

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**  
**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, SPACE, AND**  
**DOMESTIC SECURITY**  
**Senator Altman, Chair**  
**Senator Gibson, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, October 6, 2015

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

**PLACE:** Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Office Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator Altman, Chair; Senator Gibson, Vice Chair; Senators Evers, Sachs, and Stargel

| TAB | BILL NO. and INTRODUCER   | BILL DESCRIPTION and<br>SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS  | COMMITTEE ACTION                             |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 1   | <b>SB 128</b><br>Simpson<br>(Identical H 269)   | Services for Combat Veterans and Their Families;<br>Defining the term "combat veteran"; requiring that the Department of Children and Families establish the Florida Combat Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide combat veterans and their families with behavioral health care referral and care coordination services; requiring that the department contract with managing entities to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants for such services, etc.<br><br>CF 09/16/2015 Favorable<br>MS 10/06/2015 Favorable<br>AP                       | Favorable<br>Yeas 5 Nays 0                   |
| 2   | <b>SB 184</b><br>Bean   | Military and Veterans Affairs; Requiring the application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card to include a voluntary checkoff authorizing veterans to request written or electronic information on federal, state, and local benefits and services for veterans; creating the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force within the Department of State; providing legislative findings regarding continuing education for veterans of the United States Armed Forces, etc.<br><br>MS 10/06/2015 Favorable<br>EE<br>AP | Favorable<br>Yeas 5 Nays 0                   |
| 3   | Consideration of proposed bill:<br><br><b>SPB 7016</b>  | Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children; Repealing s. 2 of chapter 2013-20, Laws of Florida; abrogating the future repeal of provisions relating to the compact; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the compact, etc.  | Submitted as Committee Bill<br>Yeas 5 Nays 0 |
| 4   | Presentation on the Economic Impact of the Florida Defense Industry by<br><br>Rod Lewis, CareerSource Florida, Inc. |   | Presented                                    |

**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

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| TAB | BILL NO. and INTRODUCER | BILL DESCRIPTION and<br>SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS | COMMITTEE ACTION |
|-----|-------------------------|--|------------------|
|-----|-------------------------|--|------------------|

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Other Related Meeting Documents

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**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

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BILL: SB 128

INTRODUCER: Senators Simpson and Altman

SUBJECT: Services for Combat Veterans and Their Families

DATE: October 5, 2015

REVISED: 10/7/15

|    | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION           |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | Hendon  | Hendon         | CF        | <b>Favorable</b> |
| 2. | Sanders | Hrdlicka       | MS        | <b>Favorable</b> |
| 3. |         |                | AP        |                  |

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## **I. Summary:**

SB 128 establishes the Florida Combat Veterans' Care Coordination Program within the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide veterans and their families with behavioral health information and referral services. The new program will model the pilot program begun in 2014 by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The program will be delivered through the Florida 211 Network. The bill appropriates \$2,000,155 in recurring General Revenue to the DCF for the program.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **Florida 211**

Section 408.918, F.S., establishes the Florida 211 Network, authorizing the planning, development, and implementation of a statewide network to serve as the single point of coordination for information and referral for health and human services.

A 211 network is a telephone-based service offered by nonprofit and public agencies throughout Florida and the United States that provides free, confidential information and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The network helps callers identify and connect with health and human service programs that can meet a variety of needs, including food, housing, employment, health care, crisis counseling, and more. In Florida, services are available statewide through any cell phone provider as well as through landlines in all 67 counties by dialing 2-1-1.<sup>1</sup> In order to participate in the Florida 211 Network, a 211 provider must be fully accredited by the National Alliance of Information and Referral Services or have received approval to operate, pending accreditation, from its affiliate, the Florida Alliance of Information and Referral Services.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Florida Alliance of Information and Referral Services, available at <http://www.flairs.org/> (last visited Sept. 29, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Section 408.918(2), F.S.

## **Veterans and Mental Health**

### ***Mental Health Among Veterans***

According to the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, between 11-20 percent of veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in a given year.<sup>3</sup> Statistics on depression in veterans vary, but it is estimated that an additional 2 to 10 percent return with major depression.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, 12 percent of Gulf War Veterans and 15 percent of Vietnam Veterans have PTSD, and up to 30 percent of Vietnam Veterans will have PTSD in their lifetime.<sup>5</sup>

In 2012, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) released a report detailing veteran deaths from suicide from 1999 to 2009.<sup>6</sup> Over that ten-year span, veterans comprised approximately 22.2 percent of all suicides. In 2010, on average, 22 veterans committed suicide per day.<sup>7</sup> In response to these trends, the federal government, through the USDVA, established programs to connect veterans to mental health services.

### ***Mental Health Services for Veterans***

For the purposes of USDVA health benefits and services, a person who served in the active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable is a veteran and may qualify for USDVA health care benefits.<sup>8</sup> Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard may also qualify for USDVA health care benefits if they were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.<sup>9</sup>

The USDVA provides specialty inpatient and outpatient mental health services at its medical centers and community-based outpatient clinics, in addition, readjustment counseling services may be available at veteran centers across the nation.<sup>10</sup> “The goal is to support recovery and enable veterans who experience mental health problems to live meaningful lives in their communities and to achieve their full potential.”<sup>11</sup>

The Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) is a resource for veterans developed by the USDVA to connect veterans and current service members in crisis and their families and friends with information

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<sup>3</sup> National Center for PTSD, *How Common is PTSD? PTSD and the Military* (Aug. 2015), available at <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/PTSD-overview/basics/how-common-is-ptsd.asp> (last visited Sept. 29, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> RAND Center for Military Health Policy Research, *Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery*, at 54 (Terri Tanielian and Lisa H. Jaycox, Eds.) (2008), available at [http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG720.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG720.pdf) (last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> *Supra* note 4.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services Suicide Prevention Program, *Suicide Data Report, 2012*, Janet Kemp and Robert Bossarte, at 15, available at <http://www.va.gov/opa/docs/Suicide-Data-Report-2012-final.pdf> (last visited Sept. 29, 2015).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Health Benefits, Veterans Eligibility* (Sept. 2015), available at <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/veterans.asp>, (last visited Sept. 29, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, *Health Benefits, Medical Benefits Package*, (June 2015), available at [http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/access/medical\\_benefits\\_package.asp](http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/access/medical_benefits_package.asp) (last visited Sept. 29, 2015).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*



from qualified responders through a confidential, toll-free hotline, online chat, and text messaging service.<sup>12</sup> The VCL was launched in 2007 and over the course of the program has answered more than 1.86 million calls, engaged in more than 240,000 online chats, responded to more than 39,000 texts, and made more than 50,000 lifesaving rescues.<sup>13</sup>

### **The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay Pilot Project**

In 2014, the Legislature appropriated \$150,000 to the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay to create a pilot project expanding existing Florida 211 services to veterans in Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Manatee counties.<sup>14</sup> In August 2014, the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay expanded services to veterans through care coordination. Care coordination means veterans receive ongoing suicide assessment, continuous safety planning, and support for an extended period of time. The program aims to ensure veterans are not only receiving information on available services, but are also enrolled, accepted, and attending community-based services. During state Fiscal Year 2014-2015, the program handled 1,135 calls from veterans and made 925 referrals to community mental health agencies, the USDVA, and other providers for service.<sup>15</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill creates s. 394.9087, F.S., to establish the Florida Combat Veterans' Care Coordination Program (program) within the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The program must provide behavioral healthcare referral services to both veterans and their families based on the proof-of-concept pilot program conducted in 2014 by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. Behavioral health includes services for both mental health and substance abuse. The bill sets out the goals for the program to include:

- Prevent suicides by combat veterans;
- Increase the use of USDVA programs and services by combat veterans; and
- Increase the number of combat veterans who use other available community-based programs and services.

The bill requires the program to be available statewide and provided by program teams operated by Florida 211 Network participants. Program teams must provide referral and care coordination services to include:

- Peer support, crisis intervention, and information on referral resources;
- Treatment coordination, including follow up care;
- Suicide assessment;
- Promotion of safety and wellness of combat veterans and their families;
- Resource coordination, including data analysis, to facilitate acceptance, enrollment, and attendance at USDVA programs and services and other community-based programs and services; and
- Immediate needs assessments, including safety planning and support.

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<sup>12</sup> Veterans Crisis Line, *FAQs*, available at <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/About/FAQs.aspx> (last visited Sept. 29, 2015).

<sup>13</sup> Veterans Crisis Line, *About the Veterans Crisis Line*, available at <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/About/AboutVeteransCrisisLine.aspx> (last visited Sept. 29, 2015).

<sup>14</sup> Line item 595, proviso, ch. 2014-51, Laws of Fla.

<sup>15</sup> Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, 2015 End of Year Synopsis, on file with the Committee on Children, Families and Elder Affairs.

The program teams must maintain records on the number of requests from callers and follow-up with veterans or their family members to determine if they have acted on referrals for service, received assistance, or if further referral or advocacy is needed. The program teams must also develop communication strategies to inform veterans and their families of available services. Calls and all necessary data must be captured in order to improve outreach and be reported by the program teams to the managing entity.

The bill requires the DCF to submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 15, 2017. The report must include:

- The number of calls received;
- Demographic information for each caller;
- The nature of each call;
- The outcome of each call;
- Services received as a result of each call;
- Follow-up by the program team;
- Information about the program's impact on each caller's quality of life and on the avoidance of negative outcomes, including arrest and suicide; and
- Each caller's satisfaction with program services.

The bill appropriates \$2,000,155 million in recurring General Revenue funds to the DCF to implement the program in Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill appropriates \$2,000,155 million in recurring General Revenue funds to the Department of Children and Families. The early treatment of veterans for behavioral health care would reduce costs to the local, state and federal government programs serving veterans.

The estimated expenditures to expand veterans' Florida 211 services statewide include:

- \$32,137 for FLOW System and Telephone;
- \$10,000 for Training and Technical Assistance;
- \$407,139 for Care Coordinators; and
- \$1,550,879 for call answering, database entry and updates, supervision, and administration.<sup>16</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 394.9087 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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<sup>16</sup> Email correspondence with Senator Simpson's office on Oct. 6 and 7, 2015. (On file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security.) Information is from Sheila J. Smith, President and CEO, 2-1-1 Broward.

By Senator Simpson

18-00201-16

2016128\_\_

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to services for combat veterans and their families; creating s. 394.9087, F.S.; defining the term "combat veteran"; requiring that the Department of Children and Families establish the Florida Combat Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide combat veterans and their families with behavioral health care referral and care coordination services; requiring that the department contract with managing entities to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants for such services; providing program goals; providing for the statewide delivery of services by program teams; requiring Florida 211 Network participants to collect data on the implementation of the program and submit such data to the department; requiring the department to submit a report on such implementation to the Governor and Legislature; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 394.9087, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

394.9087 Florida Combat Veterans' Care Coordination Program.—

(1) As used in this section, the term "combat veteran" means a wartime veteran as defined in s. 1.01(14).

(2) The Department of Children and Families, in

Page 1 of 5

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

18-00201-16

2016128\_\_

consultation with the Florida Alliance of Information and Referral Services, shall establish the Florida Combat Veterans' Care Coordination Program. The department shall contract with managing entities, as defined in s. 394.9082(2)(d), to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants to provide combat veterans and their families in this state with dedicated behavioral health care referral services, especially mental health and substance abuse services. The department shall model the program after the proof-of-concept pilot program established in 2014 by the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Manatee Counties.

(3) The goals of the program are to:

(a) Prevent suicides by combat veterans.

(b) Increase the use of United States Department of Veterans Affairs' programs and services by combat veterans.

(c) Increase the number of combat veterans who use other available community-based programs and services.

(4) The program must be available statewide. Program services must be provided by program teams operated by Florida 211 Network participants, as authorized by s. 408.918. A Florida 211 Network participant may provide services in more than one managing entity's geographic area under a single contract.

(5) The program teams shall provide referral and care coordination services to combat veterans and their families and expand the existing Florida 211 Network to include the optimal range of veterans' service organizations and programs. Program services must include:

(a) Telephonic peer support, crisis intervention, and the

Page 2 of 5

**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

18-00201-16

2016128\_\_

59 communication of information on referral resources.

60 (b) Treatment coordination, including coordination of  
61 followup care.

62 (c) Suicide assessment.

63 (d) Promotion of the safety and wellness of combat veterans  
64 and their families, including continuous safety planning and  
65 support.

66 (e) Resource coordination, including data analysis, to  
67 facilitate acceptance, enrollment, and attendance by combat  
68 veterans and their families in United States Department of  
69 Veterans Affairs' programs and services and other available  
70 community-based programs and services.

71 (f) Immediate needs assessments, including safety planning  
72 and support.

73 (6) To enhance program services, program teams shall:

74 (a) Track the number of requests from callers who are  
75 combat veterans or their family members.

76 (b) Follow up with callers or their family members to  
77 determine whether they have acted on the referrals or received  
78 the assistance needed, or if additional referral or advocacy is  
79 needed.

80 (c) Develop and implement communication strategies, such as  
81 media promotions, public service announcements, print and  
82 Internet articles, and community presentations, to inform combat  
83 veterans and their families about available United States  
84 Department of Veterans Affairs' programs and services and other  
85 available community-based programs and services.

86 (d) Document all calls and capture all necessary data to  
87 improve outreach to combat veterans and their families and

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2016128\_\_

88 report such data to the managing entity.

89 (7) Florida 211 Network participants shall collect and  
90 submit data on the implementation of the program to the  
91 department in the format prescribed by the department. The  
92 department shall use such data to prepare a report for submittal  
93 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
94 the House of Representatives by December 15, 2017. The report  
95 must include:

96 (a) The number of calls received.

97 (b) Demographic information for each caller, including, but  
98 not limited to, the caller's military affiliation, the caller's  
99 veteran status, and if the caller is receiving services through  
100 United States Department of Veterans Affairs' programs and  
101 services or other available community-based programs and  
102 services.

103 (c) The nature of each call, including, but not limited to,  
104 the concerns prompting the call and the services requested.

105 (d) The outcome of each call, including, but not limited  
106 to, the service referrals made and the organizations to which  
107 the caller was referred.

108 (e) Services received as a result of each call.

109 (f) Followup by the program team, including, but not  
110 limited to, the percentage of calls receiving followup and the  
111 amount of time between initial contact and followup.

112 (g) The program's impact on each caller's quality of life  
113 and on the avoidance of negative outcomes, including arrest and  
114 suicide.

115 (h) Each caller's satisfaction with program services.

116 Section 2. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of

18-00201-16 2016128\_\_

117 \$2,000,155 in recurring funds is appropriated from the General  
118 Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Families for the  
119 purpose of implementing this act.

120 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10 Oct 2015  
Meeting Date

SB 128  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Veterans Care Coordination

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jill Giran

Job Title Legislative Affairs

Address 2868 Mahan Dr  
Street  
Tallahassee FL 32308  
City State Zip

Phone 878-2196

Email jill@fadaa.org

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10/6/15

Meeting Date

128

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Services for Combat Veterans

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Susan Harbin

Job Title Legislative Advocate

Address 100 S. Monroe

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32301

Zip

Phone 770 546 8845

Email sharbin@fla-counties.com

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Association of Counties

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

*While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.*

***This form is part of the public record for this meeting.***

S-001 (10/14/14)



THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10/6/15

Meeting Date

SB 128

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic SB 128 - Veteran 211

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name TRAVIS MITCHELL

Job Title Lobbyist

Address PO BOX 278104

Phone 386 299 7298

Street

Tampa

FL

33688

City

State

Zip

Email TRAVIS.MITCHELL@GMAIL.COM

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Crisis Center of Tampa Bay

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10/6

Meeting Date

SB128

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic SERVICES FOR COMBAT VETERANS AND <sup>their</sup> FAMILIES

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Job Title EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Address The Capitol

Street

Phone 487-1533

Email exdir@fdva.state.fl.us

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing THE FL DEPT. OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Community Affairs, *Chair*  
Environmental Preservation and Conservation,  
*Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government  
Finance and Tax  
Judiciary  
Transportation

### JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

### SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON

18th District

September 16, 2015

Honorable Thad Altman  
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
215 Knott Building  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Chairman Altman,

Please place Senate Bill 128 relating to the Services for Combat Veterans and Their Families, on the next Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs agenda.

Please contact my office with any questions. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Simpson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wilton Simpson  
Senator, 18<sup>th</sup> District

CC: Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director

### REPLY TO:

- ☐ 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5018
- ☐ Post Office Box 938, Brooksville, Florida 34605
- ☐ Post Office Box 787, New Port Richey, Florida 34656-0787 (727) 816-1120 FAX: (888) 263-4821

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

ANDY GARDINER  
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER  
President Pro Tempore



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Community Affairs, *Chair*  
Environmental Preservation and Conservation,  
*Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government  
Finance and Tax  
Judiciary  
Transportation

### JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

### SENATOR WILTON SIMPSON

18th District

October 5, 2015

Senator Thad Altman, Chair  
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security  
215 Knott Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairman Altman,

I appreciate you including my legislation, SB 128, relating to Services for Combat Veterans and Their Families, on the October 6<sup>th</sup> Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security agenda. As you are aware, I will be chairing the Committee on Community Affairs at that time. I respectfully request that you allow my Legislative Assistant Mary Kassabaum to present the bill on my behalf.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or your staff have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Simpson".

Wilton Simpson  
State Senator, 18<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Elizabeth Ryon, Staff Director  
Lois Graham, Committee Administrative Assistant

### REPLY TO:

- ☐ 322 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5018
- ☐ Post Office Box 938, Brooksville, Florida 34605
- ☐ Post Office Box 787, New Port Richey, Florida 34656-0787 (727) 816-1120 FAX: (888) 263-4821

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

ANDY GARDINER  
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER  
President Pro Tempore

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

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BILL: SB 184

INTRODUCER: Senator Bean

SUBJECT: Military and Veterans Affairs

DATE: October 5, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION           |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | Sanders | Hrdlicka       | MS        | <b>Favorable</b> |
| 2. |         |                | EE        |                  |
| 3. |         |                | AP        |                  |

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## **I. Summary:**

SB 184:

- Establishes a voluntary check-off on driver license and identification card applications to allow a veteran to request written or electronic information on federal, state, and local benefits and services available to veterans;
- Creates the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force within the Department of State to study issues involving the development and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent military members to electronically submit voted ballots; and
- Provides legislative intent regarding academic credit for military training and coursework and collaboration between the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors on student veteran issues.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **Voluntary Contributions on Driver License/Identification Card Applications**

The voluntary contribution process, also known as voluntary check-offs, provides the opportunity for citizens to make a donation by checking a box on a form when registering a vehicle or renewing a registration, as well as when applying for a new or replacement driver license or identification card.<sup>1</sup>

The Florida Statutes specifically authorize which organizations can receive a voluntary contribution. Section 320.023, F.S., establishes requirements for organizations seeking to establish a voluntary contribution on motor vehicle registration application forms, and

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<sup>1</sup> Sections 320.02(8), (14), and (15) and 328.72(11) and (16), F.S., provide motor vehicle registration applicants with 27 options for voluntary contributions. Section 322.08(8), F.S., provides driver license applicants with 20 options for voluntary contributions.

s. 322.081, F.S., establishes similar requirements for driver license and identification card applications. Both sections require:

- A request for the voluntary contribution being sought, describing the voluntary contribution in general terms;
- An application fee,<sup>2</sup> not to exceed \$10,000, to defray the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles' (DHSMV) cost for reviewing the application and developing the voluntary contribution check-off, if authorized;
- A marketing strategy outlining short-term and long-term marketing plans for the requested voluntary contribution; and
- A financial analysis outlining the anticipated revenues and the planned expenditures of the revenues to be derived from the voluntary contribution.

There are three veteran or military-related voluntary contributions authorized for driver license and identification card applications. An applicant may elect to contribute \$1 to the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund, the Disabled American Veterans, and Support Our Troops, Inc.<sup>3</sup>

### **The Florida Vets Connect Program**

In 2010, the Chief Financial Officer directed the DHSMV and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) to partner to create the Florida Vets Connect Program to stimulate outreach efforts to veterans in Florida.<sup>4</sup> Through the Florida Vets Connect Program, veterans have the opportunity to voluntarily identify their veteran status when applying for or renewing Florida driver licenses or state identification cards. Beginning in 2010, present on each driver license and identification card application is the option for an individual to indicate status as a veteran and interest in receiving information on benefits, services, and support available to veterans.<sup>5</sup> The DHSMV and the FDVA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the sharing of a veteran's contact information from the DHSMV to the FDVA. The FDVA, through a third party provider, distributes general state of Florida veterans' benefits information via e-mail to those individuals who request such information on the driver license or identification card application.<sup>6</sup> The FDVA distributed 50,350 e-mails on a monthly basis during the 2014 calendar year under the Vets Connect Program.<sup>7</sup>

### **County and City Veteran Service Officers**

Section 292.11, F.S., authorizes each county and city to employ a county or city veteran service officer. These local officers provide information on current federal, state, and local veterans' programs, entitlements, and referral services, and can assist veterans with applying for these

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<sup>2</sup> State funds may not be used to pay the application fee.

<sup>3</sup> See Section 322.08(7)(n), (o), and (q), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> See Florida Department of Financial Services Press Release, 'Florida Vets Connect' Connects Nearly 30,000 Florida Veterans with Benefits, (Nov. 10, 2010), available at: <http://www.myfloridacfo.com/sitePages/newsroom/pressRelease.aspx?id=3738> (last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> E-mail correspondence with Colleen Krepstekies, Legislative Affairs Director, FDVA on Sept. 30, 2015. (On file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security.) According to the FDVA, it is too cost prohibitive to distribute printouts of the veterans' benefits information via the United States mail.

