



Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Meeting Packet

**Tuesday, January 20, 2015
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
12 HOB**

**Steve Crisafulli
Speaker**

**Jimmie Smith
Chair**



The Florida House of Representatives

Veteran & Military Affairs Subcommittee

Steve Crisafulli
Speaker

Jimmie Smith
Chair

Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, January 20, 2015
Room 12, House Office Building
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- IV. Member and Staff Introductions**
- V. Presentations**
 - a. Florida Department of Military Affairs – Agency Overview**
 - b. Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs – Agency Overview/Florida GI Bill Implementation Update**
 - c. Florida Defense Support Task Force**
- VI. Adjournment**



THE FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

*House Veteran & Military Affairs
Subcommittee Briefing*

January 20, 2015

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



Agenda



- **Mission and Organization**
- **Federal Role**
- **State Role**
- **Community Role**
- **Initiatives**



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***



Florida National Guard Goals

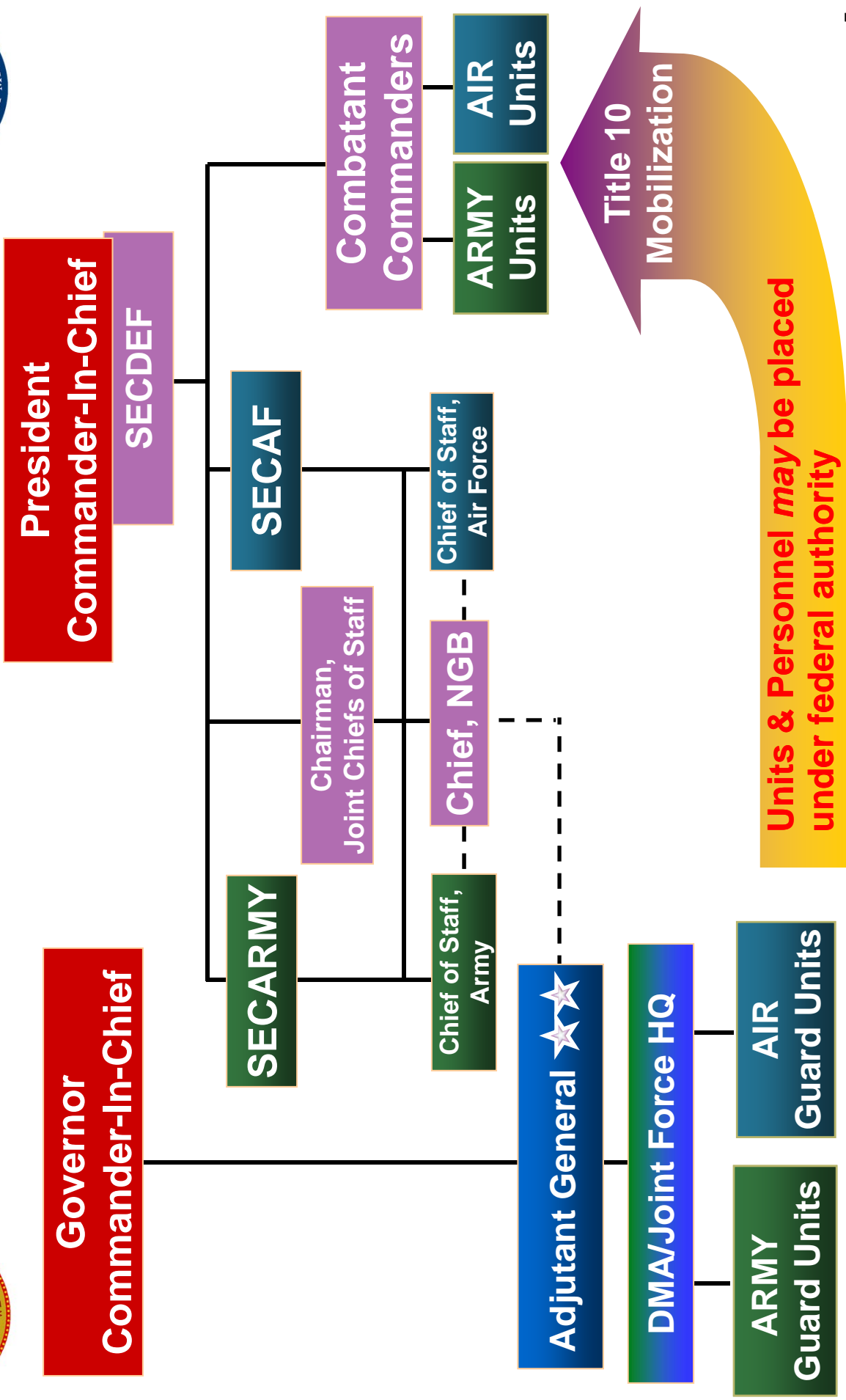


- Goal 1: Military Readiness - Provide military organizations that are trained and ready to meet the needs of national, state and local authorities.
- Goal 2: Military Response - Provide military organizations that are trained and equipped to protect life and property and preserve peace, order, and public safety to Florida citizens.
- Goal 3: Drug Interdiction and Prevention - Provide Guard-unique assistance to law enforcement agencies and community based organizations to counter illegal drug use.
