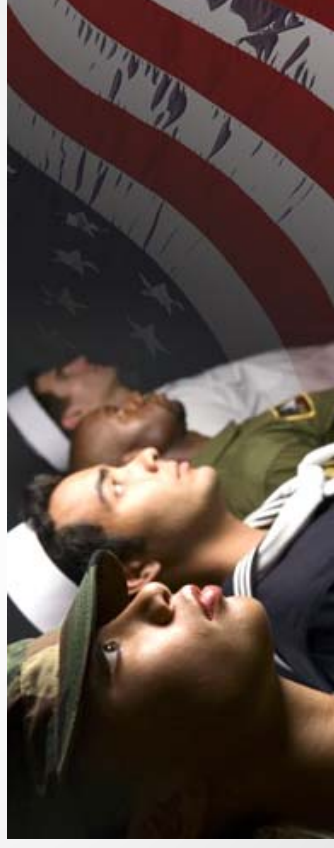
COLONEL MIKE PRENDERGAST, USA, RETIRED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

www.FloridaVets.org

02/20/2013

All-Volunteer Force

Until July 1973, the U.S. military operated under an involuntary draft policy to produce manpower to fight the country's wars. Draftees served during both world wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. **This year marked the 40th anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force.** Senior U.S. leaders say ending the draft and relying on volunteers has made the U.S. military the strongest it's ever been.



Veterans are Patriots Called to Serve

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."



**- George Washington
America's First Commander in Chief**

Agenda

- **Mission and Vision**
- **Who We Are**
- **Why We Serve**
- **Key Functions and Footprint**
- **Employees**
- **Divisions**
- **Recent Achievements**
- **Governor's Florida Families First Budget**

Agency Mission and Vision

Mission: To advocate with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support.



Vision: FDVA is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.



Who We Are

FDVA is a Cabinet Agency responsible for assisting Florida's veterans, their families and survivors in improving their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy, education and long-term health care.



Why We Serve

- Florida has the **third largest population of veterans** in the nation after California and Texas with 1.54 million veterans – 8 percent of the Sunshine State’s population.
- Florida’s **veterans are a major fiscal force** accounting for **\$13.7 billion dollars** that flow into Florida’s economy annually.

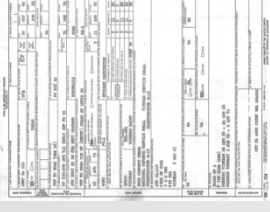
- **Florida’s veterans are a diverse group:**

- Second largest population of World War II veterans
- More than 498,000 Vietnam veterans; 1 out of 3 vets
- About 11 percent of Florida’s veterans are female

