Florida

Defense Support Task Force

Strategic Plan

2012 – 2015

Representative Ritch Workman

Chairman

October 25, 2012

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The Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) was created in 2011 by Florida Statute 288.987 with a defined mission:

- To make recommendations to preserve and protect military installations.
- To support the state's position in research and development related to or arising out of military missions and contracting.
- To improve the state's military friendly environment for service members, military dependents, military retirees and businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to the state.

Vision

The Florida Defense Support Task Force will be an aggressive and effective advocate to promote, preserve, protect and expand military missions and installations across the state of Florida.

Guiding Principles

- Champion Florida as the "Most Military-Friendly State" in the nation.
- Advocate for favorable resolution of military and defense issues from a statewide perspective and unify Florida's defense communities with one voice. Provide a plan for active and effective advocacy for military and homeland defense missions and facilities located in Florida including the United States Coast Guard.
- Promote Florida's military friendly atmosphere and optimum training environment and locations as the best and most cost-effective alternative for the Department of Defense.
- Coordinate a unified message of Task Force members, executive and legislative branches of Florida government, congressional members and defense communities.
- Maintain a proactive posture, assisting the Department of Defense in its effort to find efficiencies and develop synergies in the face of necessary military mission consolidations or realignment actions.
- Help Florida communities become better prepared to present the Department of Defense with viable options and opportunities where realignment or consolidation actions are being considered.
- Identify, prioritize and address all current or potential base and range encroachment issues including, but not limited to airspace, environmental, energy, frequency spectrum and land use compatibility
- Foster mutually beneficial communication and strengthen relationships between the state of Florida, installation leadership and community leaders.
- Enhance the Florida Congressional Delegation efforts in working defense and security issues at the federal level.

- Focus on advocacy efforts to obtain results which are mutually beneficial to Florida and the defense community.
- Identify the military value of Florida installations using core Department of Defense criteria and the results of previous data calls.
- Assist the Governor's office in addressing and supporting the needs of Florida's installations identified as the result of base commander's meetings.
- Champion and continue legacy of Florida's warmth, embrace and respect for military family quality of life.

General Definitions

Defense is a multi-dimensional environment defined broadly to include the active service members, National Guard and Reserve forces, military dependents, military retirees and military-related businesses in the state of Florida.

Military installations include all bases, ranges and airspace within Florida and in waters adjacent to Florida.

Time Frame Definitions

Short term – The period in which the military services budget-driven realignments occur outside of a formal Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

Long term – The period in which the state is responding to a congressionally created formal BRAC process and beyond.

Task Force Members

Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll
Chairman -- Representative Ritch Workman
Vice Chairman -- Dr. David Goetsch
Representative Matt Gaetz
Major General Emmett Titshaw, U.S. Air Force, The Adjutant General of Florida
Rear Admiral Kevin Delaney, U.S. Navy, Retired
Brigadier General Arthur Diehl III, U.S. Air Force, Retired
Major General Joseph J. Taluto, U.S. Army National Guard, Retired
Judge Patt Maney, Brigadier General, Army of the United States, Retired
J. R. McDonald
Dr. Ed Naggiar
Tom Neubauer
Commissioner Barbara Stewart

Enterprise Florida Defense Support Task Force Staff

Colonel Rocky McPherson, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired
Colonel Bruce Grant, U.S. Army, Retired
Heather Cave
Donna Cucinella

Short-Term Strategic Goals

Implement an aggressive advocacy and action plan based on the recommendations in the Spectrum Group analysis. Plan will pursue installation specific strategic goals at national and state levels as shown below.

National Level -- (Alphabetical Order by Installation):

- **Avon Park Range --**
  - Champion certification of the main runway.
  - Pursue increased missions.
  - Expand use to additional range customers.

- **Corry Station** -- Attract more Federal cyber entities that would act as force multipliers and could benefit from co-location with current Corry Station activities.