- Goal 4: Assistance to Floridians at Risk - Provide training assistance to those at risk via About Face, Forward March, Starbase and Youth Challenge Programs.
- Goal 5: Federal/State Cooperative Agreements - Process federal funds in strict compliance with applicable regulations and guidelines.
- Goal 6: Executive Direction and Support Services - Provide effective executive direction and support services.



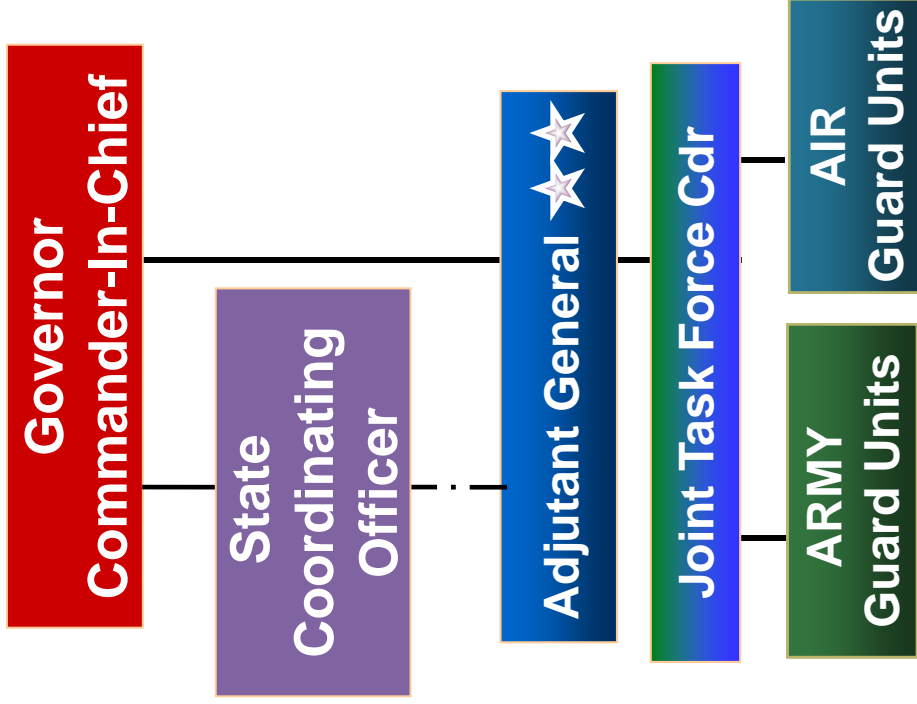
Chain of Command

Normal





Chain of Command Emergency



- *Florida Statute § 250.06*
- As the Commander of the Guard, the Governor:
 - Declares an emergency through an Executive Order
 - Designates the “State Coordinating Officer”
 - Orders the Guard to State Active Duty for emergency aid
 - Initiates Emergency Management Assistance Compact with other Governors as required



Camp Blanding Joint Training Center



Overview

- Identified as Regional Collective Training Capability (RCTC)
- One of eleven National Guard RCTC (27 in the total Army)
- “State-of-the Art” National Guard training site
- More than 150 training areas and live fire ranges
- Open on average 322 days a year for training
- 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



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

56 Florida Guard Members Currently Mobilized
Over 17,300 Florida Guard Members Mobilized Since 9/11



Responding to Emergencies



1992 to 2013- 78 Activations - 786,717 Total Work-Days



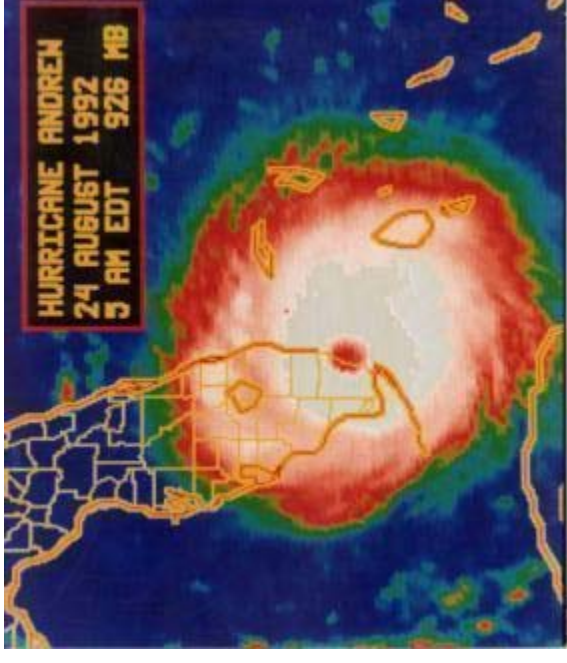
Responding to Emergencies

Disaster Response Capabilities



- **Currently Available and Accessible**
 - Est. 9,000 Soldiers and Airmen
 - 500 member quick reaction force capable of:

Security	Transportation	Engineers
Aviation	Humanitarian	Liaisons
Fire Fighting	Search & Rescue	Evacuation
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



Full Spectrum Domestic Preparedness



Florida Counterdrug Program



Training



Civil Operations & Coalition Development



Military Unique Capabilities



Supply Reduction

Making Communities Safer



Programs that Add Value Community Role



Coalition
Development



Youth Challenge



Civil Operations

A Key Responsibility



About Face



STARBASE



Forward March



Florida National Guard Heritage to Horizons



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





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

COLONEL MIKE PRENDERGAST, USA, RETIRED
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

www.FloridaVets.org

01/20/2015

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**
- **2014 Session Veteran Legislation**

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 1.52 million veterans – 8 percent of the Sunshine State’s population.
- Florida’s **veterans are a major fiscal force** accounting for **\$15.7 billion dollars** that flow into Florida’s economy annually.

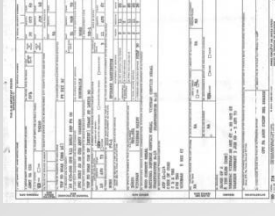
➤ Florida’s veterans are a diverse group:

- Second largest population of World War II veterans
- More than 490,000 Vietnam veterans; 1 out of 3 vets
- About 11 percent of Florida’s veterans are female