<sup>7</sup> E-mail correspondence with Jessica Kraynak, Legislative Analyst, FDVA on Oct. 2, 2015. (On file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security.)

benefits.<sup>8</sup> County veteran service officers are county employees, but are certified by the FDVA.<sup>9</sup> Each county currently employs a veteran service officer, and, in some cases one veteran service officer may service two counties.<sup>10</sup> There are currently no certified city veteran service officers in Florida.<sup>11</sup>

### **Military Overseas Absentee Voters**

The federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) requires each state to allow United States servicemembers, their family members, and other U.S. citizens residing outside the United States to register and vote absentee in general, special, primary, and runoff elections for federal office.<sup>12</sup> Florida law also permits the use of state absentee ballots for all state and local elections, merit retention, and ballot measures.<sup>13</sup> These voters can register to vote and request an absentee ballot at the same time by using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). In general, the FPCA can be submitted by mail, e-mail, or fax. A voter may also receive a registration application or an absentee ballot by submitting a request to the supervisor of elections by telephone, mail, fax, or e-mail. Absentee ballots are mailed to military and overseas voters no later than 45 days before each election. A voter can also request that the absentee ballot be faxed or e-mailed.<sup>14</sup>

However, these voters must submit their voted absentee ballots by mail or fax to their local election offices no later than 7:00 p.m. on election day for primary elections and no later than 10 days after election day for presidential preference primaries and general elections. These voters “often face unique challenges in obtaining and returning absentee ballots within state deadlines.”<sup>15</sup> In the past, there have been various efforts to try to establish a means for ballot return electronically in Florida, but none have been successful in part due to concerns raised

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<sup>8</sup> Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, *Locations*, available at <http://floridavets.org/locations/> (last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> Section 292.11(2), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, *County Veteran Service Officers*, (Oct. 2015), available at [http://floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CVSO\\_Directory\\_1-October-2015.pdf](http://floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CVSO_Directory_1-October-2015.pdf) (last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

<sup>11</sup> E-mail correspondence with Colleen Krepstekies, Legislative Affairs Director, FDVA on Sept. 30, 2015. (On file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security.)

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, *The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act*, (Aug. 8, 2015), available at <http://www.justice.gov/crt/uniformed-and-overseas-citizens-absentee-voting-act> (last visited Oct 2, 2015). See also 52 U.S.C. ch. 203 and s. 97.021(2) and (23), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Sections 101.6952, 101.62, and 101.694, F.S.

<sup>14</sup> See Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, *Military and Overseas Citizens Voting*, available at <http://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/voting/military-and-overseas-citizens-voting/>; and the Federal Voting Assistance Program, available at <http://www.fvap.gov/> (both sites last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

<sup>15</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures, *Electronic Submission of Ballots*, (July 27, 2015), available at <http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/internet-voting.aspx> (last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

about the security of electronic systems and costs.<sup>16</sup> Several other states have adopted means for return of voted absentee ballots electronically.<sup>17</sup>

## **Veterans' Training and Coursework**

### ***State Board of Education – Florida College System***

Article IX, Section 2 of the State Constitution establishes the State Board of Education, which is responsible for supervising the system of free public education as provided by law. The State Board of Education is “the chief implementing and coordinating body of public education in Florida, except for the State University System”.<sup>18</sup> Appointed by the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education serves as the chief executive officer of Florida’s K-20 System, which includes the Florida College System.<sup>19</sup>

“There are 28 locally-governed public colleges in the Florida College System. While governed by local boards, the colleges are coordinated under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education.”<sup>20</sup> Administratively, the Chancellor of Florida Colleges is the chief executive officer of the system, reporting directly to the Commissioner of Education.

### ***Board of Governors - State University System***

The Board of Governors is the governing body for the State University System of Florida. In accordance with Article IX, Section 7(d) of the State Constitution, it is required to “operate, regulate, control, and be fully responsible for the management of the whole university system.” Currently, there are 12 institutions within the State University System (SUS).<sup>21</sup> The SUS enrolls over 337,000 students, offers nearly 1,800 degree programs at the baccalaureate, graduate, and professional levels, and annually awards over 81,000 degrees at all levels.<sup>22</sup>

### ***College Credit for Military Training and Education***

Section 1004.096, F.S., requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules and the Board of Governors to adopt regulations that enable eligible members of the U.S. Armed Forces to earn academic college credit at public postsecondary educational institutions for college-level training and education acquired while serving in the military.<sup>23</sup> Accordingly, State Board of Education

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<sup>16</sup> See a letter regarding an attempt in Okaloosa County to pilot an electronic system in 2008 at Florida Voters Coalition, available at <http://www.floridavoters.org/downloads/BrowningLetter052908.pdf> (last visited Oct. 2, 2015); and s. 101.697, F.S. The Florida Department of State stated in its bill analysis that in a previous study the department determined that secure electronic means did not exist. Department of State, *SB 184 Bill Analysis* (Sept. 29, 2015) (On file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security). See also National Institute of Standards and Technology, Security Best Practices for the Electronic Transmission of Election Materials for UOCAVA Voters, NISTIR 7711 (Sept. 2011), available at <http://nist.gov/itl/vote/upload/nistir7711-Sept2011.pdf> (last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

<sup>17</sup> Supra note 15. Twenty-five states allow some voters to return ballots by e-mail; two states allow web upload; but 19 states require ballots to be returned by mail.

<sup>18</sup> Section 1001.02(1), F.S.

<sup>19</sup> Florida Department of Education, *About Us*, available at <http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/about-us> (last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> State University System of Florida Board of Governors, *2025 System Strategic Plan*, 5 (Nov. 2014), available at [http://www.flbog.edu/pressroom/doc/2025\\_System\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_Revised\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.flbog.edu/pressroom/doc/2025_System_Strategic_Plan_Revised_FINAL.pdf) (last visited Oct. 2, 2015).

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> Chapter 2012-169, Laws of Fla.



Rule 6A-14.0302 of the Florida Administrative Code and Board of Governors Regulation 6.013 require all Florida colleges and universities, respectively, to have an established policy and process in place for evaluating military training and education. Pursuant to both the rule and regulation, such military training and education must be recognized by the American Council on Education (ACE).

### ***Priority Course Registration for Veterans***

Section 1004.075, F.S., requires each Florida College System institution and state university to provide priority course registration for veterans receiving GI Bill benefits if the institution offers priority course registration for any segment of the student population.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, a spouse or dependent child of a veteran to whom GI Bill benefits have been transferred are also entitled to priority course registration until the expiration of their GI Bill benefits.

## **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** amends s. 322.08, F.S., to provide a voluntary check-off on the application form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card to allow veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces to request written or electronic information on federal, state, and local benefits and services available to veterans. The veteran may elect to receive the information through the U.S. mail or by e-mail from a non-profit third-party provider selected by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) that has sufficient ability to communicate with veterans throughout the state.

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and the FDVA will collaborate to administer the voluntary check-off. The DHSMV will report monthly to the FDVA the name and mailing address or e-mail address of each veteran who selects the voluntary check-off. The FDVA will then distribute the veterans' contact information to the third-party provider providing information via the indicated preferred method of delivery (U.S. mail or e-mail). The FDVA will also disseminate the contact information for veterans who select the voluntary check-off to the appropriate county or city veteran service officer in order to facilitate further outreach to veterans.

Additionally, the bill requires that a veteran's contact information obtained by the third-party provider may only be used for purposes outlined in the bill, prohibits the provider from selling a veteran's contact information, and requires the provider to maintain confidentiality of the contact information in accordance with ch. 119, F.S., and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994. Any person who willfully and knowingly violates the aforementioned conditions commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.<sup>25</sup>

**Section 2** establishes the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force (Task Force) within the Department of State to study issues involving the development and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent members of the uniformed services to electronically submit voted ballots. The Task Force consists of the following 20 members:

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<sup>24</sup> Chapter 2012-159, Laws of Fla.

<sup>25</sup> A first degree misdemeanor is punishable by up to 1 year incarceration in county jail, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both. Sections 775.082 and 775.083, F.S.

- The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who is the chair of the Task Force;
- The Adjutant General or his or her designee;
- The executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs or his or her designee;
- The executive director of the Agency for State Technology or his or her designee;
- One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
- One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
- One member appointed by the Governor;
- Six supervisors of elections appointed by the Secretary of State; and
- Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other associated technologies.

Members of the Task Force serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses.

The bill directs the Task Force to study and report on:

- Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed services voters to request, receive, and return absentee ballots within the current statutory time period for casting absentee ballots;
- The costs associated with the development and implementation of an online voting system;
- The feasibility of absent uniformed services voters using an online voting system to electronically submit a voted ballot;
- The security of electronically submitting a voted ballot through an online voting system; and
- Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services voters who are overseas.

The Secretary of State must submit a report by the Task Force to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by July 1, 2017, that recommends whether or not the state should pursue the development and implementation of an online voting system for absent uniformed services voters. If the Task Force recommends pursuit of an online voting system, the report must include steps for developing and implementing such a system.

The Task Force expires upon submission of the report.

Additionally, the bill requires the Division of Elections within the Department of State to provide support staff for the Task Force and requires the Agency for State Technology to assist the Task Force upon request.

**Section 3** provides legislative intent regarding the provision of academic credit for military training and coursework and other services to student veterans. The bill provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the State University System work collaboratively to do the following:

- Align existing degree programs with applicable military training and experience to maximize academic credit awarded for such training and experience;

- Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree program at each institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans;
- Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled veterans to inform disabled veterans of disability services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, other federal and state agencies, and private entities.
- Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel who provide student services for veterans to discuss and develop best practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and hear presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs of veterans; and
- Provide veterans with sufficient courses required for graduation, including but not limited to, giving priority registration for veterans.

**Section 4** provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The DHSMV currently transmits information collected from the Florida Vets Connect Program to the FDVA using eAwareness, Inc. The contractual agreement between the FDVA and eAwareness, Inc., costs \$11,529 annually, not including additional program expenses such as postage fees, packaging materials, and additional outreach materials.<sup>26</sup> The cost of the voluntary check-off program is indeterminate at this time.

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<sup>26</sup> FDVA, *SB 184 Agency Bill Analysis* (Oct. 2, 2015) (On file with Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security).

Additionally, the DHSMV will have programming costs to develop the check-off box on the forms, but these costs are indeterminate and likely to be minimal.

Related to the Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force (Task Force), the Department of State is responsible for the reimbursement of per diem and travel expenses for task force members. Additionally, the Division of Elections within the Department of State is required to provide support staff for the Task Force. The department has stated that it may require additional full-time employees to support the Task Force.<sup>27</sup>

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 322.08 of the Florida Statutes.

The bill creates undesignated sections of the Florida Law.

**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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<sup>27</sup> Department of State, *SB 184 Agency Bill Analysis* (Sept. 29, 2015) (on file with Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security).

By Senator Bean

4-00253-16

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1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to military and veterans affairs;  
 3 amending s. 322.08, F.S.; requiring the application  
 4 form for an original, renewal, or replacement driver  
 5 license or identification card to include a voluntary  
 6 checkoff authorizing veterans to request written or  
 7 electronic information on federal, state, and local  
 8 benefits and services for veterans; requiring the  
 9 requested information to be delivered by a third-party  
 10 provider; requiring the Department of Highway Safety  
 11 and Motor Vehicles to report monthly to the Department  
 12 of Veterans' Affairs the names and mailing or e-mail  
 13 addresses of veterans who request information;  
 14 requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to  
 15 disseminate veteran contact information to the third-  
 16 party provider; requiring that the third-party  
 17 provider be a nonprofit organization; defining the  
 18 term "nonprofit organization"; requiring that the  
 19 Department of Veterans' Affairs provide veteran  
 20 contact information to the appropriate county or city  
 21 veteran service officer; specifying that a third-party  
 22 provider may use veteran contact information only as  
 23 authorized; prohibiting a third-party provider from  
 24 selling veteran contact information; requiring a  
 25 third-party provider to maintain confidentiality of  
 26 veteran contact information under specified  
 27 provisions; providing a penalty; creating the Military  
 28 and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force within the  
 29 Department of State; specifying membership of the task

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30 force; authorizing reimbursement for per diem and  
 31 travel expenses; prescribing duties of the task force;  
 32 requiring submission of a report to the Governor and  
 33 the Legislature by a specified date; providing for  
 34 expiration of the task force; providing for staffing;  
 35 providing legislative findings regarding continuing  
 36 education for veterans of the United States Armed  
 37 Forces; providing legislative intent to require  
 38 collaboration between the State Board of Education and  
 39 the Board of Governors of the State University System  
 40 in achieving specified goals regarding educational  
 41 opportunities for veterans; providing an effective  
 42 date.

44 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

46 Section 1. Present subsection (9) of section 322.08,  
 47 Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (10), and a new  
 48 subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

49 322.08 Application for license; requirements for license  
 50 and identification card forms.—

51 (9) (a) To support the carrying out of the duties of the  
 52 Department of Veterans' Affairs prescribed in s. 292.05 and to  
 53 facilitate its outreach to veterans residing in this state, the  
 54 application form for an original, a renewal, or a replacement  
 55 driver license or identification card must include a voluntary  
 56 checkoff authorizing a veteran of the United States Armed Forces  
 57 to request written or electronic information on federal, state,  
 58 and local benefits and services available to veterans. The

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veteran may elect to receive requested information through United States mail or by e-mail. The requested information shall be delivered to the veteran by any third-party provider selected by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to act on its behalf.

(b) The department shall collaborate with the Department of Veterans' Affairs to administer this subsection. The department shall report monthly to the Department of Veterans' Affairs the name and mailing address or e-mail address of each veteran who requests information as provided in paragraph (a). Following receipt of the monthly report, the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall disseminate the contact information for each such veteran to the third-party provider acting on its behalf. The third-party provider must be a nonprofit organization with sufficient ability to communicate with veterans residing throughout this state. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from the federal income tax under s. 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any federal, state, or local governmental entity.

(c) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (b), the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall disseminate the contact information for a veteran who selects the voluntary checkoff to the appropriate county or city veteran service officer in order to facilitate further outreach to veterans.

(d)1. The contact information of a veteran which is obtained by a third-party provider pursuant to this subsection may be used only as authorized by this subsection. The third-party provider may not sell such contact information. Except as otherwise provided, the third-party provider must maintain the confidentiality of the contact information in accordance with

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chapter 119 and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, 18 U.S.C. ss. 2721 et seq.

2. A person who willfully and knowingly violates this paragraph commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 2. Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force.—The Military and Overseas Voting Assistance Task Force, a task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes, is created within the Department of State. The task force is created for the express purpose of studying issues involving the development and implementation of an online voting system that allows absent uniformed services voters who are overseas to electronically submit voted ballots.

(1) The task force is composed of 20 members, as follows:

(a) The Secretary of State or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair of the task force.

(b) The Adjutant General or his or her designee.

(c) The executive director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs or his or her designee.

(d) The executive director of the Agency for State Technology or his or her designee.

(e) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate.

(f) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(g) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate.

(h) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

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- 117 (i) One member appointed by the Governor.
- 118 (j) Six supervisors of elections appointed by the Secretary
- 119 of State.
- 120 (k) Five individuals appointed by the Secretary of State,
- 121 with relevant expertise in computers, the Internet, or other
- 122 associated technologies.
- 123 (2) Members of the task force shall serve without
- 124 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
- 125 travel expenses pursuant to s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.
- 126 (3) The task force, at a minimum, shall study and report on
- 127 the following issues:
- 128 (a) Any factor that limits the ability of absent uniformed
- 129 services voters who are overseas to request, receive, and return
- 130 absentee ballots within the current statutory time period for
- 131 casting absentee ballots.
- 132 (b) The costs associated with the development and
- 133 implementation of an online voting system.
- 134 (c) The feasibility of absent uniformed services voters who
- 135 are overseas using an online voting system to electronically
- 136 submit a voted ballot.
- 137 (d) The security of electronically submitting a voted
- 138 ballot through an online voting system.
- 139 (e) Procedures adopted by other states to facilitate
- 140 greater electoral participation among absent uniformed services
- 141 voters who are overseas.
- 142 (4) The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the
- 143 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
- 144 House of Representatives by July 1, 2017, containing the task
- 145 force's recommendation concerning whether the state should

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- 146 pursue the development and implementation of an online voting
- 147 system that allows absent uniformed services voters who are
- 148 overseas to electronically submit voted ballots. If the task
- 149 force favorably recommends an online voting system, the report
- 150 must include recommended steps for developing and implementing
- 151 such a system. Upon submission of the report, the task force
- 152 shall expire.
- 153 (5) The Division of Elections of the Department of State
- 154 shall provide support staff for the task force. The Agency for
- 155 State Technology shall assist the task force upon request.
- 156 Section 3. Legislative findings and intent; continuing
- 157 education of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.—The
- 158 Legislature finds that many veterans of the United States Armed
- 159 Forces in this state have completed training and coursework
- 160 during their military service, including overseas deployments,
- 161 resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in their pursuit
- 162 of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further finds that
- 163 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the
- 164 State University System must work together to ensure that
- 165 military training and coursework are granted academic credit in
- 166 order to assist veterans in continuing their education.
- 167 Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the State
- 168 Board of Education and the Board of Governors work
- 169 collaboratively to:
- 170 (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not
- 171 limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state
- 172 university and Florida College System institution with
- 173 applicable military training and experience to maximize academic
- 174 credit awarded for such training and experience.

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175 (2) Appoint and train specific faculty within each degree  
176 program at each state university and Florida College System  
177 institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.

178 (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled  
179 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each  
180 state university and Florida College System institution to make  
181 available to such veterans information on disability services  
182 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
183 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

184 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state  
185 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
186 student services for veterans to discuss and develop best  
187 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend  
188 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs  
189 of veterans.

190 (5) Make every effort to provide veterans with sufficient  
191 courses required for graduation, including, but not limited to,  
192 giving priority registration to veterans.

193 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.



THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10/6

Meeting Date

SB 184

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Military and Veterans Affairs

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Job Title Executive Director

Address The Capitol

Street

Phone 407-1533

City

State

Zip

Email exdir@fdva.state.fl.us

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)



The Florida Senate

## Committee Agenda Request

**To:** Senator Thad Altman, Chair  
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

**Subject:** Committee Agenda Request

**Date:** September 15, 2015

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I respectfully request that **Senate Bill #184**, relating to Military and Veterans Affairs, be placed on the:

- ☐ committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.
- ☒ next committee agenda.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron Bean".

---

Senator Aaron Bean  
Florida Senate, District 4

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

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BILL: SB 7016

INTRODUCER: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee

SUBJECT: Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

DATE: October 6, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

| ANALYST    | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION                             |
|------------|----------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Sanders | Hrdlicka       |           | <b>Submitted as Committee Bill</b> |

---

**I. Summary:**

SB 7016 reenacts provisions of law establishing and implementing the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) and provides for future legislative review and repeal of the Compact on July 1, 2019.

**II. Present Situation:**

Children in active-duty military families face unique educational challenges. The average military child transfers to a different state or school district six to nine times during kindergarten through grade 12. When a parent is reassigned, a military child may be impacted by:

- Record transfer issues;
- Varied course sequencing and academic placement policies;
- Varied graduation requirements;
- Exclusion from extracurricular activities;
- Redundant or missed entrance or exit testing;
- Varied kindergarten and first grade entrance ages; and
- The need to appoint temporary guardians while the child's parent is deployed.<sup>1</sup>

As of July 31, 2014, there were 41,334 students from an active-duty military family residing in Florida.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, *Guide for Parents, School Officials and Public Administrators* (Nov. 2014), p. 2, available at <http://mic3.net/pages/resources/documents/ParentGuideNov2014.pdf> (last visited Sept. 28, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Email correspondence with John Matthews, Program Specialist, Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children on Sept. 22, 2015. (On file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security.)

## **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

To assist transferring military families, the Council of State Governments' National Center for Interstate Compacts and the U.S. Department of Defense developed the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Compact) with input and assistance from national associations, federal and state officials, departments of education, school officials, and military families.<sup>3</sup> The Compact is an agreement between states that is designed to assist member states in uniformly addressing key educational transition issues in enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation.<sup>4</sup>

In order to join the Compact as a member state, each state was required to adopt the Compact in state law. The Compact was effective upon enactment by ten states. Florida was the tenth state to join the Compact on July 1, 2008.<sup>5</sup> Following Oregon's legislation taking effect in January of 2015, all 50 states and the District of Columbia are now active members of the Compact.<sup>6</sup>

Students eligible for assistance under the Compact must receive public funding through the local education agency and be the children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active-duty orders;
- Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are medically discharged or retired for a period of one year following separation; and
- Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.<sup>7</sup>

### ***Florida State Council***

The Compact requires member states to establish a state council or appoint an existing entity to coordinate the implementation of the Compact.<sup>8</sup> At a minimum, the state council must include the following:

- State Superintendent of Education;
- Superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of military children;
- One representative from a military installation;
- One representative from the legislative branch of government; and
- One representative from the executive branch of government.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, *FAQ: What is The Compact?*, available at [http://mic3.net/pages/FAQ/faq\\_indexnew.aspx](http://mic3.net/pages/FAQ/faq_indexnew.aspx) (last visited Sept. 28, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, *Orientation to the Interstate Compact*, (Jan. 2015), available at <http://mic3.net/pages/resources/resources.aspx> (last visited Sept. 28, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> Email correspondence with John Matthews, Program Specialist, Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children on Sept. 22, 2015. (On file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security.) See ss. 1000.36, 1000.38, and 1000.39, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, *FAQ: Where Is The Compact In Terms Of Implementation At The National And State Levels?*, available at [http://mic3.net/pages/FAQ/faq\\_indexnew.aspx](http://mic3.net/pages/FAQ/faq_indexnew.aspx) (last visited Sept. 28, 2015).

<sup>7</sup> Article III, s. A of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Article VIII of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Article VIII, A of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S.