- **Eglin Air Force Base –**
  - Maintain Air Force Weapon Research, Development, Test and Evaluation synergies and functions.
  - Federal legislation to manage/control structures being built in the coastal waters.
  - Acquire more compatible missions and aircraft to fully utilize the capacity/potential at Eglin.

- **Homestead Air Reserve Base** – Improve by installing of fueling hydrant system and preventing encroachment.

- **Hurlburt Field** -- Resolve pavement condition issues, especially the asphalt portion of Taxiway G and a portion of the C-130 transport aircraft apron.

- **Jacksonville Air National Guard Base** –
  - Establish an "Active-Associate" unit at the Jacksonville Air Guard Base.
  - Build a new Base fire station.
  - Support F-35 joint strike fighter basing at this site.

- **MacDill Air Force Base –**
  - Advocate for basing of new KC 46 refueling tankers.
  - Advocate for infrastructure improvements.

- **Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island --**Acquire an additional berth with a gantry crane to enhance use as a shipping point for Marine Corps/Army equipment overseas.

- **Naval Air Station Jacksonville** – Increase awareness by Naval Aviation leadership of the importance and efficiencies of the Fleet Readiness Center, Jacksonville.

- **Naval Air Station Key West** -- Improve the outreach effort regarding Naval Air Station Key West's important security role and unique capabilities.

- **Naval Station Mayport –**

  - Pursue expedited home porting of the Amphibious Ready Group at Naval Station Mayport.
  - Continue to advocate for nuclear aircraft carrier home port.
  - Seek US Coast Guard ship basing.

- **Naval Support Activity Panama City** – Assist local defense community in securing funds to ensure permanent control of an 8-acre tract acquired to prevent future encroachment, enhance security and provide for mission expansion.

- **Patrick Air Force Base –** Pursue programs to develop sites suitable for mission expansion.

- **Saufley Field** – Advocate for funding to implement Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) plan. (Note: US Navy recently canceled this EUL initiative.)

- **Team Orlando** –

  - Retain Team Orlando.
  - Assist with additional office space requirements.

- **Tyndall Air Force Base –**

  - Advocate for Tyndall's tenant commands including the Air and Space Operations Center.
  - Advocate for increased missions/aircraft.
  - Prevent potential encroachment in the Gulf Range Complex.

State Level -- (Alphabetical Order by Installation):

- **Camp Blanding Joint Training Center –**

  - Obtain interoperable cellular coverage for maneuver and outlying areas and acquire additional simulation devices to mitigate range conflicts.
  - Prioritize construction of additional training unit facilities.
  - Develop separate marketing/information campaigns to:
    - Encourage transfer or standup of remotely piloted vehicle training
    - Encourage transfer or standup of emergency operations center training
    - Encourage transfer or standup of all-service combat skills weather training
    - Encourage transfer or standup of all-service water survival training
    - Encourage transfer or standup of military vehicle overhaul or recapitalization.

- **Eglin Air Force Base –**

  - Support road improvements to facilitate ingress/egress.
  - Prevent encroachment that could impact the Gulf Range Complex east of the Military Mission Line.

- **Hurlburt Field** -- Support proposed "West Gate" construction and off base auxiliary roads.

- **Jacksonville Air National Guard Base** – Support facility improvements and taxiway upgrades.

- **MacDill Air Force Base –**

  - Support the purchase of a parcel of land immediately adjacent to MacDill Air Force Base to prevent future encroachment issues.
  - Support widening of Dale Mabry Blvd. from main gate to enjoin Lee Roy Selmon Expressway.

- **Naval Air Station Pensacola –**

  - Establish a system to enhance air space management in Northwest Florida with guidance aimed at future growth in flight activity.
  - Consider development of a more structured and robust cooperative mechanism involving the hospital, the Veterans Administration facility, and the three local hospitals, with a focus on disaster response.
  - Seek new initiatives for shared functions (commercial, medical, recreation, etc.) with the communities and State through mechanisms such as enhanced-use leasing.