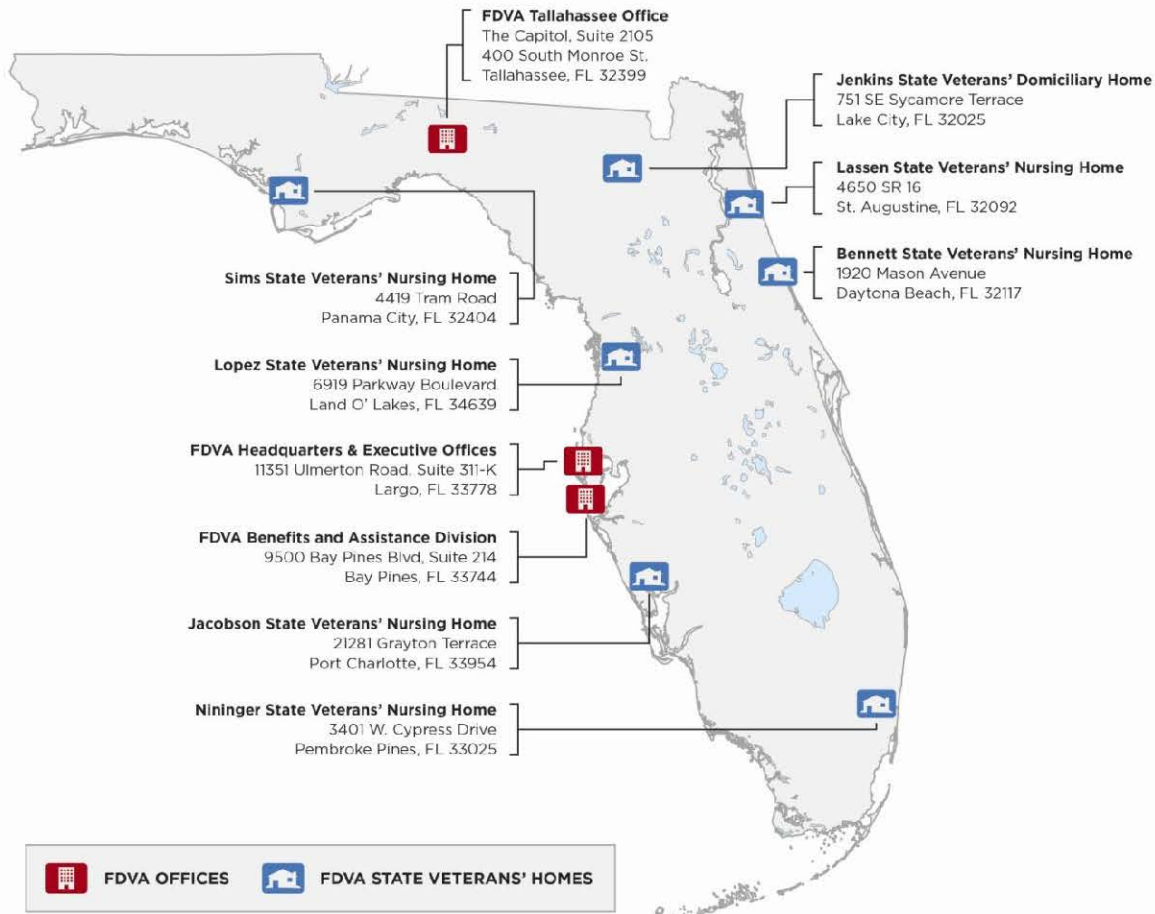


Key Functions

- **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 2013-2014, **FDVA** is authorized 1104.5 employees, many of whom are veterans.

➤ **Veterans within the Agency:**

- 80 Benefits and Assistance Division
- 71 State Veterans' Homes Division
- 14 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: \$15.7 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 at time of 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.



Return on Investment

➤ ROI for FY 2013-14: **\$128:\$1**

- VA Benefits: \$366,665,019 (\$249,004,918 by FDVA; \$117,330,101 by County Veteran Service Offices)
- Retroactive Compensation: \$174,022,538
- Debt Waiver: \$332,788 Waivers issued
- Issue Resolution: \$56,445,394

Total: \$597,135,739

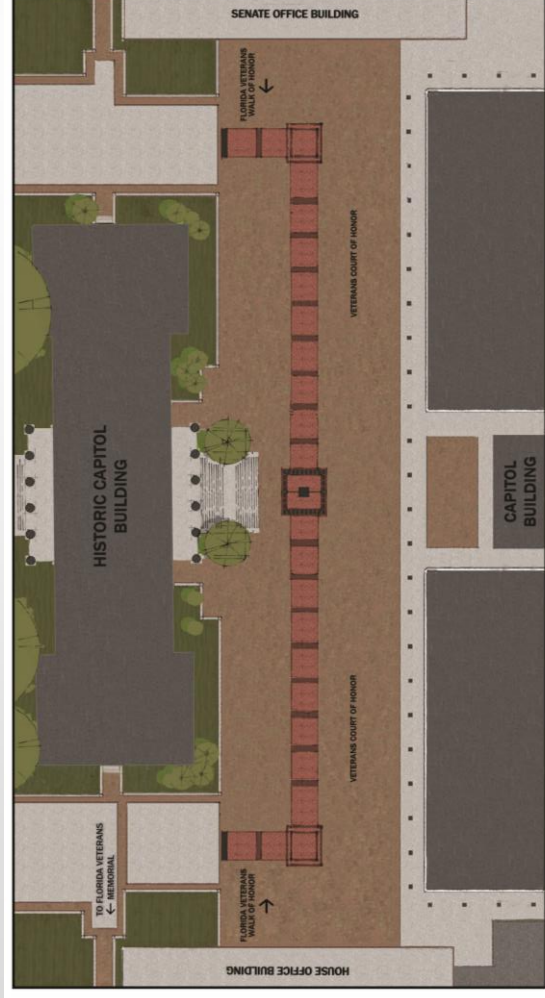
- ❖ Every federal dollar that **FDVA** B&A staff garners from advocacy on behalf of Florida's veterans is a dollar added to Florida's economy. Every health care or educational dollar provided by the federal VA **potentially** frees a state dollar that can be used to assist other citizens.

Recent Achievements

- The Florida GI Bill
- Redesign of Florida's Veteran License Plates
- Construction of the 7th State Veteran Nursing Home

Florida GI Bill Update

- Authorizes the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor and Memorial Gardens
 - Brick laying ceremony was held on November 12.
 - The Florida Veterans Foundation is now taking orders for bricks.



FDVA FLORIDA VETERANS WALK OF HONOR
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS | FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC.



Florida GI Bill Update



FLORIDA VETERANS MEMORIAL
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Florida GI Bill Update

- Expands Florida's veterans' preference in state employment to include all veterans.
 - In effect. Interim guidance issued by DMS, awaiting rule development.
- Grants out-of-state tuition waivers to student veterans.
 - In effect.
- Removes one-year residency for State Veteran Nursing Homes
 - Rule was certified on June 19, 2014.
- Allows military experience to count towards certain professional licenses
 - In effect.