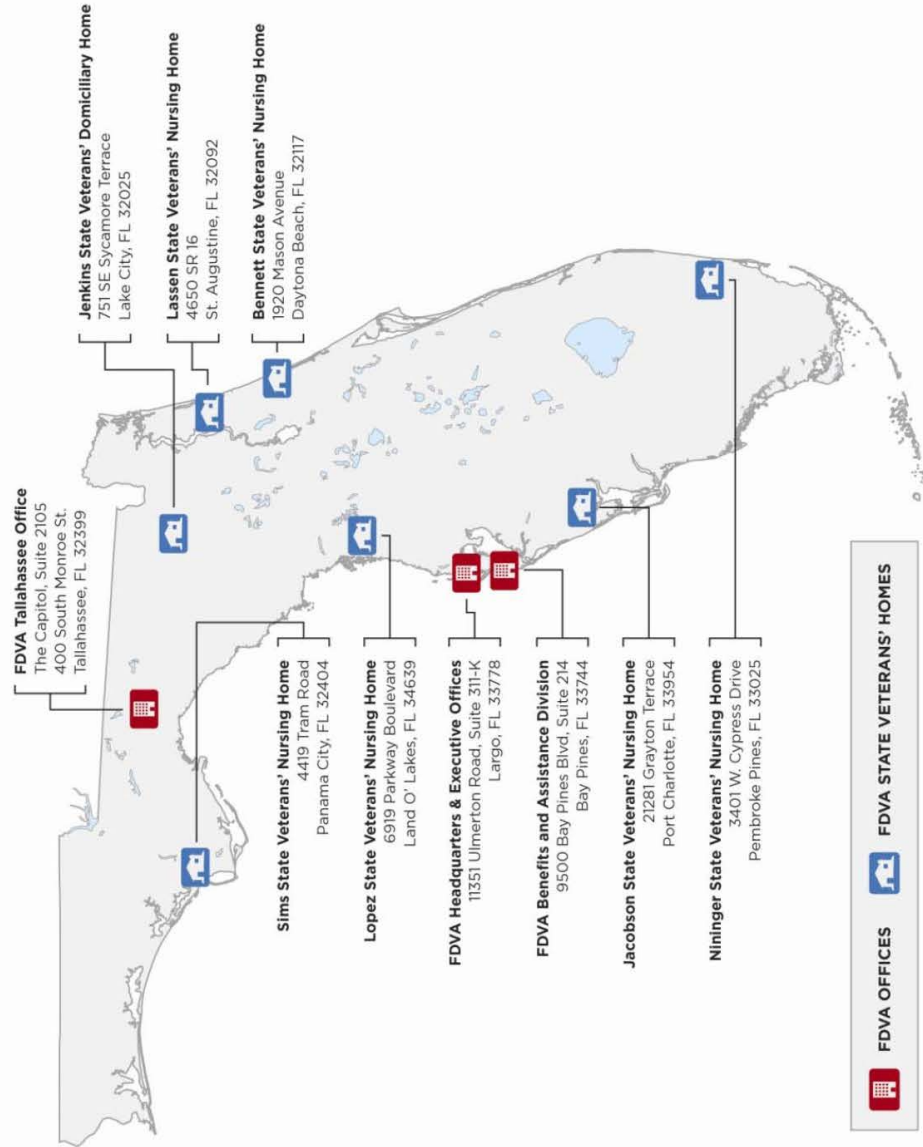
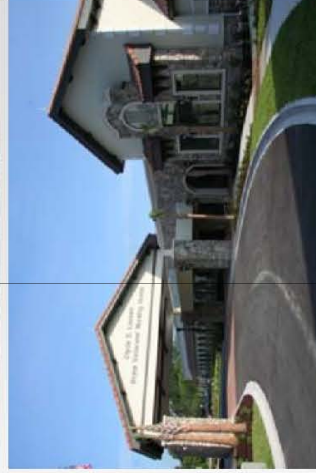


Key Functions

- **FDVA** has two primary program areas:
 - Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance.
 - State Veterans' Homes Program.
- These programs and the services they provide depend on the significant leadership and support of the Division of Executive Direction / Support Services.
- The **Executive Director** of the department is appointed by the Governor with the approval of the Cabinet and subject to confirmation by the Senate.



FDVA Footprint



Employees

For fiscal year 2012-2013, **FDVA** is authorized 1,089 employees, many of whom are veterans.



➤ **Veterans within the Agency:**

- 85 Benefits and Assistance Division
- 68 State Veterans' Homes Division
- 6 Executive Direction & Support

Division of Veterans' Benefits & Assistance

FDVA's primary responsibility is to provide assistance to all former, present and future members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their dependents in preparing claims for and securing such compensation, hospitalization, career training and other benefits or privileges to which such persons are or may become entitled to under any federal or state law or regulation by reason of their service in the military. All services provided by the Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance are without charge to the claimant. (Chapter 292, Florida Statutes)

Impact: \$13.7 billion dollars
that flow into Florida's
economy annually.



Division of State Veterans' Homes

FDVA operates six skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility.



➤ Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes in Florida include:

- An honorable discharge.
- Florida residency for one year prior to admission.
- Certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician.



Executive Direction and Support Services

- Serves as the Agency Headquarters.
- **Executive Direction and Support Services** provides effective and responsive leadership to the support divisions and all programs serving veterans.



Recent Achievements

- Veterans Court
- Purple Heart Day
- Early course registration
- College credit for military training
- Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Council
- Business license fee waivers
- Specialty license plates
- Outreach & Branding campaign

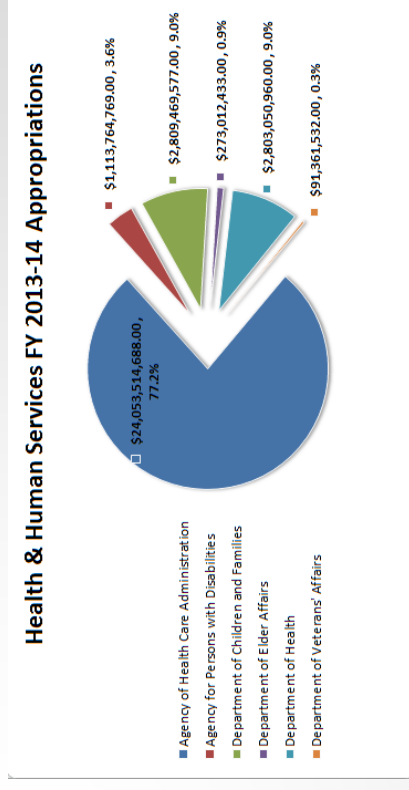


Return on Investment

- **ROI for FY 2012-13: \$141:\$1**
 - VA Benefits: \$356,479,958 (\$234,700,546 by FDVA; \$121,779,412 by County Veteran Service Offices)
 - Retroactive Compensation: \$171,354,815
 - Debt Waiver: \$462,377, 43 Waivers issued
 - Issue Resolution: \$42,075,260