- **Naval Air Station Whiting Field –** Continue efforts to buffer training airfields from encroachment, especially at the outlying fields.

- **Naval Support Activity Panama City –**

  - Protect Navy ranges used for Research, Development, Test, Evaluation and training.
  - Advocate for continued Navy emphasis on mine and littoral warfare and Littoral Combat Ship development.
  - Complete implementation of the Joint Land Use Study and adjacent land acquisition project to ensure merging commercial and military activities can each meet their objectives.

Overall Long-Term Strategic Goals for All Military Installations

1. Promote Florida as a trusted, defense-friendly partner, advocating solutions of mutual benefit to the Department of Defense and Florida communities.

2. Promote and grow Florida military missions and installations

   - Continue to identify areas where the state's presence and actions have sustainable impacts on Florida's military installations and missions including, but not limited to:

     - Providing support and incentives for defense missions to remain or relocate to Florida.
     - Increase existing missions and add compatible missions that fit with the capacity and infrastructure of the installation.
     - Prevent exploration, drilling and other activities that could limit military use of the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex.
     - Lowering installations' costs of doing business.
     - Expand ranges and bases in Florida in cooperation with Space Florida for Department of Defense Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) testing and training.
     - Preventing and mitigating encroachment affecting installations, ranges and flight corridors.
     - Transportation access.
     - Department of Defense renewable energy goals.
     - Environmental issues.
     - Improvement of education programs in public schools.
     - Complete implementation of the Joint Land Use Studies at all Florida military installations that have conducted them.

- Strengthen and enhance quality of life of our military families/retirees statewide and within local communities.
- Continue to champion Florida's support to our wounded and veterans.

- Continue to strengthen state support for military families and veterans with a focus on education, health care, employment and family programs.

- Continue to strengthen defense-related working relationships with the following state agencies:

  - The Department of Veterans Affairs
  - The Department of Economic Opportunity
  - The Department of Environmental Protection
  - The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Energy Office
  - The Department of Military Affairs
  - The Department of Business and Professional Regulation
  - The Department of Education
  - Workforce Florida

What Does Success Look Like?

- Florida is fully prepared to assist the Department of Defense to maximize efficiencies in an era of defense downsizing.
- Florida increases or maintains same relative position in defense spending.
- Task Force is the state focal point with support mechanisms, processes, data, and resources to effectively conduct military advocacy actions with the Florida Congressional Delegation and is an integral part of success.
- Florida successfully procures emerging missions to offset jobs lost by realignments or consolidations.
- Florida maintains the ongoing trend of increased defense industry employment.
- Florida will continue to earn its reputation as the nation's top-ranked military-friendly state as defined by base commanders and the Department of Defense. Raise the bar within Department of Defense areas rated green.
- Florida will be the leader in veterans' employment opportunities.
- Florida creates, coordinates, and maintains an effective installation encroachment prevention program.
- Develop a communications plan and an FDSTF web site to promote the military value of Florida installations. Ensure this plan is linked to all local Florida defense support organizations to allow insight to and inclusion of regional and community partnerships.
- Florida has strengthened, mutually beneficial community relationships with installation leadership, the Florida Defense Alliance, community leaders along with, city and county officials to capitalize on local resources; efforts are integrated with at all levels.

- Florida has increased defense business relocation through tax and other state incentives
- Create greater public awareness of Florida's military-friendly environment including support for veterans, retirees and military dependents.
- Expand Florida's role in space launches and mission support, and expanded military space opportunities.
- Conduct effective national-level advocacy plan for military and homeland defense missions and facilities located in Florida including the United States Coast Guard; support the Florida Congressional Delegation in plan implementation.
- Continue to improve working relationships with defense planners, defense contractors and leadership to better anticipate changing needs and proposed actions to assist in developing solutions and strategies of mutual benefit to the Department of Defense and the state.