Additionally, the state must appoint or designate a military family education liaison and a compact commissioner. Each of these individuals, unless already a full voting member of the council, shall serve as an ex officio member of the state council.<sup>10</sup>

### ***Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children***

The Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (Interstate Commission) is the national governing body created to provide oversight of the Compact, adopt and enforce bylaws and rules, and perform various administrative functions necessary for day-to-day operations.<sup>11</sup> The Interstate Commission is comprised of one voting representative from each member state and non-voting, ex officio representatives who are members of interested organizations (i.e., U.S. Department of Defense).<sup>12</sup> Each state is entitled to one vote on Compact rule adoption or other business matters.<sup>13</sup> The Interstate Commission must meet at least once per calendar year.<sup>14</sup>

The Interstate Commission is authorized to promulgate Compact rules which govern member states in the areas addressed by the Compact. Compact rules have the force and effect of statutory law in member states and supersede conflicting member state laws to the extent of the conflict.<sup>15</sup> Compact rules must not exceed the scope of authority granted by the Compact. A majority of member state legislatures may invalidate a Compact rule by legislative action.<sup>16</sup>

Since the Legislature last reauthorized the Compact in 2013<sup>17</sup> there were no amendments to the rules or by-laws or changes to the Compact adopted by the Interstate Commission. The statutes adopting the Compact are repealed on April 10, 2016, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill repeals s. 2, ch. 2013-20, L.O.F., which would repeal Florida's adoption of the Compact on April 10, 2016. The bill provides for the repeal of the Compact statutes, ss. 1000.36, 1000.38, and 1000.39, F.S., on July 1, 2019, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

The bill is effective upon becoming law.

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<sup>10</sup> Article VIII of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S. See also ss. 1000.38 and 1000.39, F.S., and Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission, *Compact Officials in Florida*, available at <http://www.mic3.net/pages/contact/Map/florida.aspx> (last visited Oct. 1, 2015).

<sup>11</sup> Articles IX and X of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Article IX of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S. The voting representative from each state is the compact commissioner.

<sup>13</sup> Article IX, s. B of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Article IX, s. D of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Article X, s. B and XVIII, s. B of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S. The Compact also provides that if any part of the Compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, the provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state. See Article XVIII, s. E of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Article XII of the Compact, s. 1000.36, F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Chapter 2013-20, Laws of Fla.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. Other Constitutional Issues:**

To address concerns regarding delegation of legislative authority, the bill provides for automatic repeal of Florida's Compact legislation after a period of time, unless reauthorized by the Legislature.<sup>18</sup> Because membership in the Compact requires the state to agree to be bound by rules promulgated by a non-legislative entity, i.e., the Interstate Commission, the repeal provision allows the Legislature to periodically review the Compact rules and determine whether it agrees with any new rules or rule amendments adopted during the period. Reauthorization of the Compact after such review diminishes a claim that the Legislature has delegated its authority.<sup>19</sup>

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

Member states pay an annual fee to the Interstate Commission that must be between \$2,000 and \$60,000. The formula is based upon the number of military children eligible for transfer under the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children at the rate of one dollar per child.

The General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015-16 appropriated \$42,813 in recurring funds from General Revenue to the Department of Education to pay the dues.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> See s. 5, ch. 2008-225 and s. 3, ch. 2010-52, L.O.F.

<sup>19</sup> See Florida Senate, Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 1060 (2010).

<sup>20</sup> Line item 126, proviso, ch. 2015-232, Laws of Fla.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

The bill repeals Section 2 of Chapter 2013-20, Laws of Florida.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

**FOR CONSIDERATION By** the Committee on Military and Veterans  
Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

583-00608-16

20167016pb

1                           A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Interstate Compact on  
3       Educational Opportunity for Military Children;  
4       repealing s. 2 of chapter 2013-20, Laws of Florida;  
5       abrogating the future repeal of ss. 1000.36, 1000.38,  
6       and 1000.39, F.S., relating to the compact; providing  
7       for future legislative review and repeal of the  
8       compact; providing an effective date.  
9  
10   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
11  
12       Section 1. Section 2 of chapter 2013-20, Laws of Florida,  
13   is repealed.  
14       Section 2. Sections 1000.36, 1000.38, and 1000.39, Florida  
15   Statutes, shall stand repealed on July 1, 2019, unless reviewed  
16   and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.  
17       Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.



THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10/6  
Meeting Date

SB 7016  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for military children  
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Mike Prendergast

Job Title Executive Director

Address The Capitol  
Street

Phone 487-1533

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email exdir@fdva.state.fl.us

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing \_\_\_\_\_

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)



# FLORIDA DEFENSE FACTBOOK

SEPTEMBER 2015



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# FLORIDA MILITARY FACTS

|  |  |                |
|--|--|----------------|
| Total Statewide Impact                           |  | \$79.8 Billion |
| Impact as Percent of Florida Gross State Product |  | 9.5%           |
| State-wide Direct and Indirect Jobs              |  | 774,721        |
| Buildings Owned by Military                      |  | 6,968          |
| Total Acreage (all installations)                |  | 690,867        |
| Plant Replacement Value                          |  | \$27.9 Billion |
| Military Personnel                               |  | 60,155         |
| Civilian Personnel                               |  | 30,358         |
| National Guard Personnel**                       |  | 12,116         |
| National Guard Civilian Personnel**              |  | 397            |
| Total Veterans Living in State                   |  | 1,583,697      |

Notes: All personnel data included herein are taken from the FY 2014 Baseline Base Structure Report from the Department of Defense. They note that “personnel data is included in this report ONLY as a means of showing relative magnitude and should not be construed as validated Military Department Manpower Data. \*\*Based in part upon data drawn from the 2014 Adjutant General’s Report.



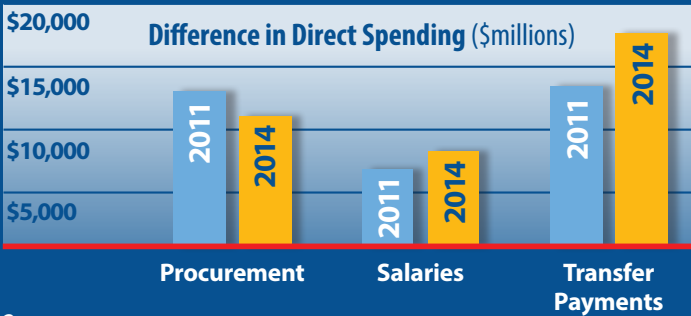


# STUDY OVERVIEW

The data in the 2015 update are substantively similar to the most recent update provided in January 2013 which was, at that time, based on 2011 data. First, the 2015 update is based upon data for the 2014 calendar year - thus the study offered here is more proximate to the data. Second, the impact estimates are offered based on REMI's 70 sector model rather than the 23 sector model which was previously available. Thus, this study offers a bit more fidelity than that which was available in past updates and, impact estimates, as a result of this fidelity, are somewhat higher. Unlike previous studies which relied on the Consolidated Federal Funds Report which was discontinued, this study relies primarily on data from USA Spending, Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, Florida National Guard, the US Coast Guard, Base Structure Report, DoD Green Book and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

As in previous studies, we rely on baseline personnel estimates from REMI to calculate the impacts you see in the document, but we leverage data from US Bureau of Economic Analysis to gather wage data for personnel. Wage estimates for federal military (now calculated by place of residence) will vary from the last update as a function of the new source of data even though impact estimates may be substantively similar.

The figure below outlines the major differences in direct inputs. As the figure shows, procurement flows to the state have declined. These declines have been more than offset by growth in the number of military personnel present in the state along with salary increases as well as substantial growth in transfer payments to retirees and veterans. Thus, as one might imagine, the impacts presented here are higher than those offered in the previous update.



# IMPACTS BY THE NUMBERS:

- ★ Defense spending was directly or indirectly responsible for **\$79.8 Billion**, or 9.5%, of Florida's **2014 Gross State Product**.
- ★ Defense-related spending accounted for a total of **775,000** direct, indirect and induced **jobs**.
- ★ Of the **\$34.7 Billion spent in Florida** in 2014, approximately \$10.2 Billion was for procurement, \$7.5 Billion for salaries and wages and \$16.8 Billion for transfers (retirement and veteran's benefits, etc).
- ★ The ten largest Florida defense contractors supplied **\$4.6 Billion**, or roughly 45% of the \$10.2 Billion value of defense procured goods and services.
- ★ Approximately **35%** of Northwest Florida's Gross Regional Product is attributable to defense activities, **16%** for the Northeast Region, **10%** for the East Central Region, **9.1%** for the Tampa Bay Region, **5.7%** for the North Central Region, **3.9%** for the Southeast Region, **4.5%** for the Southwest Region and **3.5%** for the South Central Region.
- ★ **Lafayette County**, the county least affected by the defense industry, still realizes an annual economic benefit of over **\$4 Million** dollars. **Duval County**, which sees the highest total impact of any county in the state, realizes an impact of **\$11.4 Billion** dollars.
- ★ **Florida has seen less of a drop in military employment** over the last five years relative to the rest of the nation. Nationally, since 2010, total military employment has declined by 3%. Florida has remained relatively stable at just over **98,000 total direct jobs**.

*BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Commission's*

## 2005 Criteria for Analyzing Bases:

### MILITARY VALUE

1. The current and future mission capabilities including impact on operational readiness, joint war fighting and training.
2. Availability and condition of land, facilities, water and airspace to maintain a diversity of climate and terrain among training areas.
3. Ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization and future total force requirements.
4. The cost of operations and the manpower implications.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

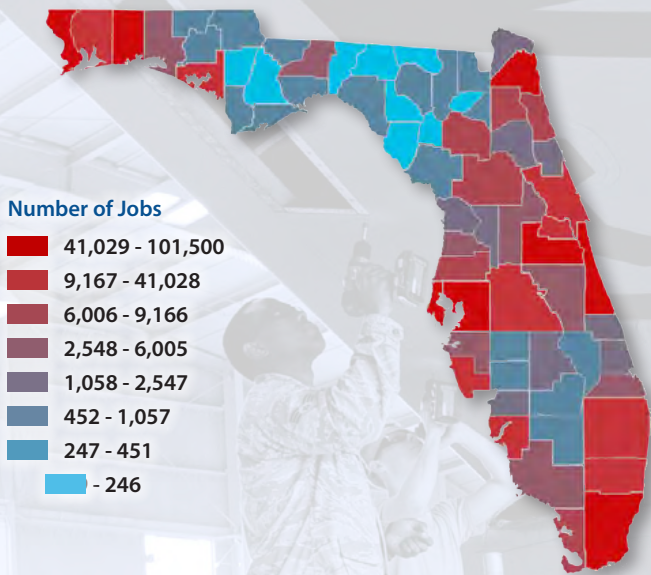
1. Extent and timing of potential budgetary costs and savings.
2. Economic impact to the existing community.
3. Communities' ability to support additional forces, missions and personnel.
4. Environmental impact.

**Florida's military bases provide immense value.** Joint basing, joint usage and ability to host joint training areas are of paramount importance in assessing the future of a base. Air, land and sea training areas and ranges associated with the Joint Gulf Range Complex can host large, complex joint exercises.

Florida is home to three of ten unified combatant commands, hosts two of only four Navy deep water ports in the U.S. with adjacent airfields, the military's only east coast space launch facility, the Marine Corps's only maritime prepositioning force facility, and one of only three Navy Fleet Readiness Centers, as well as several critical research, development, training and evaluation (RDT&E) centers. DoD's strategy emphasizes rapidly deployable joint forces, joint training, access to space, special operations, precision strike, research and development, and cyber.

Additionally the Joint Gulf Range Complex connects test & training ranges that extend from Key West to NW Florida and across the eastern Gulf of Mexico. It includes 180,000 square miles of DoD controlled air-space, as well as 724 sq. miles of adjacent land ranges, 3,200 sq. miles of airspace over adjacent land, 17 miles of shoreline access, interconnected radars and 2 launch areas for missiles. The training area contains multiple live-fire bombing ranges, including Pinecastle Range, Avon Park Air Force Range and the Eglin Bombing Range, that allow for simultaneous maritime, air and land training exercises. Due to its tremendous capabilities and Florida's commitment to partnership, the complex is an integral part of DoD's Training Resources Strategy.

Total Employment Impacts  
of Defense Activities



In 2014, defense spending in Florida was directly or indirectly responsible for \$79.8 Billion, or 9.5 percent, of Florida’s gross state product. Total defense spending also accounted for nearly 775,000 jobs around the state—many of which are associated with a wage premium. For example, direct procurement jobs have annual earnings of over \$23.00 per hour. This is approximately 19% higher than the state average of \$19.70. **Defense spending creates jobs in every Florida county.** The map above displays total direct, indirect and induced jobs impacts across Florida.

Total State Economic Impacts

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| State Economic Impact (Gross State Product) | \$ 79.8 Billion<br>9.5% of GSP |
| Employment                                  | 774,721 Jobs                   |
| Sales Activity                              | \$83.7 Billion                 |
| Consumption                                 | \$45.8 Billion                 |
| Capital Investment                          | \$10.4 Billion                 |

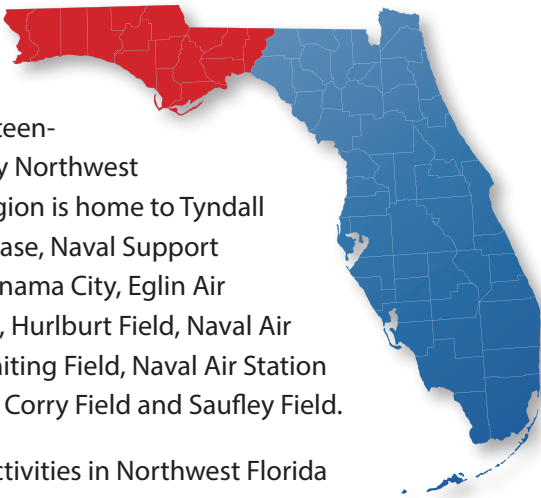
Direct Defense Spending

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Procurement            | \$10.2 Billion |
| Salaries               | \$7.5 Billion  |
| Pensions & Transfers   | \$16.8 Billion |
| Total Defense Spending | \$34.7 Billion |

Impacts by Component

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Federal Military |                |
| Economic Impact  | \$73.3 Billion |
| Employment       | 711,430 Jobs   |
| National Guard   |                |
| Economic Impact  | \$4.2 Billion  |
| Employment       | 39,823 Jobs    |
| Coast Guard      |                |
| Economic Impact  | \$2.2 Billion  |
| Employment       | 23,469 Jobs    |





**T**he sixteen-county Northwest Florida Region is home to Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City, Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Corry Field and Saufley Field.

Defense activities in Northwest Florida generate an estimated 181,564 jobs and account for over \$20.4 Billion in GRP which is 35% of the region’s total gross product.

The bulk of the impacts are generated by direct federal military (and civilian) employment which accounts for nearly 54,000 direct jobs, followed by federal military procurement and transfer payments. The National Guard and Coast Guard account for 3,861 and 1,461 total jobs respectively in this region.

| Total Regional Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Regional Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$20,417.7<br>35.2% of GRP |
| Employment   | 181,564 Jobs               |
| Sales Activity                                       | \$13,390.8                 |
| Consumption  | \$10,355.8                 |
| Capital Investment                                   | \$2,368.4                  |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>         |                            |
| Procurement  | \$1,499.4                  |
| Salaries   | \$3,420.1                  |
| Pensions & Transfers                                 | \$2,399.4                  |
| Total Defense Spending                               | \$7,319.1                  |
| Impacts by Component <i>(in Millions)</i>            |                            |
| Federal Military                                     |                            |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$19,863.8                 |
| Employment   | 176,243 Jobs               |
| National Guard                                       |                            |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$426.9                    |
| Employment   | 3,861 Jobs                 |
| Coast Guard  |                            |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$127.0                    |
| Employment   | 1,461 Jobs                 |

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION

## BAY COUNTY



Home to:

- *Naval Support Activity Panama City*
- *Tyndall Air Force Base*

Naval Support Activity  
Panama City's mission is to

provide research, development, test and evaluation, and in-service support for expeditionary, amphibious warfare, diving, maritime special operations, and mine warfare.

Tyndall Air Force Base is the home of the 325th Fighter Wing, which conducts advanced training for F-22 pilots, maintenance personnel, air traffic and weapon controllers and F-22 specific intelligence personnel. The Air Forces North / 1st Air Force Command Center for air operations in North America is located at Tyndall.

### Total County Impact (in Millions)

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>County Economic Impact (Gross Regional Product)</b> | <b>\$2,393.0</b> |
| Employment   | 22,561 Jobs      |
| Sales Activity   | \$1,913.9        |
| Consumption  | \$1,229.0        |
| Capital Investment                                     | \$286.2          |

### Direct Defense Spending (in Millions)

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Procurement                   | \$347.1          |
| Salaries                      | \$337.8          |
| Pensions & Transfers          | \$332.7          |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$1,017.6</b> |

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION

## ESCAMBIA COUNTY



Home to:

- *Naval Air Station Pensacola*
- *Corry Station*
- *Saufley Field*

Naval Air Station Pensacola,  
"The Cradle of Naval Aviation,"

is tasked with providing superior training support and a quality environment to its more than 90 tenant commands.

Corry Station's primary mission is to operate and administer assigned schools that provide training to military and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense and international military students.

Saufley Field is a multi-purpose facility hosting the Naval Education and Program Management Support Activity, a Federal Prison Camp, and other activities.

### Total County Impact (in Millions)

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>County Economic Impact (Gross Regional Product)</b> | <b>\$7,184.1</b> |
| Employment   | 63,293 Jobs      |
| Sales Activity   | \$4,547.2        |
| Consumption  | \$2,977.1        |
| Capital Investment                                     | \$708.6          |

### Direct Defense Spending (in Millions)

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Procurement                   | \$340.7          |
| Salaries                      | \$1,282.5        |
| Pensions & Transfers          | \$587.7          |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$2,210.9</b> |



# NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION

## OKALOOSA COUNTY



Home to:

- **Eglin Air Force Base**
- **Hurlburt Field**

Eglin Air Force Base hosts the 96th Test Wing and is the largest military base in the US with 724 square miles of land range. Eglin

hosts the Joint Gulf Range Complex, which is a training resource with tremendous capabilities and a commitment to partnering for joint training.

Hurlburt Field's mission is to support the training and execution of worldwide aviation special operations such as unconventional warfare, special reconnaissance, counter proliferation, foreign internal defense, information operations, psychological operations, civil affairs and combating terrorism.

### Total County Impact *(in Millions)*

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>County Economic Impact<br/>(Gross Regional Product)</b> | <b>\$8,816.5</b> |
|--|------------------|

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Employment | 71,780 Jobs |
|------------|-------------|

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Sales Activity | \$4,941.8 |
|----------------|-----------|

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Consumption | \$3,916.7 |
|-------------|-----------|

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Capital Investment | \$891.3 |
|--------------------|---------|

### Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Procurement | \$770.1 |
|-------------|---------|

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Salaries | \$1,689.3 |
|----------|-----------|

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Pensions & Transfers | \$682.1 |
|----------------------|---------|

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$3,141.5</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA REGION

## SANTA ROSA COUNTY



Home to:

- **Naval Air Station  
Whiting Field**

Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field's mission is to produce the military's best trained "Aviation Warfighter."

With 13 outlying fields, NAS Whiting hosts 20 tenant activities,

including Training Air Wing 5 which produces over 700 pilots a year. NAS Whiting Field owns 61% of Navy outlying landing fields, and 11% of all DoD flight hours are flown out of NAS Whiting annually.

### Total County Impact *(in Millions)*

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| <b>County Economic Impact<br/>(Gross Regional Product)</b> | <b>\$1,190.5</b> |
|--|------------------|

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Employment | 13,369 Jobs |
|------------|-------------|

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Sales Activity | \$1,021.8 |
|----------------|-----------|

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Consumption | \$1,487.8 |
|-------------|-----------|

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Capital Investment | \$314.2 |
|--------------------|---------|

### Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Procurement | \$22.2 |
|-------------|--------|

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| Salaries | \$53.3 |
|----------|--------|

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Pensions & Transfers | \$384.7 |
|----------------------|---------|

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$460.2</b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|



**T**he North Central Florida region is comprised of thirteen counties. The region is home to Camp Blanding and the Pinecastle Bombing Range. Defense activities in this region generated nearly 18,800 jobs in 2014 and accounted for approximately \$1.4 Billion in Gross Regional Product. This is roughly 5.7% of the region's total GRP.

The bulk of the jobs flow through from federal military and civilian employees who live in the region (roughly 7,000 direct jobs which translates into 17,000 total direct, in-direct and induced jobs ). Total spending by the National Guard accounts for over 1,400 jobs and the Coast Guard accounts for nearly 250 jobs in this region.

| Total Regional Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Regional Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$1,445.0<br>5.7% of GRP |
| Employment   | 18,751 Jobs              |
| Sales Activity                                       | \$1,705.8                |
| Consumption  | \$1,508.1                |
| Capital Investment                                   | \$326.2                  |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>         |                          |
| Procurement  | \$128.1                  |
| Salaries   | \$96.5                   |
| Pensions & Transfers                                 | \$1,029.6                |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b>                        | <b>\$1,254.5</b>         |
| Impacts by Component <i>(in Millions)</i>            |                          |
| <b>Federal Military</b>                              |                          |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$1,305.9                |
| Employment   | 17,028 Jobs              |
| <b>National Guard</b>                                |                          |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$121.4                  |
| Employment   | 1,481 Jobs               |
| <b>Coast Guard</b>                                   |                          |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$17.6                   |
| Employment   | 240 Jobs                 |

# NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION

## BRADFORD COUNTY



Home to:

- ***Camp Blanding Joint Training Center***

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center is the primary military reservation and training

base for the Florida National Guard. The base is located in adjacent Clay County, approximately 25 miles south of Jacksonville, and is composed of 73,000 acres of forest, lakes, and grassland. Camp Blanding possesses billeting to accommodate more than 3,500 personnel and ranges which can support training for small arms weapons, mortars, artillery, attack helicopter gunnery and close air support aircraft.