Florida GI Bill Update

- **Allows for military spouses/dependents to keep their state of residence driver licenses while stationed in Florida.**
 - **In effect.**
- **Automatically extends military spouse/dependent driver licenses while stationed outside of Florida.**
 - **In effect.**
- **Streamlines the application process for military physicians to receive Florida healthcare practitioner's license.**
 - **37 licenses have been issued through the VALOR program.**
 - **On average, the applications are being approved within 2 days.**

Florida GI Bill Update

- **Extends the time frame for veterans to get professional license fee waivers from Departments of Health and Business and Professional Regulation to 60 months (5 Years) after discharge.**
- **DOH: \$49,909 in fees waived for 396 applications.**
 - 297 applications were for military veterans totaling \$35,377 in waived fees.
 - 99 applications were for military spouses totaling \$14,532 in waived fees.
- **DBPR: \$39,069 in fees waived for 336 applications.**
 - 26 applications were for military spouses
 - 310 applications were for military veterans totaling \$49,069 in waived fees.
- **Military Exemption Status:** 413 licenses currently exempted

Florida GI Bill Update

- **Expands the Florida National Guard education program.**
 - **Expanded to now include tuition, books, and fees.**
- **Funds Florida National Guard Armory Renovations**
 - **Five armories are being renovated: Arcadia, Cecil Field, Camp Blanding (2), and Orlando**

Florida GI Bill Update

- **Creates a non-profit corporation to attract veterans to Florida, assist veterans with finding employments, and offer training grants to business who hire veterans: Florida is for Veterans, Inc.**
 - **Nine board members have been appointed.**
 - **First board meeting was held on October 20, 2014.**
 - **Four board meetings have been held.**
 - **TMG Government was selected by board members for strategic planning.**
 - **Executive Director has been selected.**
- **Funds Military Base Protection land purchases.**


Florida GI Bill

HB 7015

- **Numerous Veterans Provisions passed on March 11th, 2014**
- **Expands Florida's veterans' preference in state employment to include all veterans.**
- **Grants out-of-state tuition waivers to student veterans.**
- **Removes one-year residency for State Veteran Nursing Homes**
- **Authorizes the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor and Memorial Gardens**
- **Allows military experience to count towards certain professional licenses**
- **Extends the time frame for veterans to get professional license fee waivers from Departments of Health and Business and Professional Regulation**

Florida GI Bill Continued

HB 7015

- **Allows for military spouses/dependents to keep their state of residence driver licenses while stationed in Florida.**
- **Automatically extends military spouse/dependent driver licenses while stationed outside of Florida.**
- **Streamlines the application process for military physicians to volunteer their services at community clinics.**
- **Creates a non-profit corporation to attract veterans to Florida, assist veterans with finding employment, and offer training grants to business who hire veterans. Also creates a veterans entrepreneurship program at a Florida University.**
- **Expands the Florida National Guard education program.**
- **Funds Florida National Guard Armory Renovations**
- **Funds Military Base Protection land purchases. **

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items during the 2014 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Military Veterans**
 - **HB 559; SB 724**
 - **Revises Florida Statutes references from Korean Conflict and Vietnam Era to Korean War and Vietnam War, respectively.**
 - **Creates the Combat Medical Badge license plate for recipients of the Army's Combat Medical Badge.**
 - **Revises other military plates to include a picture of the medal or badge.**
 - **Effective July 1, 2014**
 - **HB 559 passed by the house**
 - **Signed by the Governor on 6/12/14.**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items during the 2014 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Engineers**
 - **HB 713; SB 692**
 - **Allows military servicemembers an additional two attempts at the Professional Engineer Exam before requiring additional college courses.**
 - **Effective July 1, 2014**
 - **HB 713: Passed House on 4/11/14.**
 - **SB 692: Passed House on 4/24/14.**
 - **Signed by the Governor on 6/13/14.**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items during the 2014 Legislative Session

- **POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial**
 - SB 608; HB 731
 - Establishes the POW-MIA Chair of Honor Memorial at the Florida State Capitol.
 - Effective on becoming law.
 - **SB 608: On Special Order Calendar 4/23/14.**
 - **HB 731: Passed Senate on 4/24/14, Passed House on 5/2/14.**
 - **Signed by the Governor on 6/13/14.**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items during the 2014 Legislative Session

- **Purple Heart Tuition Waivers for Technical Centers**
 - HB 851; SB 1400
 - Grant tuition waivers to State Technical Centers for recipients of the Purple Heart or other combat decorations superior in precedence.
 - Effective July 1, 2014
 - **HB 851: Passed by the House, Passed by the Senate, Final Passage 5/2/14.**
 - **Signed by the Governor on 6/9/14.**

Veteran-Related Legislation

Items during the 2014 Legislative Session

- **Relating to the Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles**
 - HB 7005
 - Creates a special use license plate stamped with the word “Veteran”.
 - Available to any veteran with proof of service
 - Normal plate fees apply, all proceeds go to Florida’s Veteran Nursing Homes.
 - Effective July 1, 2014
 - **Passed by the 5/2/14.**
 - **Signed by the Governor 6/20/14.**