Total: \$570,372,410

- ❖ Every federal dollar that **FDVA** B&A staff garners from advocacy on behalf of Florida's veterans is a dollar added to Florida's economy. Every health care or educational dollar provided by the federal VA **potentially** frees a state dollar that can be used to assist other citizens.



Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Funerals & Burials**
 - **HB 15, SB 118**
 - **First degree misdemeanor to knowingly engage in protest activities within 500 feet of property line one hour before and after funeral or burial**
 - **Signed into law by Governor on 4/10/13**
 - **Effective October 1, 2013**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Department of Health Licensure Fee Exemptions for Military Veterans**
 - **HB 115, SB 160**
 - **Department of Health to waive licensing fees associated with obtaining initial license of a profession within DOH jurisdiction within 24 months of honorable discharge**
 - **Certifications in 30 fields & professions affected**
 - **Signed into law by Governor on 6/7/13**
 - **Effective July 1, 2013**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**
 - **HB 9019, SB 334**
 - **Recognizes March 30 as the official annual state observance of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day**
 - **Governor has not received this bill**
 - **Effective March 30, 2014**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Purple Heart State**
 - HB 9081, SB 900
 - Designates the State of Florida as a Purple Heart State to honor the sacrifices of those in uniform who were killed or wounded by the enemy
- **Recognizing Vietnam Veterans**
 - HB 9025
 - Honors commitment and sacrifice of Florida's Vietnam Veterans

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Disposition of Human Remains**
 - **HB 171, SB 370**
 - **Simplifies the process of identifying the remains of indigent veterans**
 - **Facilitates transfer and final interment of unclaimed veterans to a National Cemetery**
 - **Signed into law by Governor on 6/7/13**
 - **Effective July 1, 2013**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Commercial Fishing Licenses for Veterans**
 - **HB 333, SB 448**
 - **Exempts certain veterans & active duty service members from possessing hunting or fishing licenses for activities that assist with rehabilitation**
 - **Helps veterans become commercial fishermen**
 - **Signed into law by the Governor on 6/14/13.**
 - **Effective July 1, 2013**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Veterans' Organizations**
 - **HB 1077, SB 390**
 - **Forbids an entity from advertising or representing itself as a veterans' organization unless it is an actual veterans' organization as defined in the bill**
 - **Violation of Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act**
 - **Expands prohibitions of non-veterans soliciting funds for veterans**
 - **Signed into law by Governor on 6/7/13**
 - **Effective July 1, 2013**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items passed during 2013 Legislative Session

- **SB 1830 -- The bill broadens the ad valorem tax discount provided to qualified disabled veterans 65 and older to include veterans who were not Florida residents at the time of entering military service. (Amendment 2 on the 2012 ballot) Signed into law 5/30/13.**
- **HB 7143 -- The bill reauthorizes the public records and public meeting exemptions for donors to direct-support organizations for the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. Signed into law 5/30/13.**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items that did **not** pass during 2013 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Resident Status for Tuition Purposes**
- **Relating to Veteran Preference in State Purchasing**
- **Relating to Transportation Facility Designations**

2013-2014 Budget Items Approved

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

- **State Veterans' Homes Program**
 - Florida currently has six state veterans' homes and one veterans' assisted living facility
 - Approval for comprehensive study to assess need for additional veterans' nursing homes
 - Purchase of four new vehicles to transport veterans with disabilities
- **Division of Benefits and Assistance**
 - Approval for 13 additional Veteran Claims Examiners, Supervisors & Support Staff



A Promise Kept

**“To care for him who shall have borne
the battle and for his widow and his
orphan...”**



***- President Lincoln from
Second Inaugural Address***

Summary

A **veteran** is a person who, at some point in his or her life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and including their life. We humbly embrace our mission of advocating with purpose and passion for **Florida's veterans** as an expression of our thanks for their selfless service and sacrifice.



The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

COLONEL MIKE PRENDERGAST, USA, RETIRED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
www.FloridaVets.org