### Total County Impact *(in Millions)*

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>County Economic Impact<br/>(Gross Regional Product)</b> | <b>\$26.5</b> |
|--|---------------|

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Employment | 488 Jobs |
|------------|----------|

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Sales Activity | \$33.9 |
|----------------|--------|

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Consumption | \$56.3 |
|-------------|--------|

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Capital Investment | \$10.9 |
|--------------------|--------|

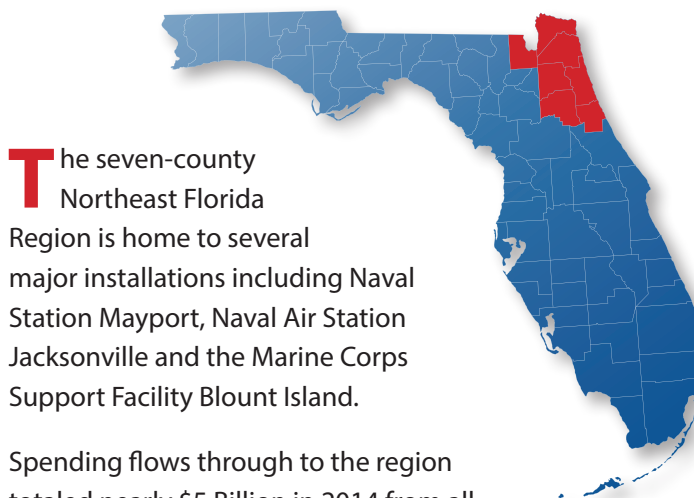
### Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Procurement | \$1.3 |
|-------------|-------|

|          |       |
|----------|-------|
| Salaries | \$1.0 |
|----------|-------|

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Pensions & Transfers | \$32.2 |
|----------------------|--------|

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$34.5</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|



**T**he seven-county Northeast Florida Region is home to several major installations including Naval Station Mayport, Naval Air Station Jacksonville and the Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island.

Spending flows through to the region totaled nearly \$5 Billion in 2014 from all sources. These spending flows generated over 123,000 total jobs in the region and accounted for 15.8% of the region's Gross Regional Product (\$13 Billion).

Impacts related to federal military and civilian employment accounted for 105,870 jobs (of this total, 75,000 were direct military and civilian jobs), transfer payments from federal and civilian Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security sources accounted for 20,000 total jobs. The National Guard and Coast Guard accounted for 15,000 jobs, and 2,200 jobs respectively in this region.

## Total Regional Impact *(in Millions)*

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Regional Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$13,064.3<br>15.8% of GRP |
|--|----------------------------|

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Employment         | 123,386 Jobs |
| Sales Activity     | \$12,646.4   |
| Consumption        | \$7,059.9    |
| Capital Investment | \$1,573.0    |

## Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Procurement                   | \$1,124.6        |
| Salaries                      | \$1,728.9        |
| Pensions & Transfers          | \$2,000.2        |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$4,853.7</b> |

## Impacts by Component *(in Millions)*

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Federal Military</b> |              |
| Economic Impact         | \$11,116.8   |
| Employment              | 105,870 Jobs |
| <b>National Guard</b>   |              |
| Economic Impact         | \$1,737.8    |
| Employment              | 15,277 Jobs  |
| <b>Coast Guard</b>      |              |
| Economic Impact         | \$209.7      |
| Employment              | 2,239 Jobs   |



# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION

## CLAY COUNTY



Home to:

- **Camp Blanding Joint Training Center**

Camp Blanding Joint Training Center is the primary military reservation and training base for the

Florida National Guard. The base is located in rural Clay County, approximately 25 miles south of Jacksonville, and is composed of 73,000 acres of forest, lakes, and grassland. Camp Blanding possesses billeting to accommodate more than 3,500 personnel and ranges which can support training for small arms weapons, mortars, artillery, attack helicopter gunnery and close air support aircraft.

### Total County Impact *(in Millions)*

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>County Economic Impact<br/>(Gross Regional Product)</b> | <b>\$654.5</b> |
|--|----------------|

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Employment         | 9,167 Jobs |
| Sales Activity     | \$698.2    |
| Consumption        | \$918.0    |
| Capital Investment | \$184.1    |

### Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Procurement                   | \$24.8         |
| Salaries                      | \$182.1        |
| Pensions & Transfers          | \$438.1        |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$645.0</b> |

# NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGION

## DUVAL COUNTY



Home to:

- **Naval Air Station Jacksonville**
- **Naval Station Mayport**
- **Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island**
- **Jacksonville Air National Guard**

Naval Air Station Jacksonville is a multi-mission base, which hosts more than 100 tenant organizations and is the third largest naval installation in the US.

Naval Station Mayport is host to 83 tenant commands including 16 ships, four helicopter squadrons and the Navy's Fourth Fleet.

Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island plans, coordinates, and executes the logistic efforts necessary to support Maritime Prepositioning Ships squadrons.

The 125th Fighter Wing provides air defense for the southeastern US from Charleston, SC to the southern tip of Florida at the Jacksonville Air National Guard Base.

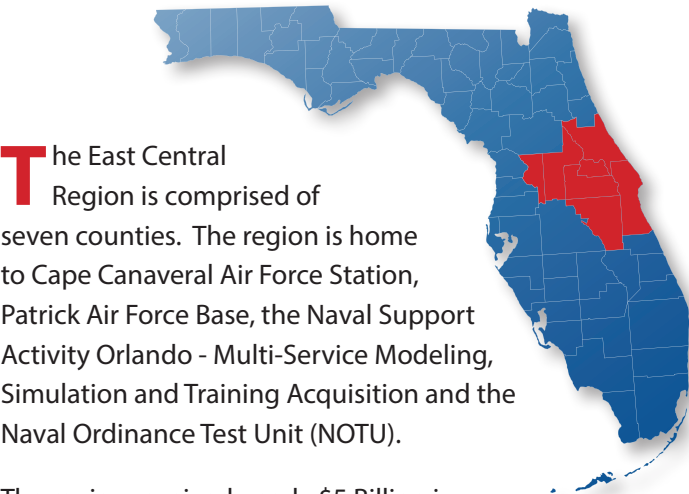
### Total County Impact *(in Millions)*

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>County Economic Impact<br/>(Gross Regional Product)</b> | <b>\$11,474.6</b> |
|--|-------------------|

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Employment         | 101,500 Jobs |
| Sales Activity     | \$10,846.0   |
| Consumption        | \$4,643.4    |
| Capital Investment | \$1,085.4    |

### Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Procurement                   | \$996.0          |
| Salaries                      | \$1,509.3        |
| Pensions & Transfers          | \$1,043.4        |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$3,548.7</b> |



The East Central Region is comprised of seven counties. The region is home to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Patrick Air Force Base, the Naval Support Activity Orlando - Multi-Service Modeling, Simulation and Training Acquisition and the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU).

The region received nearly \$5 Billion in procurement monies from defense activities along with \$3.2 Billion in transfers and \$590 Million in salaries for a total of \$8.7 Billion in direct spending. These inputs generated more than 140,000 jobs in the region - a majority of which is associated with federal procurement flows. Indeed, federal procurement dollars account for 61,000 total jobs in the region. This region is unique in that procurement flows are the key driver of economic impact driven largely by the presence of the industry clusters that congregate around Naval Support Activity Orlando. National Guard and Coast Guard flows account for 5,100 and 1,600 jobs respectively in this region.

| Total Regional Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Regional Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$14,494.1<br>10.4% of GRP |
| Employment   | 140,841 Jobs               |
| Sales Activity                                       | \$20,273.3                 |
| Consumption  | \$8,174.2                  |
| Capital Investment                                   | \$1,890.0                  |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>         |                            |
| Procurement  | \$4,891.1                  |
| Salaries   | \$590.3                    |
| Pensions & Transfers                                 | \$3,289.1                  |
| Total Defense Spending                               | \$8,770.7                  |
| Impacts by Component <i>(in Millions)</i>            |                            |
| Federal Military                                     |                            |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$13,824.4                 |
| Employment   | 134,092 Jobs               |
| National Guard                                       |                            |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$516.2                    |
| Employment   | 5,105 Jobs                 |
| Coast Guard  |                            |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$153.5                    |
| Employment   | 1,644 Jobs                 |

# EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION

## BREVARD COUNTY



Home to:

- *Patrick Air Force Base*
- *Cape Canaveral Air Force Station*
- *Naval Ordnance Test Unit*

Patrick Air Force Base is a major component of the

Air Force Space Command. It provides combat capabilities through launch, range and expeditionary operations. The host organization is the 45th Space Wing.

Cape Canaveral Air Force Station is controlled by the 45th Space Wing and is responsible for ensuring America's safe and assured access to space. It co-joins Kennedy Space Center and consists of 47 Launch complexes used to launch Atlas, Titan and Delta rockets.

### Total County Impact *(in Millions)*

**County Economic Impact  
(Gross Regional Product)** **\$4,547.4**

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Employment         | 41,029 Jobs |
| Sales Activity     | \$5,566.0   |
| Consumption        | \$2,476.5   |
| Capital Investment | \$556.2     |

### Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Procurement                   | \$1,667.8        |
| Salaries                      | \$250.3          |
| Pensions & Transfers          | \$888.6          |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$2,806.7</b> |

# EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION

## ORANGE COUNTY



Home to:

- *Naval Support Activity Orlando: Multi-Service Modeling, Simulation and Training Acquisition*

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Orlando serves as one of the principal foundations of Orlando's Central Florida Research Park. NSA Orlando is home to a variety of private industry, government and academic organizations, many of whom specialize in high-tech research and development programs, including modeling and simulation, which is collectively known as Team Orlando. NSA Orlando is a 40- acre facility located in the Central Florida Research Park adjacent to the University of Central Florida. NSA Orlando's mission is to provide shore installation support services to tenant DoD agencies enabling mission accomplishment in a joint services environment.

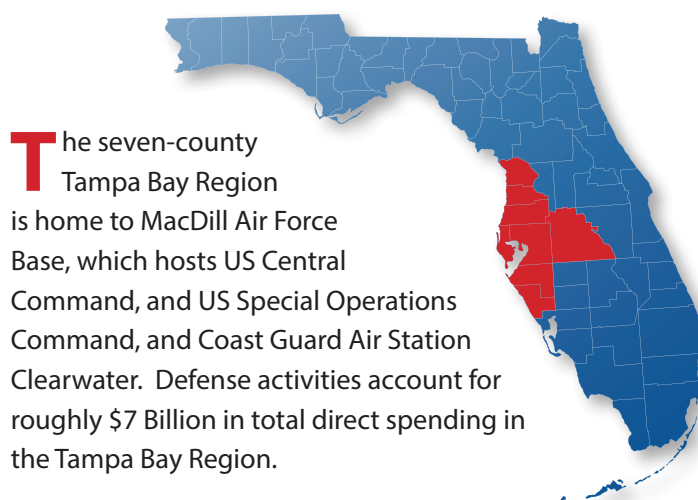
### Total County Impact *(in Millions)*

**County Economic Impact  
(Gross Regional Product)** **\$7,208.7**

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Employment         | 65,341 Jobs |
| Sales Activity     | \$10,979.8  |
| Consumption        | \$2,805.5   |
| Capital Investment | \$718.6     |

### Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Procurement                   | \$3,138.8        |
| Salaries                      | \$118.3          |
| Pensions & Transfers          | \$881.2          |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$4,138.3</b> |



These expenditures generated 154,900 jobs in 2014 and accounted for \$16.0 Billion of the region's Gross Regional Product (9.1% of the region's total GRP). Salaries paid to federal military and civilian employees accounted for 73,000 total direct jobs, while federal procurement dollars accounted for 27,000 direct jobs. The bulk of the economic impact associated with defense activities in the region is a result of federal dollars flowing through the region to the military - roughly \$14.6 Billion of the \$16.0 Billion impact. The Coast Guard accounted for 6,230 total jobs and the National Guard for an additional 7,640 total jobs in this region.

## Total Regional Impact *(in Millions)*

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Regional Economic Impact<br/>(Gross Regional Product)</b> | <b>\$16,034.1<br/>9.1% of GRP</b> |
|--|-----------------------------------|

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Employment         | 154,870 Jobs |
| Sales Activity     | \$19,349.2   |
| Consumption        | \$10,068.9   |
| Capital Investment | \$2,284.0    |

## Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Procurement                   | \$1,504.2        |
| Salaries                      | \$887.6          |
| Pensions & Transfers          | \$4,603.4        |
| <b>Total Defense Spending</b> | <b>\$6,995.2</b> |

## Impacts by Component *(in Millions)*

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Federal Military</b> |              |
| Economic Impact         | \$14,630.9   |
| Employment              | 140,999 Jobs |
| <b>National Guard</b>   |              |
| Economic Impact         | \$807.9      |
| Employment              | 7,642 Jobs   |
| <b>Coast Guard</b>      |              |
| Economic Impact         | \$595.3      |
| Employment              | 6,234 Jobs   |



# TAMPA BAY REGION

## HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY



- Home to:
- *MacDill Air Force Base*
  - *US Central Command*
  - *US Special Operations Command*

MacDill Air Force Base’s host command is the 6th Air Mobility Wing; the primary mission is airlift and aerial refueling. MacDill hosts US Central Command and US Special Operations Command.

US Central Command is one of six geographically defined unified commands in the DoD. It is responsible for US Security interests in 20 nations in Northeast Africa as well as Southwest and Central Asia.

US Special Operations Command’s primary mission is to disrupt, defeat and destroy terrorist networks that threaten US citizens and interests worldwide.

| Total County Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |             |
|--|-------------|
| County Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$8,869.3   |
| Employment   | 72,636 Jobs |
| Sales Activity                                     | \$10,003.9  |
| Consumption  | \$4,232.0   |
| Capital Investment                                 | \$985.8     |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>       |             |
| Procurement  | \$819.4     |
| Salaries   | \$651.7     |
| Pensions & Transfers                               | \$1,490.2   |
| Total Defense Spending                             | \$2,961.3   |

# TAMPA BAY REGION

## PINELLAS COUNTY



- Home to:
- *United States Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater*

Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater is the largest and busiest air station

in the Coast Guard. The Area of Operations includes the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean basin and the Bahamas. The Station maintains deployed H-60s for operations in the Bahamas, and Turks and Caicos engaging anti-drug and migrant smuggling operations. The Station also has C-130s deployed in support of its operations in the Caribbean.

| Total County Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |             |
|--|-------------|
| County Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$4,045.2   |
| Employment   | 41,504 Jobs |
| Sales Activity                                     | \$5,168.3   |
| Consumption  | \$2,518.3   |
| Capital Investment                                 | \$575.4     |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>       |             |
| Procurement  | \$557.4     |
| Salaries   | \$114.9     |
| Pensions & Transfers                               | \$1,198.0   |
| Total Defense Spending                             | \$1,870.3   |



# TAMPA BAY REGION

## POLK COUNTY



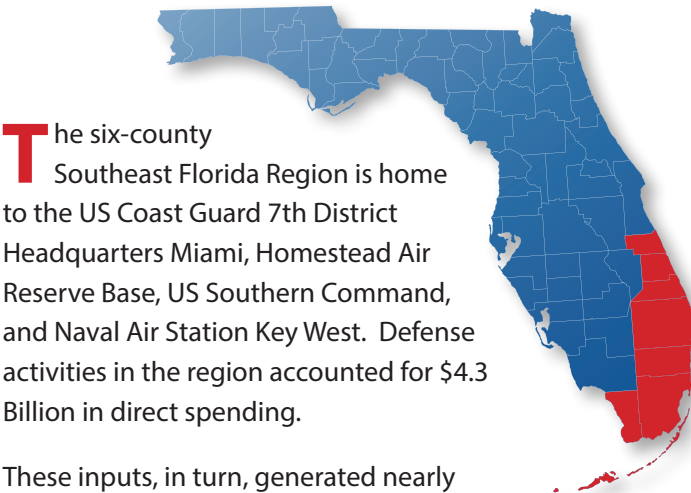
Home to:

- **Avon Park Air Force Range**

Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) (Highlands and Polk Counties) is the largest live ordnance bombing and gunnery range east of the Mississippi River.

APAFR includes 400 square miles of restricted airspace, 1,000 square miles of military operating area and 106,035 acres inside the fence. APAFR provides an important training facility for Active, Guard, and Reserve military units from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, and for special operations and Homeland Security personnel.

| Total County Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |             |
|--|-------------|
| County Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$881.0     |
| Employment   | 10,981 Jobs |
| Sales Activity                                     | \$1,251.4   |
| Consumption  | \$818.6     |
| Capital Investment                                 | \$177.0     |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>       |             |
| Procurement  | \$45.3      |
| Salaries   | \$30.5      |
| Pensions & Transfers                               | \$455.9     |
| Total Defense Spending                             | \$531.7     |



The six-county Southeast Florida Region is home to the US Coast Guard 7th District Headquarters Miami, Homestead Air Reserve Base, US Southern Command, and Naval Air Station Key West. Defense activities in the region accounted for \$4.3 Billion in direct spending.

These inputs, in turn, generated nearly 130,000 total jobs in the region and accounted for \$12 Billion in Gross Regional Product in 2014. This was roughly 3.9% of the region's total 2014 GRP. Transfer payments to the region generated just over 38,000 jobs and procurement flows generated approximately 20,000 jobs.

Federal military spending for procurement, salaries and transfers generated roughly \$10.7 Billion of the \$12 Billion total impact (GRP) with the National Guard accounted for an additional \$557 Million. The Coast Guard accounted for over \$1.0 Billion in GRP.

| Total Regional Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Regional Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$12,342.8<br>3.9% of GRP |
| Employment   | 129,864 Jobs              |
| Sales Activity                                       | \$14,248.5                |
| Consumption  | \$7,078.4                 |
| Capital Investment                                   | \$1,633.0                 |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>         |                           |
| Procurement  | \$1,051.3                 |
| Salaries   | \$662.7                   |
| Pensions & Transfers                                 | \$2,680.7                 |
| Total Defense Spending                               | \$4,394.7                 |
| Impacts by Component <i>(in Millions)</i>            |                           |
| Federal Military                                     |                           |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$10,714.3                |
| Employment   | 113,145 Jobs              |
| National Guard                                       |                           |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$556.9                   |
| Employment   | 5,556 Jobs                |
| Coast Guard  |                           |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$1,071.5                 |
| Employment   | 11,161 Jobs               |

# SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGION

## MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



- Home to:
- *United States Southern Command*
  - *Homestead Air Reserve Base*
  - *7th Coast Guard District HQ*

United States Southern

Command’s mission is to embrace the concept of preventative defense through constructive engagement. The Command is assigned areas of Latin America south of Mexico, the waters adjacent to Central and South America and its 13 island nations, the Gulf of Mexico and part of the Atlantic Ocean.

Homestead Air Reserve Base hosts the 482nd Fighter Wing of the Air Force Reserve whose mission is to provide combat-ready F-16 fighter jets capable of worldwide deployment on short notice.

| Total County Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |             |
|--|-------------|
| County Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$5,578.3   |
| Employment   | 56,476 Jobs |
| Sales Activity                                     | \$6,048.2   |
| Consumption  | \$2,659.2   |
| Capital Investment                                 | \$640.0     |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>       |             |
| Procurement  | \$398.0     |
| Salaries   | \$344.3     |
| Pensions & Transfers                               | \$699.2     |
| Total Defense Spending                             | \$1,441.5   |

# SOUTHEAST FLORIDA REGION

## MONROE COUNTY

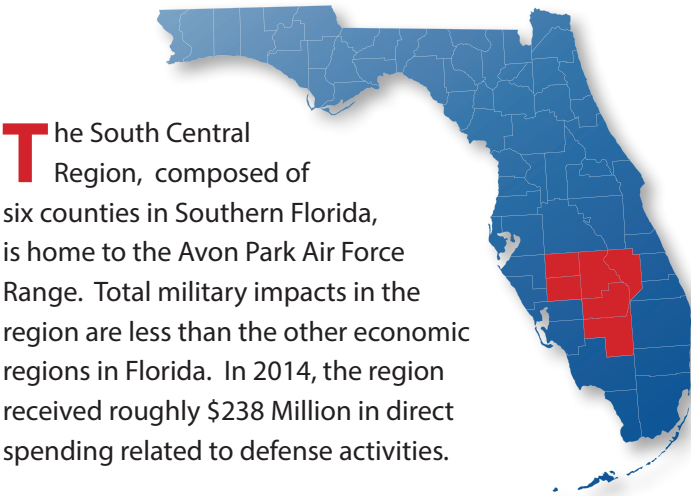


- Home to:
- *Naval Air Station Key West*

Naval Air Station Key West provides an extensive air-to-air training venue for transient tactical aviation squadrons. It is home to the Joint Interagency Task Force - South, whose mission is to provide the necessary operations for detection, monitoring and deterrence of drug smuggling operations. Major tenants also include the Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School.

| Total County Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |            |
|--|------------|
| County Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$1,006.1  |
| Employment   | 8,606 Jobs |
| Sales Activity                                     | \$777.3    |
| Consumption  | \$438.2    |
| Capital Investment                                 | \$103.9    |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>       |            |
| Procurement  | \$75.1     |
| Salaries   | \$101.6    |
| Pensions & Transfers                               | \$81.4     |
| Total Defense Spending                             | \$258.1    |





The South Central Region, composed of six counties in Southern Florida, is home to the Avon Park Air Force Range. Total military impacts in the region are less than the other economic regions in Florida. In 2014, the region received roughly \$238 Million in direct spending related to defense activities.