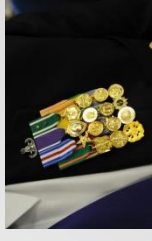
Veteran-Related Legislation

Items during the 2014 Legislative Session

- **Relating to Gas Stations**
 - HB 185; SB 1184; HB 7005
 - Requires self-service gas stations to display the telephone numbers of the station on the pump for disabled persons to call for assistance.
 - Effective July 1, 2014
 - **HB 7005, passed 5/2/14.**
 - **Signed by the Governor on 6/20/14.**

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



Florida Defense Support Task Force

Briefing to House Veteran and
Military Affairs Subcommittee
January 20, 2015

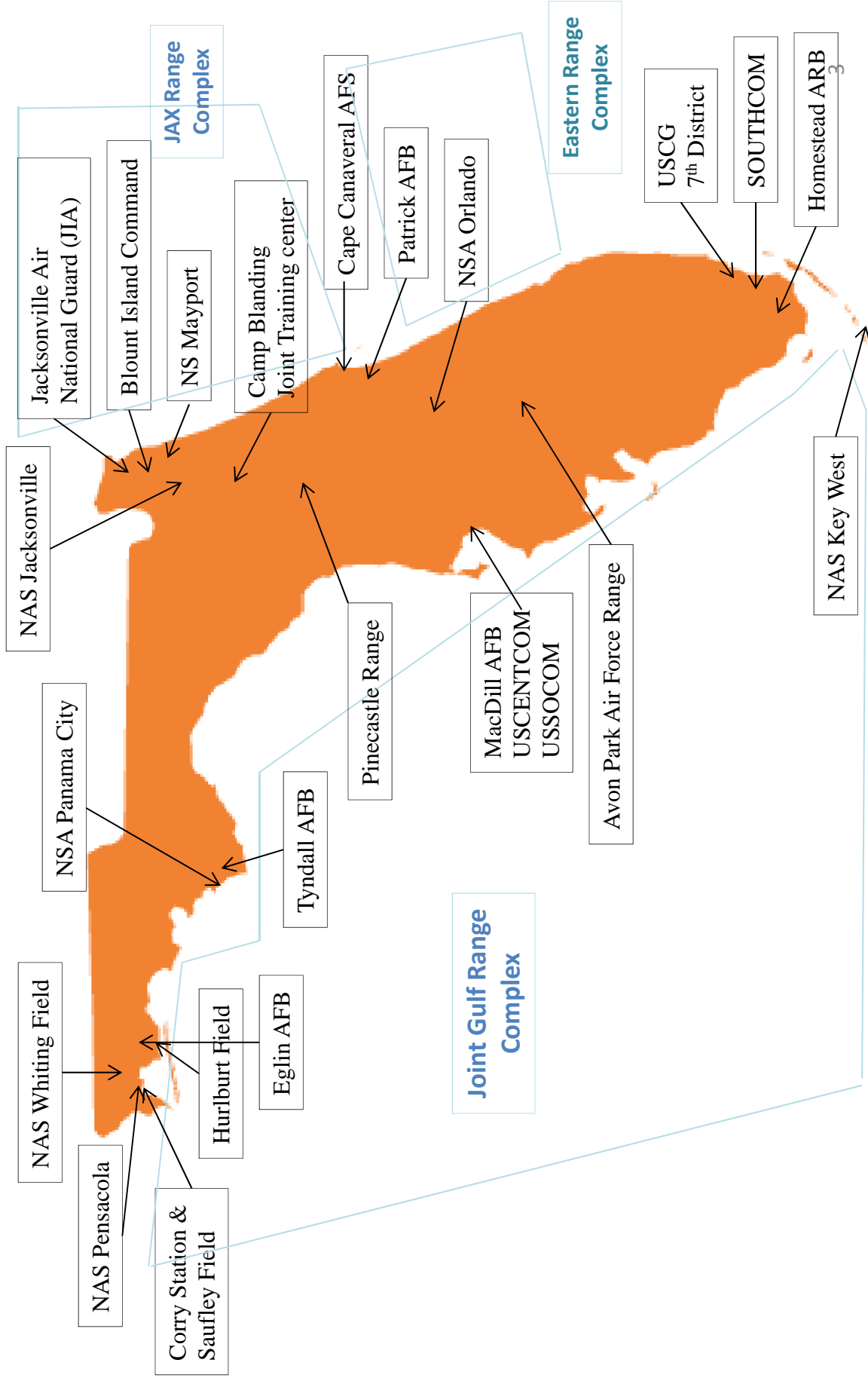


Florida's Military Presence

Overview:

- 20 major military installations.
- \$73.4 billion annual impact from military and defense business presence.
- 758,112 direct and indirect jobs.
- Defense is 3rd largest contributor to state economy.
- Military spent \$31.3 billion in FL in 2011.
- Optimum training environment; extensive ranges.