These dollars accounted for 3,300 jobs in the South Central Region and generated roughly \$200 Million in Gross Regional Product (roughly 3.5% of the region’s total). Roughly 1,270 jobs stem from salaries and wages paid to the military, National Guard and Coast Guard, with 700 jobs generated by procurement activities. Transfer payments to the region account for about 1,300 total jobs.

| Total Regional Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>        |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Regional Economic Impact (Gross Regional Product) | \$199.4<br>3.5% of GRP |
| Employment  | 3,301 Jobs             |
| Sales Activity                                    | \$223.7                |
| Consumption                                       | \$234.4                |
| Capital Investment                                | \$49.5                 |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>      |                        |
| Procurement                                       | \$47.6                 |
| Salaries  | \$13.2                 |
| Pensions & Transfers                              | \$177.0                |
| Total Defense Spending                            | \$238.0                |
| Impacts by Component <i>(in Millions)</i>         |                        |
| Federal Military                                  |                        |
| Economic Impact                                   | \$183.9                |
| Employment  | 3,087 Jobs             |
| National Guard                                    |                        |
| Economic Impact                                   | \$12.8                 |
| Employment  | 170 Jobs               |
| Coast Guard                                       |                        |
| Economic Impact                                   | \$2.8                  |
| Employment  | 46 Jobs                |

# SOUTH CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION

## HIGHLANDS COUNTY



Home to:

- **Avon Park Air Force Range**

Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) (Highlands and Polk Counties) is the largest

live ordnance bombing and gunnery range east of the Mississippi River. APAFR includes 400 square miles of restricted airspace, 1,000 square miles of military operating area and 106,035 acres inside the fence. APAFR provides an important training facility for Active, Guard, and Reserve military units from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, and for special operations and Homeland Security personnel.

### Total County Impact *(in Millions)*

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| County Economic Impact (Gross Regional Product) | \$92.5     |
| Employment                                      | 1,487 Jobs |
| Sales Activity                                  | \$100.5    |
| Consumption                                     | \$112.6    |
| Capital Investment                              | \$24.2     |

### Direct Defense Spending *(in Millions)*

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Procurement            | \$8.7   |
| Salaries               | \$6.1   |
| Pensions & Transfers   | \$92.9  |
| Total Defense Spending | \$108.0 |



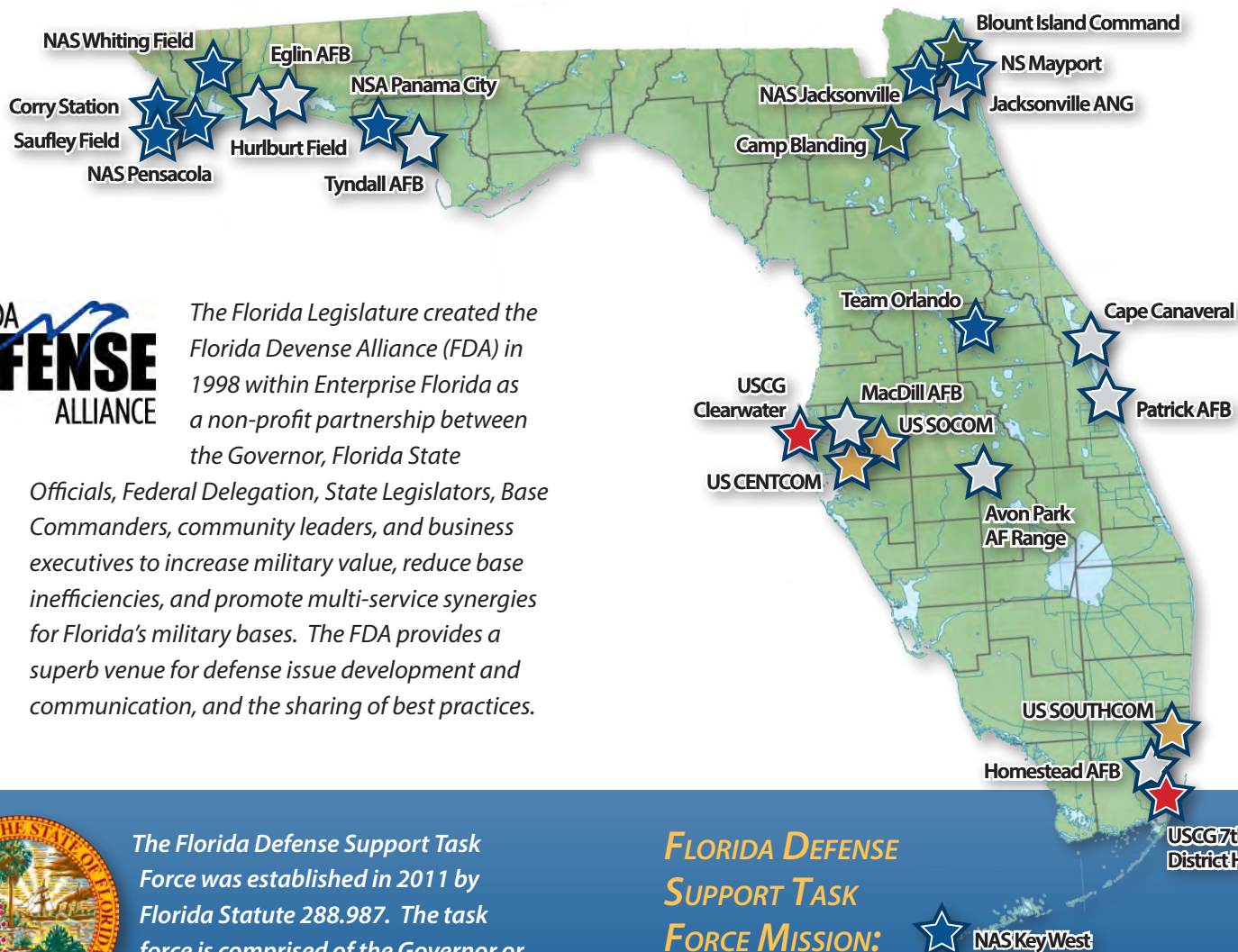
**T**he Southwest Region is composed of three counties and is home to no major military installations. However, military spending in the region, as the table reflects, is fairly substantial. No doubt many of these are “spill-over” dollars from the Tampa Bay Region; nonetheless, they have a quantifiable impact on the economy of the Southwest Region.

Total spending related to defense activities in the Southwest Region was \$875 Million in 2014. These revenues, in turn, generated more than 22,100 jobs in the region, and accounted for \$1.8 Billion in Gross Regional Product which is roughly 4.5% of the region’s total.

| Total Regional Impact <i>(in Millions)</i>           |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Regional Economic Impact<br>(Gross Regional Product) | \$1,810.1<br>4.5% of GRP |
| Employment   | 22,142 Jobs              |
| Sales Activity                                       | \$1,868.8                |
| Consumption  | \$1,369.2                |
| Capital Investment                                   | \$309.7                  |
| Direct Defense Spending <i>(in Millions)</i>         |                          |
| Procurement  | \$30.7                   |
| Salaries   | \$127.7                  |
| Pensions & Transfers                                 | \$716.4                  |
| Total Defense Spending                               | \$874.8                  |
| Impacts by Component <i>(in Millions)</i>            |                          |
| Federal Military                                     |                          |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$1,710.4                |
| Employment   | 20,966 Jobs              |
| National Guard                                       |                          |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$63.0                   |
| Employment   | 731 Jobs                 |
| Coast Guard  |                          |
| Economic Impact                                      | \$36.7                   |
| Employment   | 444 Jobs                 |



# PARTNERSHIPS



## FLORIDA DEFENSE ALLIANCE

The Florida Legislature created the Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) in 1998 within Enterprise Florida as a non-profit partnership between the Governor, Florida State

Officials, Federal Delegation, State Legislators, Base Commanders, community leaders, and business executives to increase military value, reduce base inefficiencies, and promote multi-service synergies for Florida's military bases. The FDA provides a superb venue for defense issue development and communication, and the sharing of best practices.



The Florida Defense Support Task Force was established in 2011 by Florida Statute 288.987. The task force is comprised of the Governor or his designee, and four members each appointed by the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. Governor Scott notes that "The work of the Task Force... in reviewing and evaluating Florida's military installations, ranges and airspace will help make sure Florida has the best facilities, and reinforce the essential role that they play in defending America's interests throughout the world."

## FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE 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.





## Five Reasons Why Hiring Veterans Makes Business Sense

- 1. Accelerated learning curve:**  
Veterans have the proven ability to quickly learn new skills and concepts.
- 2. Leading with integrity:**  
Veterans are trained to be disciplined, dependable and lead by example.
- 3. Teamwork:**  
Veterans understand how teamwork grows from a responsibility to and respect for one's colleagues.
- 4. Technology and globalization:**  
Veterans can bring a global outlook and technological savvy that all businesses need in today's economy.
- 5. Efficient and effective:**  
Veterans know how to prioritize, meet tight deadlines and the critical importance of doing the job right.

Visit [veterans.employflorida.com](http://veterans.employflorida.com)



## SEEKING FUNDING TO TRAIN EMPLOYEES?

### FLORIDAFLEX IS THE FAST, EASY ANSWER.

This 21-year Florida grant program, formerly known as Quick Response Training, has expanded to offer existing Florida businesses and relocating companies so much more.

### FLEXIBLE.

Business leaders retain full control over their choice of training providers and what/when/where training occurs. FloridaFlex simply provides the funding needed.

### FAST.

Applying online is easy and approval is quick.

### COMPREHENSIVE.

Both equipment and training costs are covered under the same grant.

### PROVEN.

FloridaFlex has empowered more than 750 Florida firms to grow and compete globally in the past 21 years. The program is considered a best-in-class model for other states.

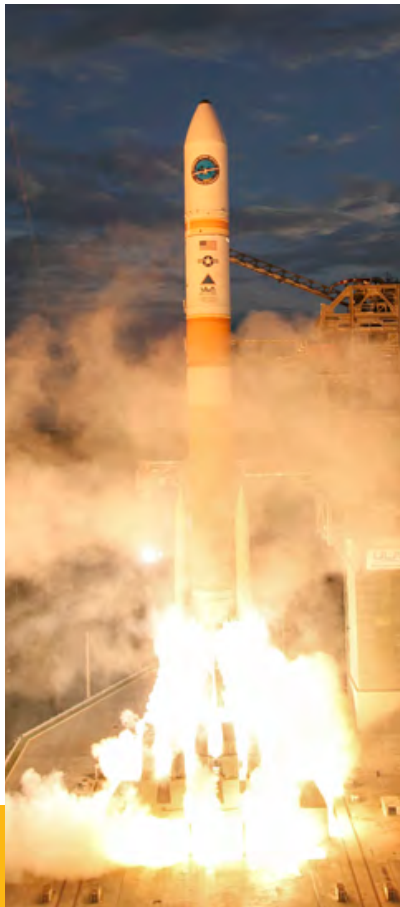
Discover how FloridaFlex helps businesses grow!



CALL **850.922.8647** | VISIT [careersourceflorida.com](http://careersourceflorida.com)



***Enterprise Florida, the lead economic development organization for the state of Florida, facilitates job growth for Florida's businesses and citizens, leading to a vibrant statewide economy. CareerSource Florida's mission is to ensure that Florida will be the global leader for talent.***



*Produced by*



[www.enterpriseflorida.com](http://www.enterpriseflorida.com)



[www.careersourceflorida.com](http://www.careersourceflorida.com)

*Funded by the  
Florida Defense  
Support Task Force  
and CareerSource  
Florida.*



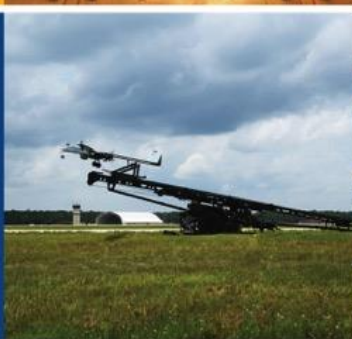
LEVERAGING DATA ■ EMPOWERING SOLUTIONS



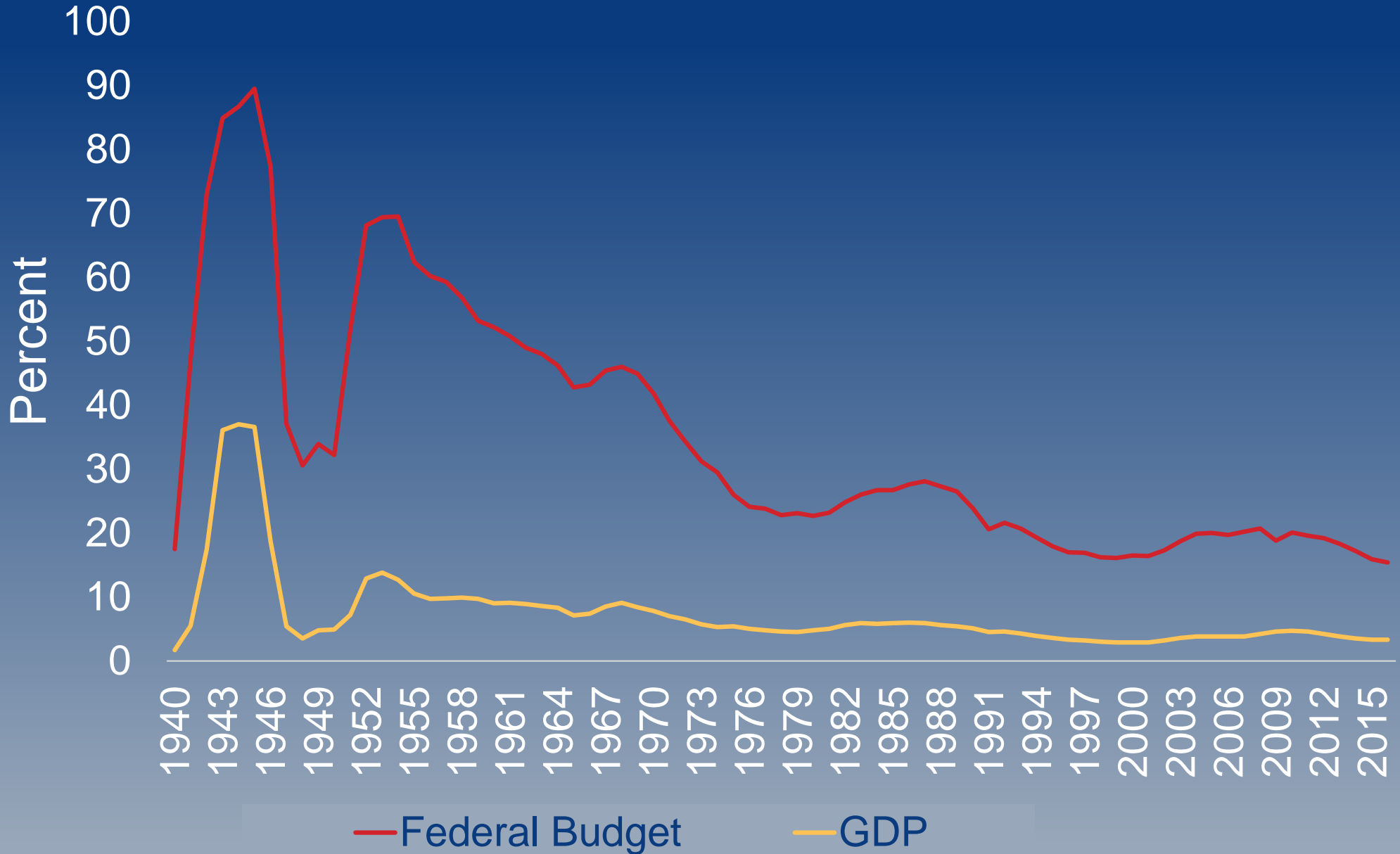


# FLORIDA DEFENSE INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

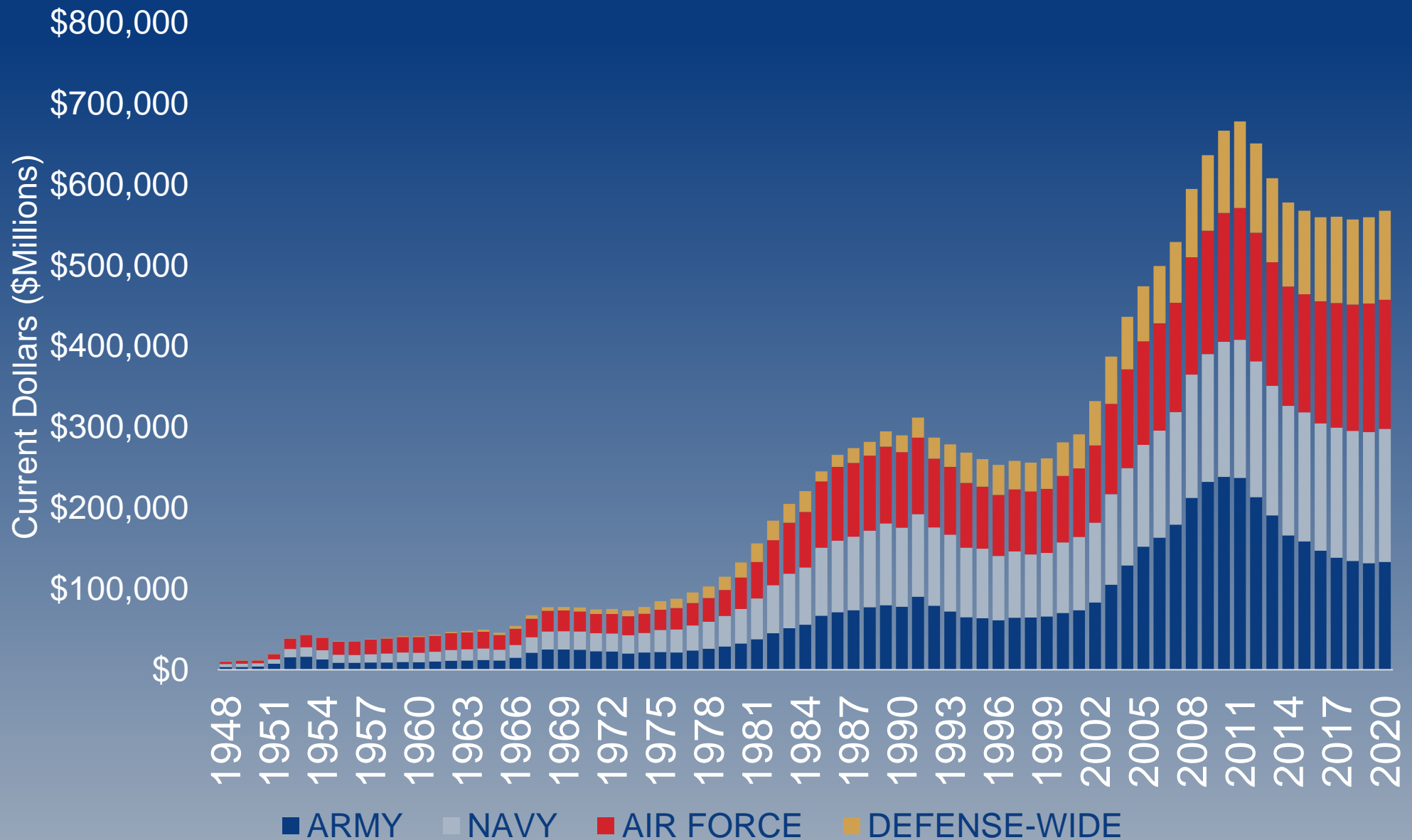
SEPTEMBER 2015



# Defense Spending as a Share of Federal Budget and GDP



# DoD Outlays by Branch





# FLORIDA DEFENSE INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

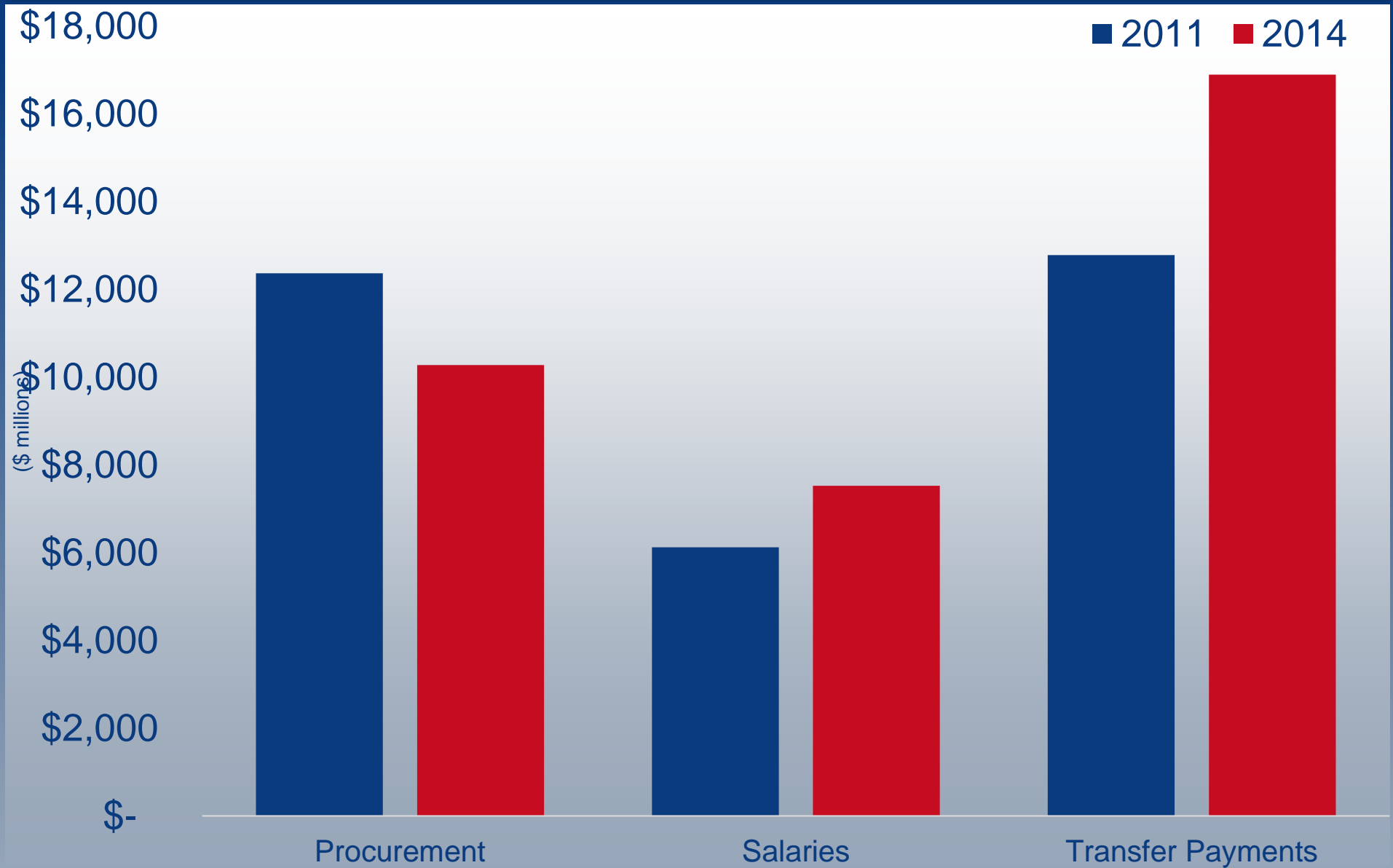
## Economic Impact Components

- Military
- National Guard
- Coast Guard

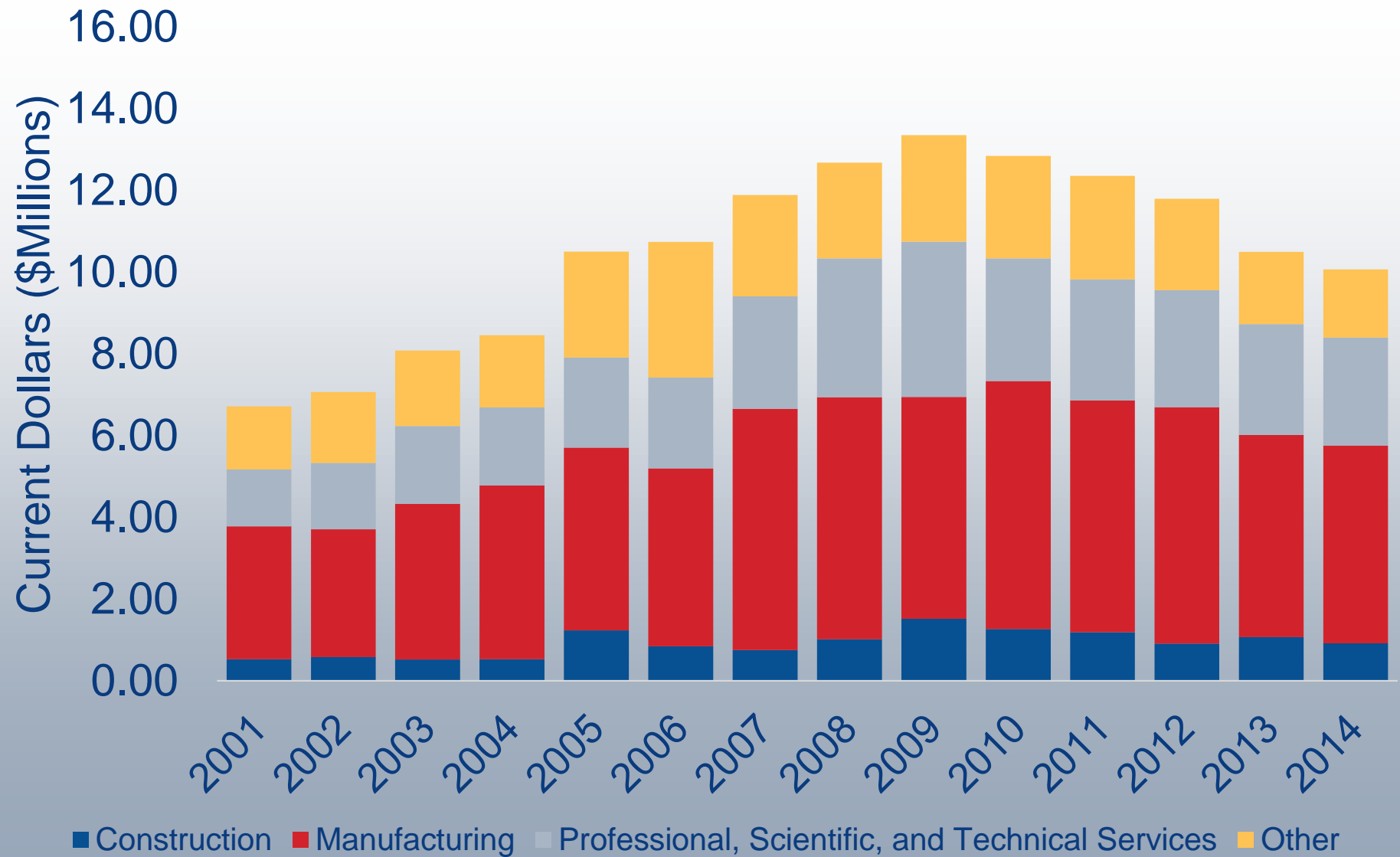
## By Source of Impact

- Procurement
- Personnel (Salaries)
- Transfer Payments

# Defense Spending In Florida



# Florida Procurement by Industry



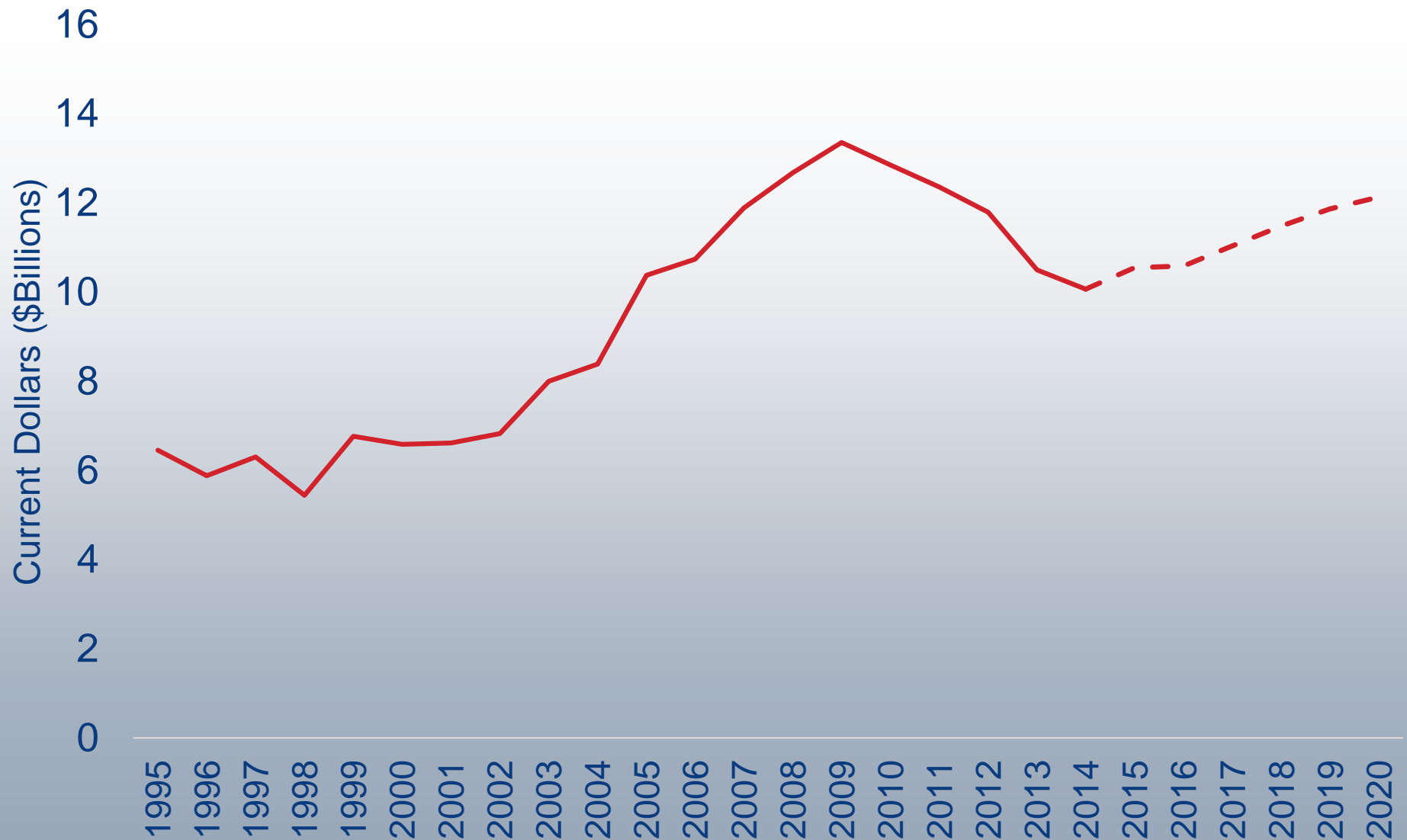




## Where Florida Ranks: Top Procurement States 2010 - 2014

| Rank | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      | 2013      | 2014      |
|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1    | CA        | VA        | CA        | CA        | VA        |
| 2    | VA        | CA        | VA        | VA        | CA        |
| 3    | TX        | TX        | TX        | TX        | TX        |
| 4    | <b>FL</b> | AZ        | MD        | MD        | CT        |
| 5    | MA        | CT        | MO        | AZ        | MD        |
| 6    | MD        | MD        | AZ        | MA        | PA        |
| 7    | PA        | <b>FL</b> | CT        | <b>FL</b> | <b>FL</b> |
| 8    | CT        | PA        | PA        | CT        | AZ        |
| 9    | AZ        | MA        | <b>FL</b> | PA        | MA        |
| 10   | MO        | AL        | MA        | MO        | AL        |

# DoD Procurement Forecast - Florida



# Florida Defense Industry Impacts 2015

Gross State Product in Millions US Dollars with Employment Impacts in Parentheses

|                           | Military              | National Guard      | Coast Guard         | Total Impacts by Type |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Procurement               | \$15,259<br>(145,331) | \$210<br>(2,687)    | \$12<br>(1,198)     | \$15,581<br>(149,216) |
| Employment                | \$43,397<br>(379,703) | \$4,029<br>(37,091) | \$1,985<br>(20,780) | \$49,411<br>(437,574) |
| Transfers                 | \$14,694<br>(186,396) | \$3<br>(44)         | \$117<br>(1,492)    | \$14,815<br>(187,932) |
| Total Impacts by Services | \$73,350<br>(711,429) | \$4,243<br>(39,821) | \$2,214<br>(23,470) | \$79,807<br>(774,721) |

# Florida County-Level Defense Industry Impact Rankings

Gross Product in Millions US Dollars

| Gross Regional (County) Product Rankings |                               |                               | Employment Rankings |                    |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| County                                   | Gross Domestic Product Impact | Defense Impact as % Total GRP | County              | Employment Impacts |
| Okaloosa                                 | \$8,817                       | 76.5%                         | Duval               | 101,500            |
| Escambia                                 | \$7,184                       | 50.1%                         | Hillsborough        | 72,636             |
| Seminole                                 | \$1,127                       | 35.0%                         | Okaloosa            | 71,780             |
| Bay                                      | \$2,393                       | 30.6%                         | Orange              | 65,341             |
| Monroe                                   | \$1,006                       | 26.1%                         | Escambia            | 63,293             |
| Brevard                                  | \$4,547                       | 22.0%                         | Miami-Dade          | 56,476             |
| Santa Rosa                               | \$1,191                       | 21.9%                         | Pinellas            | 41,504             |
| Duval                                    | \$11,475                      | 20.0%                         | Brevard             | 41,029             |
| Clay                                     | \$655                         | 16.2%                         | Broward             | 31,426             |
| Hillsborough                             | \$8,869                       | 11.2%                         | Palm Beach          | 24,338             |

# FLORIDA DEFENSE INDUSTRY ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

## Questions?

2015

# FLORIDA MILITARY-FRIENDLY GUIDE

*A Summary of Sunshine State Laws,  
Programs and Benefits for Active Duty,  
National Guard and Reserve Service  
Members and Families*



**FREE DOWNLOAD**

This guide can be downloaded from the  
Florida Defense Support Task Force website:  
[www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf](http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf)



# Welcome

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



### Welcome to Florida!

On behalf of all Floridians, I welcome you to the Sunshine State and thank you for your military service. As you perform your military duties, Florida wants to support you and your family during your service. I deeply appreciate your commitment and dedication to the United States and the defense of freedom. Florida is especially committed to assisting military families in any way possible as our uniformed military members go in harm's way to protect our nation.

The *Florida Military-Friendly Guide* is intended to help you understand the many programs and benefits that the state of Florida has implemented to support and assist military members and their families. This guide compiled by the Florida Defense Support Task Force contains a summary of various advantages military service members and their families enjoy while being stationed and living in Florida.

I will continue to work hard to maintain Florida's reputation as the most military-friendly state in the Nation.

Finally, I cannot adequately express our gratitude for all you do for our national defense, but hope you understand how grateful we are for your service, dedication, and patriotism.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Rick Scott". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "R" and a long, horizontal stroke.

Rick Scott  
Governor



2015 FLORIDA MILITARY-FRIENDLY GUIDE

A Summary of Sunshine State Laws, Programs and Benefits for Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Service Members and Families

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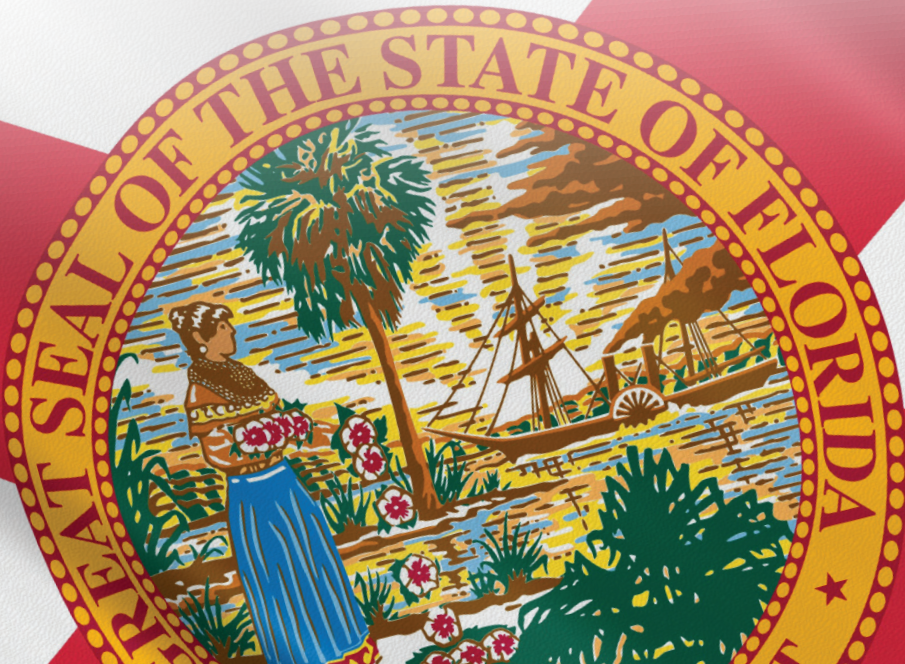


NOTE: Statutes, benefits and programs apply to all categories: active duty, National Guard and Reserve unless designated/restricted to only components shown in parentheses.

NG = National Guard    R = Reserve

Shaded items are new or changed for 2015.

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**Executive Director, Florida Defense Support Task Force**  
Telephone: (850) 878-0826 • Email: [bgrant@enterpriseflorida.com](mailto:bgrant@enterpriseflorida.com)



# PROTECTIONS



## 1. Protection Against Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices

Provides military service members and their family members the same heightened protections afforded to senior citizens and persons with disabilities against deceptive or unfair trade practices; penalizes a person who willfully victimizes a military service member or family member. (F.S. 501.2077)

## 2. Protection Against Unfair Insurance Practices

Protects active military service and their covered dependents from unfair practices in certain rate increases in motor vehicle insurance. Provides protection from motor vehicle insurance premium increased or reinstatement fees for new policies. Active military personnel are to be considered maintaining continuous coverage for purposes of determining premium rates. (F.S. 626.9541)

## 3. Protection Against Cancellation of Health Insurance

Any health insurance policy, certificate, or evidence of health coverage which provides coverage to a member of the Florida National Guard, or a member of any branch of the United States military reserves who is a resident of this state, called to active duty or state active duty, must continue all coverages that were in effect for the person, or the person's dependents covered by the same policy, at the premium in effect for all insured under the same contract, unless the employee or insured requests coverage changes that might alter the premium he or she was paying prior to such activation during the time he or she serves on active duty. Additionally, it must reinstate the coverage for any such person who elects not to continue it while on active duty or state active duty, at the person's request upon return from active duty or state active duty, without a waiting period or disqualification for any condition that existed at the time he or she was called to active duty or state active duty. Such reinstatement must be requested within 30 days after returning to work with the same employer or within 60 days if the policy is an individual policy. (F.S. 250.341)

## 4. Protection for Termination of Rental Agreements

Service members who terminate residential leases due to military duty will be protected under the following specific provisions:

- **No Retaliation.** No Landlord may sue or otherwise attempt to retaliate against a tenant who terminated a lease because of military duties.
- **No Discrimination.** Landlords may not discriminate against military personnel. Discrimination on the basis of military status creates a cause of action against the landlord for civil damages.

■ **Expansion of Criteria Which Allow a service member to Terminate a Lease.**

Service members may terminate their leases within the purview of the statute when the service member:

- Moves permanently 35 or more miles from the rental premises;
- Is prematurely or involuntarily discharged or released from Active Duty;
- Is released from Active Duty when the leased premises is at least 35 miles from the home of record;
- Is required or eligible to move into government quarters; and/or
- Moves temporarily for over 60 days to a location which is 35 or more miles from the rental premises.

■ **The Liquidated Damages Clause is No Longer Available in the Case of Military Termination of Lease.** Removes provisions requiring the payment of liquidated damages to the landlord under certain circumstances upon termination of a rental agreement. **(F.S. 83.682)**

## **5. Protection for Termination of Telecommunications Service**

Service members may now terminate their telecommunications (i.e. cell phone) service contracts by providing 30 days' notice to the service provider if any of the following occur: 1) The service member moves, either permanently or on temporary duty for over 60 days, outside the area which the service provider provides telecommunications service; 2) The service member is discharged or released from duty and either returns to an area not serviced by the telecommunications service provider or the service member's home of record does is not so serviced by the provider; and/or 3) The service members orders require a move outside the continental United States. Upon such termination the service member is only liable for the amount due under the contract for the period up to the effective date (which is the end of the 30 day notice period). **(F.S. 364.195)**

## **6. Protection for Termination of Motor Vehicle Leasing**

Service members may terminate motor vehicle leases by providing 30 days written notice to the lessor if either the service member is required to move outside the continental United States; or the service member receives orders for a period exceeding 60 days for duty outside the continental United States or for a temporary change of station. The service member is then liable for only the amount due under the contract to the end of the 30 day notice period. The statute specifically states that the lessee is not liable for any other fee due to the early termination of the contract. Further, the protection may not be waived or modified by the contract between the service member and the lessor under any circumstances. **(FS. 520.14)**

## **7. Protection for Termination of Mobile Home and Vehicle Registration**

Any service member, whose mobile home registration expired while he or she was serving on active duty or state active duty, shall not be charged with a violation of Florida Statute 320.07 if, at the time of the offense, the service member was serving on active duty or state active duty 35 miles or more from the mobile home. The service member must present to the department either a copy of the official military orders or a written verification signed by the service member's commanding officer to receive a waiver of charges. **(F.S. 320.07)**



## **8. Protection for Cancellation of Motor Vehicle Insurance**

An Insurer must refund 100% of the unearned premium if an insured service member cancels due to either a call to Active Duty or transfer to a location where the insurance is not required. There is language in the statute preserving claims originating prior to the effective date of cancellation. If the insurer cancels, the insurer must refund 100 percent of the unearned premium. Cancellation is without prejudice to any claim originating prior to the effective date of the cancellation. For purposes of this section, unearned premiums must be computed on a pro rata basis. (F.S. 627.7283)

## **9. Relief for Payment of Initial Binder – Motor Vehicle Insurance**

Service members and dependents are not required to pay 2 month's premium on motor vehicle insurance normally required of citizens of Florida upon initial issuance of insurance. (F.S. 627.7295)

## **10. Protection Against Insurance Rate Increases and Refusal of Policy Renewals for Persons in Military Service**

Prohibits insurers from charging an increased premium for reinstating a motor vehicle insurance policy that was canceled or suspended by the insured solely for the reason that he or she was transferred out of this state while serving in the United States Armed Forces or on active duty in the National Guard or United States Armed Forces Reserve. It also prohibits an insurer from charging an increased premium for a new motor vehicle insurance policy if the applicant for coverage or his or her covered dependents were previously insured with a different insurer and canceled that policy solely for the reason that he or she was transferred out of this state while serving in the United States Armed Forces or on active duty in the National Guard or United States Armed Forces Reserve. For purposes of determining premiums, an insurer shall consider such persons as having maintained continuous coverage. (F.S. 626.9541)

No insurer shall fail to renew a policy for reasons based entirely on the sex, occupation, marital status, residence, military service, or age of the insured, or on the principal place of garaging the insured vehicle in this state, or based on any combination of such factors. No insurer shall fail to renew a policy for reasons based on the race, color, creed, or national origin of the insured or for any reason which is arbitrary or capricious. (F.S. 627.728)