Florida's Military Installations



History

- Task Force created in 2011 --F.S. 288.987. With Sunshine exemption – F.S. 288.985
- Replaced the Florida Council on Military Bases and Mission Support.
- 13 Members -- appointed by Governor, Senate and House.
- FY 2011-2012 funding -- \$5 million.
- FY 2012-2013 funding -- \$2 million
- FY 2013-2014 funding -- \$4 million
- FY 2014- 2015 funding -- \$3.5 million

Members

- **Rep. Ritch Workman – Chair -- House (New/Returning Member)**
- **Rep. Clay Ingram– House (New Member)**
- **BG Chip Diehl -- House**
- **Dr. Ed Naggiar -- House**
- **James Montgomerie– Senate (New Member)**
- **Judge Patt Maney -- Senate**
- **J.R. McDonald -- Senate**
- **Tom Neubauer -- Senate**
- **Rep. Dana Young– Governor’s Personal Rep.**
- **MG Emmett Titshaw, Adjutant General – Governor**
- **Barbara Stewart -- Governor**
- **RADM Kevin Delaney-- Governor**
- **MG Joseph Taluto -- Governor**

Florida Defense Support Task Force

Governor's Guidance:

*“Keep Florida the most
military-friendly state
in the nation.”*

Task Force Mission:

Preserve, protect and enhance Florida's
military missions and installations

Florida Defense Support Task Force is charged to:

- Maintain and expand the missions of Florida's military installations
- Work with Florida's with Base Commanders to prevent encroachment from impacting mission capabilities of military forces based in Florida
- Improve transportation access to Florida's military installations
- Assist installations in meeting DOD renewable energy goals
- Strengthen state support for military families and veterans with a focus on education, health care, employment, and family programs.

Immediate Challenges

- Aggressive advocacy based on results of installation assessments at both national and state level. Focus on installation-specific needs. Prepare for possible BRAC/ongoing defense budget cuts.
- **Work with Governor, Legislature, Florida Congressional delegation, base commanders and local defense community leaders to improve military value of all installations**