## **11. Protection for Termination to Purchase Real Property**

Service members may terminate agreements to purchase realty prior to closing if any of the following occur: 1) The service member has a permanent change of station which is 35 or more miles from the location of the property; 2) The service member is released from Active Duty and the property is more than 35 miles from the service member's home of record; 3) The service member receives orders requiring him or her to move into government quarters or does, in fact, move into government quarters; or 4) The service member receives orders in excess of 90 days which involve a temporary change of station which is 35 miles or more from the property. The seller, mortgagor and/or their agents must refund any funds provided by the service member. Further, no other fees may be assessed against the service member. These protections cannot be waived or modified. (F.S. 689.27)

## **12. Protection for Sale, Foreclosure or Seizure of Property for Nonpayment**

Service members are protected against sale, foreclosure, or seizure of property for nonpayment of any sum due under any obligation, or for breach of the terms of such obligation. These are not valid if made during the period of state active duty or active duty or within 30 days thereafter, unless upon an order previously granted by the court and a return made to and approved by the court. This protection applies only to obligations secured by a mortgage, trust deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage upon real or personal property owned by a person in state active duty or active duty at the commencement of the period of state active service and still owed by her or him, which obligation originated prior to such person's period of state active service. **(F.S. 250.5205)**

## **13. Protection of Late Voting Registration**

Provides for deployed servicemembers to be allowed late registration for voting. An individual or accompanying family member who has been discharged or separated from the uniformed services or the United States Merchant Marine, has returned from a military deployment or activation, or has separated from employment outside the territorial limits of the United States, after the book-closing date for an election pursuant to s. 97.055 and who is otherwise qualified may register to vote in such election until 5 p.m. on the Friday before that election. **(F.S. 97.055)**

## **14. Protection for Absentee Voting**

Authorizes absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use the federal write-in absentee ballot in any state or local election; prohibiting the supervisor of elections from canvassing federal write-in absentee ballots from overseas voters in certain elections until 10 days after the date of the election. This bill eliminates the restriction that a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) can only be used for state and local elections involving two or more candidates. This allows absent uniformed services and overseas voters to use a FWAB as a "back-up" ballot for all federal, state, and local elections. The law also delays the canvassing of a FWAB until 10 days after the presidential preference primary or general election. This will allow the voter's official absentee ballot to be canvassed (in lieu of a FWAB) if it is received during that 10-day window. **(F.S. 101.6952)**

## **15. Protection of Identifying Information of Service Members**

The law provides a public records exemption for military servicemembers and veterans, and their family members. Specifically, the bill creates a public records exemption for the identification and location information of current or former active duty servicemembers of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard who served after September 11, 2001, and their spouses and dependents. In order for the exemption to apply, the current or former servicemember must submit to the custodial agency a written request and a written statement that reasonable efforts had been made to protect the identification and location information from being accessible through other means available to the public. **(F.S. 119.071)**

## 16. Protection Of Military Housing from Ad Valorem Taxation

Recognizes in statute that leaseholds and improvements constructed and used to provide housing pursuant to the federal Military Housing Privatization Initiative (Housing Initiative) on land owned by the federal government are exempt from ad valorem taxation. Florida law provides an exemption from ad valorem taxation for property owned by the United States. This exemption specifically applies to leasehold interests in property owned by the United States government when the lessee serves or performs a governmental, municipal or public purpose or function. Federal law also recognizes the immunity of property of the United States from ad valorem taxation.

(F.S. 196.199)

## LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS, & FEES



## 17. Concealed Weapons or Firearms Licenses

Current service members and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces can be issued concealed weapon or firearm licenses even if they are not 21 years of age, the usual minimum age eligibility requirement, provided that they are otherwise eligible for licensure. (F.S. 790.062)

Current service members and military veterans can meet the firearms training/competency requirement for the issuance of a concealed weapon or firearm license if they include proper documentation with their applications reflecting active-duty status or honorable discharge from military service. (F.S. 790.06)

Additionally, service members with concealed weapon or firearm licenses who are serving on military orders away from their residence are granted an extension of the normal expiration date of their licenses. In such circumstances, a service member's license will not expire for 180 days after the date upon which the service member returns from serving on military orders. (F.S. 790.06)

## 18. Discounts at State Parks

The Florida Park Service offers the Annual Entrance Pass at a discount or free of charge to persons who present satisfactory written documentation which demonstrates their eligibility.

- 25% discount on Annual Entrance Passes for active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.
- Free Lifetime Military Entrance Passes for honorably discharged United States veterans who have service-connected disabilities.
- Free Lifetime Military Entrance Passes for surviving spouses and parents of deceased members of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard who have fallen in combat.

(FS.258.0145)

## 19. Discounts at State Forests

The Florida Forest Service offers the Annual Entrance Pass at a discount or free of charge to persons who present satisfactory written documentation which demonstrates their eligibility.

- \$10.00 discount on Annual Entrance Passes for active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.
- Free Lifetime Military Entrance Passes for honorably discharged United States veterans who have service-connected disabilities.

(Reference: Florida Forest Service, Policy and Procedure Manual)

## 20. Specialty Motor Vehicle License Plates

Ex-Prisoner of War, Medal of Honor, Pearl Harbor Survivor, US Paratrooper, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Gold Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Combat Action Badge, Vietnam War Veteran, Korean War Veteran, Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Operation Desert Shield Veteran, and Operation Desert Storm Veteran (F.S. 320.08058)

## 21. Considered Florida Resident for Recreational Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Any member of the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in the state and their family members residing with them are considered Florida residents for the purposes of purchasing recreational fishing and hunting licenses. (379.101 (30) (b))

## 22. Military Gold Sportsman License

Provides low cost sportsman license to active or retired members of the Armed Forces who are Florida residents. Any Florida resident who is an active or retired member of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Armed Forces Reserve, the Florida National Guard, the United States Coast Guard or the United States Coast Guard Reserve is eligible to purchase the Military Gold Sportsman's License upon submission of a current military identification card and military orders showing that you are stationed in Florida (active members) or a Florida Driver's License. The Military Gold Sportsman's License includes Hunting, Saltwater Fishing and Freshwater Fishing licenses; and Deer, Wildlife Management Area, Archery, Muzzle-loading Gun, Crossbow, Turkey and Florida Waterfowl, Snook and Lobster permits. It does not include tarpon tags or the federal duck stamp. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) offers the license to active duty and retired military that are stationed in Florida or have lived in the state for six months and claim Florida as their primary residence. The reduced-fee annual license ( \$20) offers the same privileges as the traditional Gold Sportsman's License (\$100). Military Gold Sportsman's Licenses can only be purchased at a County Tax Collector's Office. (F.S. 379.354)



## **23. Operation Outdoor Freedom for Wounded Warriors**

Operation Outdoor Freedom is an endeavor of the Florida Forest Service that provides recreational opportunities to wounded veterans. Designated state and agricultural lands throughout Florida grant these veterans unique opportunities for recreation and rehabilitation. Participants must have a service-connected disability incurred while serving during wartime as defined in s. 1.01(14) or peacetime defined in s.296.02.

(Reference: Florida Forest Service, Policy and Procedure Manual)

## **24. Use of Military ID in Public Lodging Establishments**

Provides that a public lodging establishment classified as a hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast inn is required to waive any minimum age policy it may have that restricts accommodations to individuals based on age for individuals who are currently on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, Reserve Forces, or Coast Guard and who present a valid military identification card. (F.S. 509.095)

## **25. Military ID Valid for Proof When Obtaining Florida Driver's License**

This law provides for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to accept a military personnel identification card as proof of a social security card number during the application process to acquire a driver license or identification card. The law further authorizes DHSMV to replace the veteran designation "V" with the word "Veteran" exhibited on the driver license or identification card of a veteran who qualifies and chooses to have such designation. The replacement of the "V" with the word "Veteran" will apply upon implementation of new designs for the driver license and identification card by DHSMV. (F.S. 322.051)

## **26. Motor Vehicle Driver's License Extensions**

Service members and family members residing with them are granted an automatic license extension without reexamination when the license expires while serving on active duty outside the state. (F.S. 322.121)

## **27. Motorcycle License Endorsement**

The State of Florida will reciprocate any military motorcycle rider course to have the motorcycle endorsement added to a Florida driver's license. The state also offers various classes and challenge courses at in-state military bases, including the prestigious Level Three Kevin Schwantz Rider Course, of which Florida has two of the eight trainers nationally certified to conduct this course.

(Reference: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles)

## **28. Military Commercial Driver's License**

The State of Florida offers a Certification of Waiver for military members issued a CDL by a branch of the US Armed Forces, to obtain a Florida CDL, while on active duty or within 120 days of separation of service. With the Certificatin of Waiver, military members may be exempt from passing skills test required for a CDL.

(Reference: Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles)

## 29. Surveyors and Mappers

For members of Armed Forces in good standing with the board: Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is now or in the future on active duty and who, at the time of becoming such a member of the Armed Forces, was in good standing with the board and entitled to practice or engage in surveying and mapping in the state shall be kept in good standing by the board, without registering, paying dues or fees, or performing any other act on his or her part to be performed, as long as he or she is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty and for a period of 6 months after discharge from active duty, provided that he or she is not engaged in the practice of surveying or mapping in the private sector for profit.

**For family members:** The board shall adopt rules exempting the spouses of members of the Armed Forces of the United States from licensure renewal provisions, but only in cases of absence from the state because of their spouses' duties with the Armed Forces. **(F.S. 472.016)**

Spouses of members of the Armed Forces of the United States are exempt from licensure renewal provisions, but only in cases of absence from the state because of their spouses' duties with the Armed Forces. Copies of the military orders requiring the change in duty station must be sent to the Board office in order to qualify for the exemption. Upon receipt of the military orders by the Board office confirming exemption eligibility, the spouse's license will be placed on inactive status with no fee required. Reactivation of the inactive license will not require payment of the fee set forth in Rule 5J-17.070, F.A.C. The license will remain in inactive status for up to two renewal cycles at which time the licensee must either renew this exemption, before expiration, by submitting a current set of orders establishing eligibility for the exemption or reactivate the license. The licensee may reactivate the license by submitting an application for change of status from inactive to active and will not be required to pay the fee set forth in Rule 5J-17.070, F.A.C., nor be required to comply with any rules setting conditions for reactivation of licensure, including continuing education requirements imposed by Section 455.271(10), F.S. If a license is not reactivated nor the exemption renewed by the expiration date, the license shall become delinquent. Reactivation of the delinquent license will not require payment of the fee set forth in Rule 5J-17.070, F.A.C. **(5J-17.007 F.A.C.)**

## 30. Fishing and Hunting Events

Recreational fishing and hunting license are not required for permitted events the primary purpose of which is the rehabilitation or enjoyment of disabled veterans certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor or by any branch of the United States Armed Forces to have a service-connected disability percentage rating of zero or higher or active duty or reserve duty servicemembers of any branch of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Coast Guard, military reserves, the Florida National Guard, or the United States Coast Guard Reserve. A permit issued for an event pursuant to this paragraph shall exempt disabled veterans and active duty or reserve duty servicemembers, the immediate family of such disabled veterans and servicemembers, and one additional person designated to assist a disabled veteran, from possessing a hunting, freshwater fishing, or saltwater fishing license or permit for the duration of the event. Event organizer must apply for and receive an event permit from FWC. **(F.S. 379.353 (2) (q))**

### **31. Exemption from Hunter Safety Skills Day**

Those with military service can receive a Florida hunter safety card by completing one of the online courses, reading the current years hunting regulations and following the procedures outlined in the Application For Hunter Safety Certification With Previous Firearms Training without having to attend a Hunter Safety Skills Day. [\(Reference: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission\)](#)

### **32. Restricted Species (RS) Endorsement Exemptions — Disabled Military Veteran**

Any Florida resident certified to have at least 10% service related disability by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor, or by any branch of the United States Armed Forces, shall have the income requirement waived for a period of one year from the end of the current license year (June 30th). This endorsement shall only be issued on an individual Saltwater Products License. Documentation of the qualifying income is not required with the initial application for a restricted species (RS) endorsement. Documentation of the qualifying income will be required to renew the RS thereafter at the reduced \$2,500 amount.

[\(Reference: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission\)](#)

### **33. Restricted Species (RS) Endorsement Exemptions — Honorably Discharged Military Veteran**

The income requirement for a restricted species endorsement shall be waived for a period of one year from the end of the current license year (June 30th) for any Florida resident military veteran who applies to the Commission within 48 months of an honorable discharge from any branch of the United States Armed Forces, the Reserves, the Florida National Guard or the Coast Guard. This exemption is allowed one time per military enlistment and only on an individual Saltwater Products License. [\(F.S. 379.361\)](#)

### **34. Use Tax Exemption for Motor Vehicles Imported from a Foreign Country**

Exempts an active service member, or spouse, from use tax on the registration or titling of a motor vehicle imported from a foreign country when the vehicle was purchased and used in a foreign country for six (6) months or longer before being imported into Florida and the vehicle is registered or titled in Florida for personal use by the active member or active member's spouse. [\(F.S. 212.08\(7\)\)](#)

### 35. Professional Licensure

Provides that professional licenses issued to any member of the Florida National Guard or the United States Armed Forces Reserves shall not expire while the member is serving on federal active duty and are exempted from all license renewal requirements for the duration of active duty and a period of 6 months after discharge. Also requires the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and its boards to adopt rules to exempt military spouses for license renewal provisions when absent from the state due to his/her spouse's military duty. (F.S. 455.02) Additionally, authorizes a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States to be issued a temporary license to practice a profession in Florida. The applicant's spouse must be on active duty and assigned to a duty station in Florida. The applicant must hold a valid license for the profession in another state, the District of Columbia, any United States territory or possession, or a foreign jurisdiction. The temporary license is valid for six months.

Requires the department to waive the initial licensing fee, the initial application fee, and the initial unlicensed activity fee for military veterans who apply for a license within 24 months of honorable discharge. **(F.S. 455.213)**

### 36. Engineer Licensure/Exam

Allows applicants for professional engineering examination who are delayed in taking the examination due to reserve or active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces an additional two attempts to take the examination before the board may require additional college-level education or review courses. **(F.S. 471.013)**

### 37. Health Professional Licensure

Provides that health professional licenses issued to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States be kept in good standing without registering, paying dues or fees, or performing any other act on his or her part so long as he or she is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty and for a period of six months after discharge. **(F.S. 456.024) (F.S. 401.271) (F.S. 468.309)**

Additionally, exempts the spouse of member of the Armed Forces of the United States from licensure renewal provisions but only in cases of absence from the state because of their spouses' duties with the Armed Forces. **(F.S. 456.024) (F.S. 401.271) (F.S. 468.309)**

Provides that a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who is on active duty to be issued a temporary license to practice in Florida. The applicant's spouse must be assigned to a duty station in Florida. The applicant must be otherwise entitled to full licensure under the appropriate practice act, and is eligible to take the respective licensure exam as required in Florida. The applicant must hold a valid license for the profession in another state, the District of Columbia, or a possession or territory of the United States. The temporary license is valid for 12 months after the date of issuance and is non-renewable. An applicant who is issued a temporary professional license to practice as a dentist pursuant to this section must practice under the indirect supervision, as defined in s. 466.003, of a dentist licensed pursuant to chapter 466. **(F.S. 456.024)**

The Agency for Health Care Administration has special consideration for spouses of active duty military that allows them to enroll in Florida Medicaid as a provider. The Department of Health issues a temporary medical license with the status: Temporary Military Active – the licensed practitioner has a spouse serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and is authorized to practice his/her profession in the state of Florida for a period of 12 months. **(F.S. 456.024)**

### **38. Temporary Certificates for Active Duty Military Personnel Practicing in Areas of Critical Need**

A person who serves or has served as a health care practitioner in the U.S. Armed Forces is eligible for licensure in Florida. The applicable department will waive the application fee, licensure fee and unlicensed activity fee for these applicants. **(F.S. 459.00761)**

### **39. Nursing Licensure**

Provides for transfer of nurse licensing for spouses of military members. An applicant for licensure by endorsement who is relocating to this state pursuant to his or her military-connected spouse's official military orders and who is licensed in another state that is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact shall be issued a license by endorsement upon submission of the appropriate application and fees and completion of the criminal background check. **(F.S. 464.009)**

### **40. Medical Licensure**

#### **Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins, Jr., Temporary Certificate for Practice in Areas of Critical Need**

Provides that medical doctors may be issued a limited license to practice in Areas of Critical Need. For experienced military physicians who might not qualify for or are not interested in applying for a full Florida license to practice medicine, this law provides the opportunity to serve Florida patients in those areas where health care is most needed. The physician however must have served as a physician in the United States Armed Forces for at least 10 years and received an honorable discharge from military service. **(F.S. 458.315)**

## 41. Criminal Justice Officer Certification

Provides for an exemption from completing a full Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission approved law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer basic recruit training program if an applicant has served at least one year as a full-time sworn officer in another state or for the federal government. An applicant who is exempt from completing a Commission-approved basic recruit training program must demonstrate proficiency in the high-liability areas and pass the state officer certification examination (F.S. 943.131). For more information, please visit our website at Officer Requirements (Equivalency of Training): [www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/CJST/Menu/Officer-Requirements-Main-Page/Equivalency.aspx](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/CJST/Menu/Officer-Requirements-Main-Page/Equivalency.aspx).

## 42. Military Firefighters Training Requirements

The Florida Department of Financial Services has established OPERATION DISPATCH to allow our military veterans the opportunity to apply comparative experience-based training to fulfill certification requirements to continue protecting the safety and well-being of those in our communities. It is designed to attract military service members and veterans to Florida. OPERATION DISPATCH cuts out redundant training so military-trained firefighters take 40 hours of training specific to Florida standards. OPERATION DISPATCH allows these dedicated men and women to continue meaningful and long-lasting careers in the Florida fire service industry. Through partnerships forged with the Florida Departments of Veterans' and Military Affairs, OPERATION DISPATCH reduces the costs associated with the Florida-specific training and testing to military firefighters. The program also allows participants to take the certification exam in a more timely fashion than the regularly-scheduled quarterly administrations, which upon successful completion helps newly-certified firefighters enter Florida's workforce faster. For more information contact Chief Bill Wendlandt at [bill.wendlandt@myfloridacfo.com](mailto:bill.wendlandt@myfloridacfo.com) (Reference: Office of the Chief Financial Officer)



## TAX AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS

## 43. Homestead Exemption on Property Taxes and Ad Valorem Tax Exemption

Authorizes veterans and service members who are deployed in certain military operations to receive additional homestead exemptions as well as ad valorem tax exemptions. Provides that valid military orders transferring military service members are sufficient to maintain permanent residence status of service member and spouse for purposes of such determination by property appraiser. (F.S. 196.173)



# UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROTECTION/ ASSISTANCE



## **44. Unemployment Compensation for Spouses of Members of the Military**

Provides that a person is not disqualified for unemployment compensation benefits who voluntarily leaves employment due to relocation as a result of his or her spouse's military orders. Allows the spouses of active duty military members who voluntarily resign from their jobs to keep the family intact as a result of the military members' change of station orders or deployment to become eligible for unemployment compensation benefits. **(F.S. 443.101)**

## **45. CareerSource Florida — Employment and Assistance**

Provides employment assistance to military spouse and dependents. CareerSource shall establish an employment advocacy and assistance program targeting military spouses and dependents. This program shall deliver employment assistance services through military family employment advocates collocated within selected one-stop career centers. Persons eligible for assistance through this program shall include spouses and dependents of active-duty military personnel, Florida National Guard members, and military reservists. Military family employment advocates are responsible for providing the following services and activities: (a) Coordination of employment assistance services through military base family support centers, Florida's one-stop career centers, and veteran support organizations. (b) Training to one-stop career center managers and staff on the unique employment needs and skills of military family members. (c) Promoting and marketing the benefits of employing military family members to prospective employers. (d) Assisting employment-seeking military family members through job counseling, job search and placement services, the dissemination of information on educational and training programs, and the availability of support services. (e) Other employment assistance services CareerSource, deems necessary. **(F.S. 445.055)**

## **46. National Guard Members Employment Protection (NG)**

National Guard Service members are protected and will not to be penalized by employers and postsecondary institution when ordered into state active duty. A private or public employer, or an employing or appointing authority of this state, its counties, school districts, municipalities, political subdivisions, career centers, community colleges, or universities, may not discharge, reprimand, or in any other way penalize such member because of his or her absence by reason of state active duty. Employers are prohibited from discharging reemployed service members, for a period of one year, except for cause. **(F.S. 250.482)**





#### **47. Leave and Pay to State Employees for Military Service (NG, R)**

All officials of the state, the several counties of the state, and the municipalities or political subdivisions of the state, including district school and community college officers, which officials are also service members in the National Guard or a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, shall be granted leave of absence from their respective offices and duties to perform active military service, the first 30 days of any such leave of absence to be with full pay. (F.S. 115.09) Additionally, after the first 30 days of full pay, public employers may supplement the military pay of its employees who are reservists in federal active duty in an amount necessary to bring their total salary, inclusive of their base military pay, to the level earned at the time they were called to active military duty. (F.S. 115.14)

#### **48. Additional Leave for State Employees on National Guard Duty (NG)**

Increases the amount of annual leave of absence granted to officers and employees of the state, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions of the state who are commissioned reserve officers or reserve enlisted personnel in the U.S. military or naval service or who are members of the National Guard from 17 days to 30 days. (F.S. 115.07)

## EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS



### ***SERVICE MEMBERS***

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#### **49. In-State Tuition Rates**

Certain military and family members receive in state tuition rates. (F.S. 1009.21)

#### **50. Tuition Waivers**

Requires state universities and community colleges to waive undergraduate tuition for a recipient of a Purple Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence that fulfills specified criteria. (F.S. 1009.26)

#### **51. College Credit for Military Training and Education Courses**

Members of the United States Armed Forces can earn college credit for college-level training and education acquired in the military. (F.S. 1004.096)

#### **52. Course Withdrawal for Military Service**

Any student enrolled in a postsecondary course or courses at a career center, a Florida college System institution, or a state university shall be permitted the option of either completing the course or courses at a later date without penalty or withdrawing from the course or courses with a full refund of fees paid. If the student chooses to withdraw, the student's record shall reflect that the withdrawal is due to active military service. (F.S. 1004.07)

#### **53. Special Category Tuition Waivers**

Requires state universities and community colleges to waive undergraduate tuition for a recipient of a Purple Heart or other combat decoration superior in precedence that fulfills specified criteria. (F.S. 1009.26)

#### **54. National Guard Educational Dollars for Duty Program (NG)**

The Educational Dollars for Duty (EDD) Program will be paid at 100% of the charged resident rate for Florida community colleges and public universities, and the average current state resident rate for private universities. EDD will pay for courses that matriculate toward a Technical Certificate, Associates, Baccalaureate, or Master's Degree and will pay for training in post-secondary institutions and technical centers to obtain industry certifications approved by the Department of Education. The Educational Dollars for Duty Program is for individuals who enter the Florida National Guard for the first time after June 30, 1997. Approval and payment of tuition is subject to annual appropriation.

## **55. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

Florida is a member of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The annual dues assessment for the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children shall be paid within existing resources by the Department of Education. It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- A. facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school district or variations in entrance or age requirements.
- B. facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment.
- C. facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities.
- D. facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- E. providing for the adoption and enforcement of administrative rules implementing this compact.
- F. providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools, and military families under this compact.
- G. promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children.
- H. promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

**(F.S. 1000.36)**

## **56. Accommodation in Schools for the Transition for Children of Military Families**

Provides priority placement in gifted, special needs and voucher programs for the children of military members. Additionally, provides for smooth transition for children of military families coming into Florida by improving timely transfer of records, establishing procedures to lessen the impact of moves, providing services for transferring students, and giving them first preference in special academic programs. The Department of Education shall assist in the transition by promoting practices which foster access to extracurricular programs, establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of moves from the end of the junior year as well as before and during the senior year, encouraging or continuing partnerships between the military base and the school system, providing services for transitioning students when applying to and finding funding for postsecondary study, and providing other assistance as identified by department, school, and military personnel. Finally, dependent children of active-duty military personnel who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for special academic programs offered through public schools shall be given first preference for admission to such programs even if the program is being offered through a public school other than the school to which the student would generally be assigned and the school at which the program is being offered has reached its maximum enrollment. **(F.S. 1003.05)**

## **57. Exit Exam Graduation Requirements for High School Seniors of Military Families**

In order to facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, states and local education agencies shall accept exit or end-of-course exams required for graduation from the sending state, national norm-referenced tests, or alternative testing, in lieu testing requirements for graduation in the receiving state.

**(F.S. 1000.36, Article VII Section B)**

## **58. Florida Participates in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

The purpose of the compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:

- A. facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school district or variations in entrance or age requirements.
- B. facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment.
- C. facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities.
- D. facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- E. providing for the adoption and enforcement of administrative rules implementing this compact.
- F. providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools, and military families under this compact.
- G. promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children.
- H. promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

**(F.S. 1000.36)**

## **59. In-State College Tuition Rates for Military Family Members**

This law amends the Congressman C.W. “Bill” Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program to allow additional persons to be eligible for the out-of-state tuition fee waivers. This addition allows individuals, such as a spouse or child of a veteran or service member using GI Bill benefits, to qualify for in-state tuition rates currently afforded to honorably discharged veterans residing in Florida and enrolled in a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district, or charter technical career center. The law requires a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district, or charter technical career center to waive out-of-state fees for any person who is receiving educational assistance through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and who physically resides in Florida while enrolled in the institution. **(F.S. 1009.26)**





## FAMILY SUPPORT

### **60. Support to Family Members Codified in Florida law**

Florida extends Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to include early termination of auto leases, cell phone agreements and other commonly leased or contracted items listed in this handbook. Florida Law incorporates, by reference, both the Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). The SCRA is a federal law which addresses many of the same issues as Florida Law. (F.S. 250.82) USERRA (F.S. 115.15) is the federal law which affords employment protections and rights to service members.

### **61. Assistance for Dependents of Service Members on Active Duty**

Provides that eligibility for the Family Readiness Program continues for a specified period following the termination of the service member's orders and his/her return home. (F.S. 250.5206)

### **62. Assistance for National Guard and Reserve Service Members on Active Duty (NG, R)**

Provides need-based financial assistance to eligible service members of the Florida National Guard and United States Reserve Forces, including the Coast Guard Reserves, who are on active duty serving in the Global War on Terrorism and who are federally deployed or participating in state operations for homeland defense, and eligible families of such service members. Program funds may be used in emergency situations to purchase critically needed services, including, but not limited to, reasonable living expenses, housing, vehicles, equipment or renovations necessary to meet disability needs, and health care. Additionally, provides that eligibility for the Family Readiness Program continues for a specified period following the termination of the service member's orders and his/her return home. (F.S. 250.5206)

### **63. Soldier and Airman Assistance Program (NG)**

Provides financial assistance and services to eligible service members of the Florida National Guard and eligible members of their families. The program shall be administered by the Department of Military Affairs. The program provides assistance for housing, living expenses, vehicle repair and rental, and health care. (F.S. 250.116)



## **64. Eligibility for Public Benefits (SNAP, TANF)**

Active duty military personnel, veterans and their spouses/minor children with qualified non-citizen status do not need to wait the standard five years after entering the country before they can receive public benefits. These benefits include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Medicaid. (Other program rules including low income still apply.)

**(Source: Florida Department of Children and Families)**

## **65. Child Custody**

Provides that a parent's activation, deployment, or temporary assignment to military service and resultant temporary disruption to the child may not be the sole factor in granting petition for or modification of permanent time-sharing and parental responsibility. Additionally, provides for deployed military service men and women to designate a family member or stepparent to exercise their visitation rights while the service member is deployed. **(F.S. 61.13002)**

## **66. Drivers Licenses**

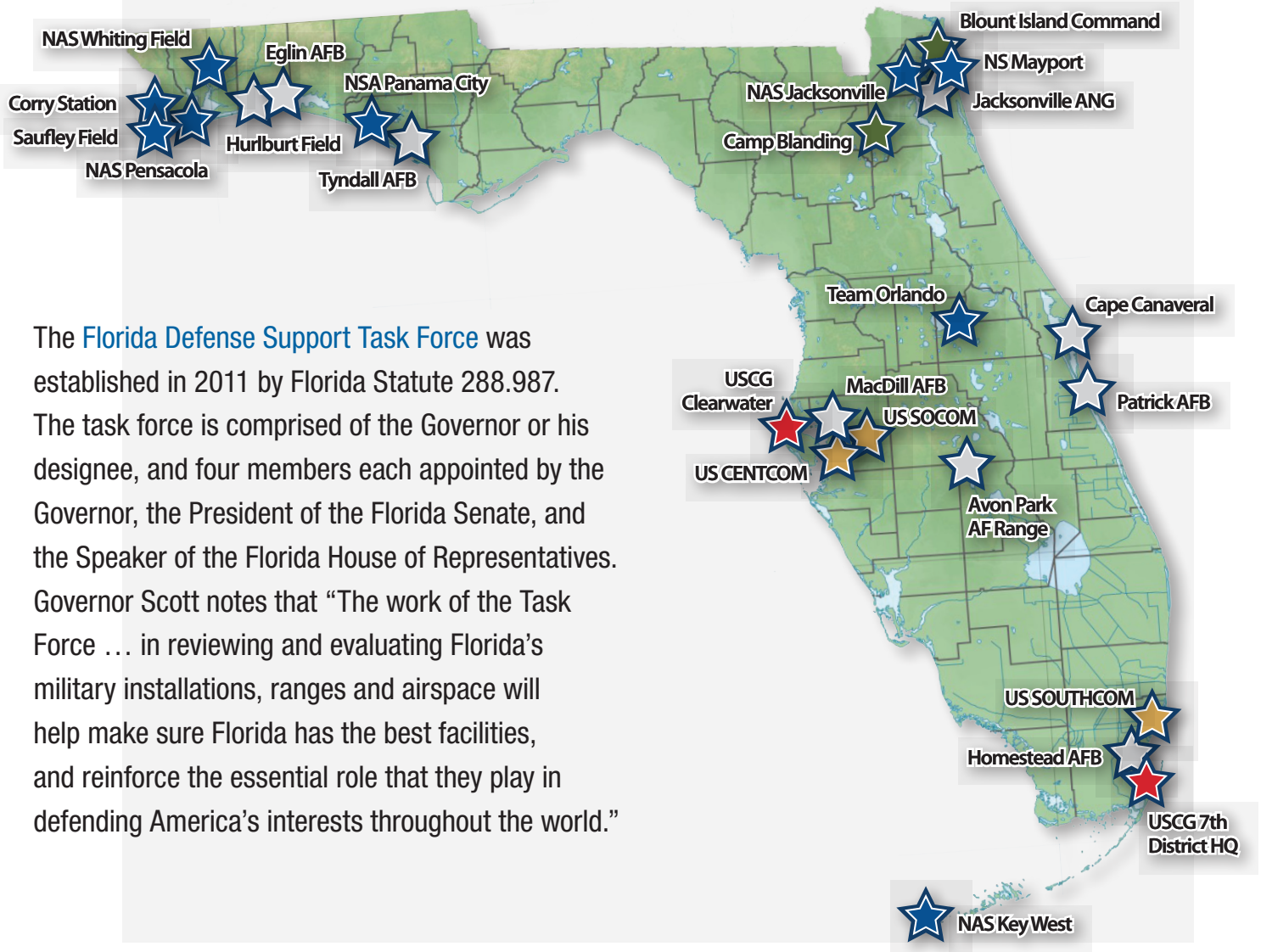
A member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty in Florida shall not be required to obtain a Florida driver's license solely because he or she enters his or her children to be educated in the public schools of this state if he or she has a valid military driving permit or a valid driver's license issued by another state. **(F.S. 322.031)**

## **67. Persons with Disabilities – Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waivers**

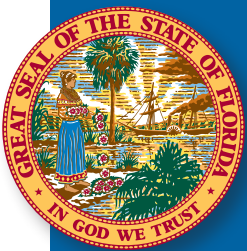
For FY 2015/2016, provides individuals who meet eligibility requirements under F.S. 393.065 (1) to receive home and community-based services in Florida if parent or legal guardian is an active duty military service member and if, at the time of the transfer to Florida, the individual was already receiving home and community-based services in another state. Additional information can be found at: <http://apdcares.org/> **(SB2502A – Implementing Bill 00000002)**



# PARTNERSHIPS



The **Florida Defense Support Task Force** was established in 2011 by Florida Statute 288.987. The task force is comprised of the Governor or his designee, and four members each appointed by the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. Governor Scott notes that “The work of the Task Force ... in reviewing and evaluating Florida’s military installations, ranges and airspace will help make sure Florida has the best facilities, and reinforce the essential role that they play in defending America’s interests throughout the world.”



## FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE 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.

*"Our goal is to maintain Florida  
as the most military friendly  
state in the nation."*

Governor Rick Scott



## FLORIDA'S MILITARY ADVANTAGES

Florida Governor Rick Scott is committed to maintaining Florida as the most military friendly state in the nation. Florida already offers:

- **No state income tax, low corporate tax rates, and a favorable business tax climate**
- **Support for military spouses – including employment, professional certifications/licensing assistance and fee waivers, and more**
- **Proof of military service on driver's license – to support community and business efforts such as veteran discounts**
- **In-state college tuition rates for military family members**
- **An extensive veterans health care network – including seven state veterans nursing homes; seven federal Veterans Medical Centers, one specializing in traumatic brain injuries; and special programs for veterans with substance abuse and mental health issues**
- **Veterans education benefits – including in-state university tuition for all veterans, free undergraduate state university tuition for Purple Heart recipients, a troops to teachers program, early college registration, and college credit for military training**



### FREE DOWNLOAD

This guide can be downloaded from the  
Florida Defense Support Task Force website:  
[www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf](http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/fdstf)



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**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Meeting Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Number (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Topic Florida Defense Factbook

Amendment Barcode (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name Rod Lewis

Job Title Vice President CSF

Address 1862 Stella Lane

Phone 850-510-0771

St. Walter FL 32548

Email rlewis@careersourceflorida.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing CareerSource Florida / Enterprise Florida

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)

**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

6 OCT 2015

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic 2015 FLORIDA MILITARY FRIENDLY GUIDE

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name BRUCE GRANT

Job Title EXEC. DIRECTOR, FL DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

Address 101 N. MONROE ST

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street

TALLAHASSEE

FL

32301

Email \_\_\_\_\_

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FLORIDA DEFENSE SUPPORT TASK FORCE

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

*While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.*

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

10/6/15  
Meeting Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Federal Defense Budget Status

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Col. Rocky McPherson

Job Title VP, Enterprise Florida Military & Defense

Address 101 N Monroe, Suite 1000  
Street  
TALLAHASSEE, FL  
City State Zip

Phone 850 728-9066

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Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Fl. Defense Support TF.

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

**This form is part of the public record for this meeting.**

S-001 (10/14/14)

# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** LL 37

**Case No.:**

**Type:**

**Caption:** Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security

**Judge:**

**Started:** 10/6/2015 10:03:04 AM

**Ends:** 10/6/2015 10:49:20 AM **Length:** 00:46:17

**10:03:09 AM** Chairman Thad Altman calls meeting to order

**10:03:17 AM** Committee Administrative Assistant (CAA), Lois Graham calls the roll and announces quorum is present

**10:03:32 AM** Chairman Altman recognizes Senator Aaron Bean who presents SB 184 Military and Veterans Affairs

**10:05:30 AM** Chairman Altman asks for any questions from the committee

**10:05:40 AM** Senator Bean with comments regarding input from Senators Gibson and Sachs

**10:06:03 AM** Chairman Altman follows up with comments on a job well done

**10:06:12 AM** Senator Sachs provides comments

**10:06:48 AM** Chairman Altman recognizes appearance card for Colonel Mike Prendergast

**10:07:01 AM** Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, waives in support of SB 184

**10:07:09 AM** Chairman Altman with comments and asks if there is any debate

**10:07:18 AM** CAA calls the roll on SB 184

**10:07:23 AM** Chairman Altman announces the bill passes unanimously

**10:07:32 AM** Senator Bean with additional comments

**10:07:54 AM** Chairman Altman with comments

**10:08:18 AM** Chairman Altman moves to Tab 1 - SB 128 Services for Combat Veterans and Their Families

**10:08:33 AM** Mary Kassabaum, Aide to Senator Wilton Simpson presents the bill

**10:08:51 AM** Chairman Altman ask if members have questions

**10:08:59 AM** Senator Gibson with question with question on budget allocations

**10:09:20 AM** Senator Gibson budget allocations

**10:09:32 AM** Aide provides breakdown of costs

**10:10:01 AM** Chairman Altman asks for any other questions or comments

**10:10:11 AM** Chairman recognizes appearance cards

**10:10:15 AM** Ms. Jill Gran, Legislative Affairs, Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse Association waives in support

**10:10:20 AM** Ms. Susan Harbin, Legislative Advocate, Florida Association of Counties waives in support

**10:10:28 AM** Mr. Travis Mitchell, Lobbyist, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay waives in support

**10:10:37 AM** Colonel Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

**10:10:51 AM** Senator Sachs with questions/comment on pilot program

**10:11:18 AM** Aide responds with deferment to Travis Mitchell

**10:11:25 AM** Aide responds based on Mr. Mitchell's response

**10:11:26 AM** Senator Sachs with follow-up comments

**10:11:53 AM** Senator Gibson with questions on direct services

**10:12:22 AM** Aide responds

**10:12:30 AM** Senator Gibson on money for direct services

**10:12:45 AM** Chairman comments

**10:12:57 AM** Senator Gibson wants to make sure veterans are getting the services they need

**10:13:01 AM** Aide provides breakdown of services



10:13:32 AM Senator Gibson thanks the Aide  
10:13:36 AM Chairman Altman asks if there are further questions  
10:13:40 AM Senator Evers with question on amount of appropriation  
10:14:06 AM Aide responds  
10:14:10 AM Chairman Altman provides comments  
10:14:14 AM Senator Evers with follow-up  
10:14:18 AM Aide responds  
10:14:22 AM Senator Evers with follow-up on appropriation  
10:14:25 AM Aide responds  
10:14:30 AM Senator Evers with comments  
10:14:38 AM Chairman Altman with comments  
10:14:53 AM CAA with roll call on bill  
10:15:01 AM SB 128 passes unanimously  
10:15:07 AM Chairman Altman calls for consideration of SPB 7016 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children  
10:15:31 AM Ms. Margaret Sanders, Committee Legislative Analyst presents the bill  
10:16:27 AM Chairman Altman asks if there are any questions  
10:16:33 AM Senator Sachs asks for recognition to ask questions  
10:16:37 AM Senator Sachs on expiration date  
10:16:45 AM Ms. Sanders responds  
10:17:06 AM Senator Sachs on effective date  
10:17:13 AM Chairman Altman recognizes appearance card  
10:17:19 AM Recognizes Colonel Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, Florida Veterans Affairs  
10:17:24 AM Colonel Prendergast waives in support  
10:17:30 AM Chairman Altman with comments  
10:17:35 AM Chairman Altman asks for motion for SPB 7016 to be submitted as a committee bill  
10:17:55 AM Motion adopted and Chairman asks for vote on the bill  
10:18:00 AM CAA calls the roll on SPB 7016  
10:18:06 AM Chairman Altman announces that the bill passes  
10:18:14 AM Chairman Altman moves to Tab 4, Presentation on Economic Impact of the Florida Defense Industry  
10:18:25 AM Mr. Rod Lewis, Vice-President, Career Source Florida/Enterprise Florida, presents  
10:19:05 AM Chairman with comments to presenter  
10:19:20 AM Mr. Lewis continues presentation  
10:25:41 AM Chairman Altman with comments on farming  
10:25:50 AM Mr. Lewis continues presentation  
10:26:31 AM Chairman Altman asks committee for questions  
10:26:39 AM Senator Sachs with question on bill that affect veterans using state revenues  
10:27:06 AM Mr. Lewis responds on fiscal impact  
10:29:12 AM Senator Sachs with follow-up on how much money is generated by the military in the state  
10:29:31 AM Mr. Lewis responds with promise to provide information  
10:30:02 AM Senator Sachs with comments  
10:30:15 AM Chairman Altman recognizes Senator Evers for question  
10:30:20 AM Senator Evers with comments on economic impact  
10:30:35 AM Mr. Lewis responds on partnerships  
10:30:53 AM Senator Evers with comments  
10:31:05 AM Mr. Lewis responds with clarification  
10:33:04 AM Senator Evers with follow-up regarding Eglin Air Force Base  
10:33:17 AM Mr. Lewis responds regarding Eglin Air Force Base  
10:34:08 AM Senator Evers with comments  
10:34:15 AM Mr. Lewis responds

**10:34:19 AM** Chairman Altman asks for additional questions?  
**10:34:25 AM** Senator Evers with follow-up  
**10:34:35 AM** Mr. Lewis responds  
**10:34:42 AM** Senator Evers with follow-up  
**10:34:45 AM** Mr. Lewis responds  
**10:34:50 AM** Chairman Altman recognizes Senator Gibson  
**10:34:56 AM** Senator Gibson with clarification and question on collaboration between businesses and military  
**10:35:12 AM** Mr. Lewis responds on direct procurement  
**10:37:53 AM** Chairman Altman with comments  
**10:38:13 AM** Chairman Altman with question on Brevard County  
**10:38:32 AM** Mr. Lewis responds  
**10:39:47 AM** Senator Evers with comments  
**10:39:53 AM** Mr. Lewis responds  
**10:40:17 AM** Senator Sachs with comments on congressional districts and veterans  
**10:40:35 AM** Senator Evers answered regarding congressional district  
**10:40:40 AM** Senator Sachs with comments  
**10:40:44 AM** Chairman Altman with question on - GRP of defense impact for state  
**10:41:06 AM** Mr. Lewis responds  
**10:41:33 AM** Chairman Altman with comments and recognizes speaker cards  
**10:41:48 AM** Mr. Bruce Grant, Executive Director, Florida Defense Support Task Force  
**10:43:09 AM** Chairman Altman asks question on manual  
**10:43:15 AM** Mr. Grant responds on any corrections to manual  
**10:43:21 AM** Chairman Altman with comments  
**10:43:32 AM** Mr. Grant adds additional information  
**10:44:02 AM** Chairman Altman asks if there are any questions  
**10:44:09 AM** Chairman Altman thanks Mr. Grant  
**10:44:15 AM** Chairman Altman recognizes Colonel Rocky McPherson  
**10:44:23 AM** Colonel Rocky McPherson, Vice-President, Enterprise Florida Military & Defense  
**10:44:52 AM** Chairman Altman asks for a quick overview of the task force  
**10:44:58 AM** Colonel McPherson explains task force structure  
**10:45:32 AM** Chairman Altman asks for explanation of BRAC - Base Re-alignment and Closure  
**10:45:41 AM** Colonel McPherson explains BRAC  
**10:45:55 AM** Colonel McPherson continues presentation  
**10:47:52 AM** Chairman Altman asks if Colonel McPherson to come back with presentation on BRAC at a later date  
**10:48:15 AM** Colonel McPherson concurs  
**10:48:52 AM** Mr. McPherson continues presentation  
**10:48:56 AM** Chairman Altman concludes meeting  
**10:49:03 AM** Senator Evers moves to rise  
**10:49:09 AM** Meeting adjourned