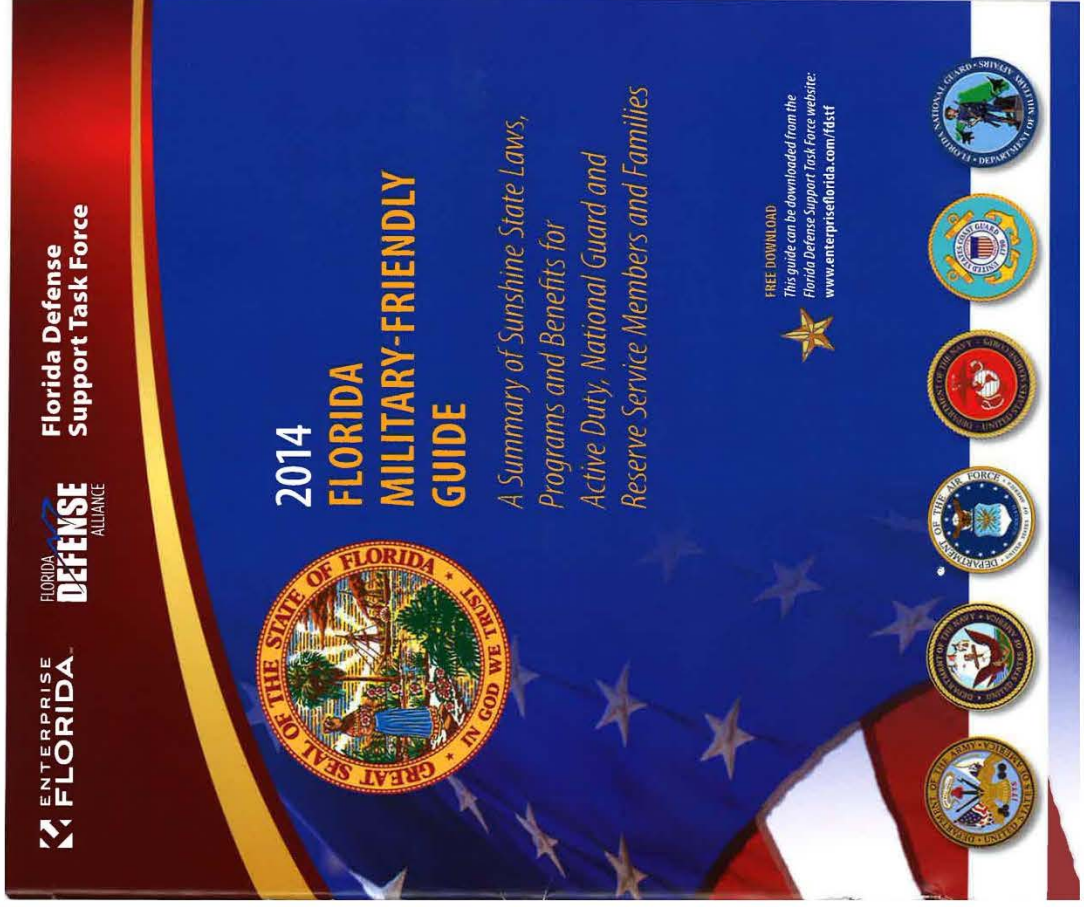
Task Force Successes

- Developed long term strategic plan.
- Established web site and provided members with weekly updates on military and defense issues.
- Implemented a grant program to assist local defense communities improve the military value of their bases.
- Conducted comprehensive evaluation and risk assessment of all military installations in the state.

Task Force Successes (cont.)

- Contracted for full-time first class advocacy services in Washington, DC to assist efforts in protecting and enhancing Florida military bases.
- Published defense fact book and military-friendly guide.
- Supported military-friendly legislation.

2014 Military Friendly Guide



Task Force Grant Award History

FY 2013 -- 9 grants -- \$ 2.41 million

FY 2014 -- 9 grants -- \$ 2.22 million

FY 2015 -- 14 grants -- \$ 2.59 million

Total \$ 7.22 million

FY 2013 Task Force Grants

Bay Defense Alliance	\$500,000
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National Center for Simulation	\$350,000
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Highlands County	\$500,000
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City of Jacksonville	\$450,000
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Santa Rosa County	\$160,000
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Andrews Institute	\$225,000
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Florida 8(a) Alliance	\$100,000
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TOTAL	\$2.41 Million
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FY 2014 Task Force Grants

National Center for Simulation	\$350,000
Clay County Development Authority	\$474,000
City of Niceville	\$25,000
Tampa Bay Defense Alliance	\$225,000
Santa Economic Development Alliance of Bay County	\$500,000
Clay County Development Authority	\$255,000
EDC of Okaloosa County	\$195,000
Florida 8(a) Alliance	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$2.22 Million

FY 2015 Task Force Grants

Santa Rosa County	\$20,654
Tampa Bay Defense Alliance	\$150,000
Polk County	\$500,000
Clay County Development Authority	\$400,000
National Center for Simulation	\$240,000
EDC of Okaloosa County	\$285,000
Bay County	\$200,000
Space Florida	\$38,500
Air Force Enlisted Village	\$135,000
Florida's Great Northwest	\$25,000
Career Source Gulf Coast	\$150,000
University of West Florida	\$350,000
City of Key West	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$2.59 Million

Recent Military Friendly Legislation

- Florida GI Bill
- Non-Conservation Base Buffering Program
- Late Registration for Deployed Military Members
- Interstate Compact for Military Children
- Licensure accommodations for military family members
- Driver's license extensions for FL military while out-of-state

Florida GI Bill

- Florida GI Bill provides:
 - \$7 million in funding for acquisition of non-conservation buffering lands around military bases.
 - Funding for National Guard armory revitalization
 - in state tuition eligibility for veterans.
 - increases funding for educational programs
 - Florida is for Veterans Inc. to promote Florida for veterans and connect them to jobs

FDA Requested Studies

1. Linkages Study – Identify the connectivity, interdependent functions and linkages between and among Florida’s military installations and missions with the goal of identifying and graphically portraying the Florida Federal Military Complex.
2. Best Practices Study – Study selected US states and communities hosting military installations to determine the best practices employed by state and local governments to protect, sustain and enhance their bases and missions.

Both studies being finalized; should be ready by mid-Jan.

Florida Defense Support Task Force

Questions ?



Florida Defense Support Task Force

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Florida Defense Support Task Force

Back Up Slides

Task Force Budget Utilization

Program Expenditures – FY 2011 - 2015

Grants	\$7.22 Million
The Spectrum Group -- Assessment of All Military Bases	\$1.56 Million
The Principi Group Advocacy -- May 2012 – December 2015	\$3.6 Million
Haas Center Economic Impact Study	\$154,500
The Principi Group -- Linkages and Best Practices Studies	\$129,850
Initial Strategic Planning Session	\$5,000
TOTAL PROGRAM	\$12.67 Million

Task Force Budget Utilization (cont.)

Admin Expenditures – FY 2011 - 2015	
Salaries, travel reimbursements, meeting admin and logistics and printing	\$601,000
TOTAL ADMIN	\$601,000
Task Force Reserve/Funds Available	\$1.25 Million
TOTAL FUNDS REMAINING / AVAILABLE	\$1.25 Million
GRAND TOTAL	\$14.5 Million