

Base tours highlight missions



US Navy Photos by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class David M. Didier

Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support holds first regional meeting in Bay County in October.

Tyndall AFB and the Naval Support Activity Panama City hosted members of the Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support and members of the Bay Defense Alliance (BDA) for tours of the installations on October 14th.

The group started their tour at Tyndall AFB, attended a luncheon honoring World War II veterans, and continued the tour at the Naval Support Activity Panama City.

The tour of Tyndall AFB highlighted the missions of the 325th Fighter Wing and AF-NORTH.

The tour of NSA PC highlighted the missions of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division, the Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center, and the Naval Experimental Diving Unit.

The following day, the Council held its meeting in the Bay County Commission board room. BDA President Tom Neubauer was elected as Council chairman. BDA member Larry Arnold is also a member of the Council.



Above: Members of the Florida Council on Military Base and Mission Support and BDA members on board a Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC).

Left: Tour attendees visit the Naval Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU) at NSA PC.

Tyndall gains F-22 squadron, T-38s

In addition to the 21 operational F-22 aircraft that the Air Force announced in July would be relocating to Tyndall AFB, Senator George LeMieux announced on November 30th that Tyndall would also be gaining 10 T-38 aircraft to serve as adversary air training for the F-22s.

Bay Defense Alliance President Tom Neubauer told the *News Herald* "the plan will fill an important part of the F-22 air dominance training syllabus more efficiently and economically than ever. The Bay Defense Alliance is certainly pleased to have additional aircraft based at Tyndall to help fill the gap

between the recent retirement of F-15s and the planned arrival of the operational F-22 squadron. Getting additional aircraft on the ramp at Tyndall Air Force Base is a good thing for the base and the community."



F-15s depart Tyndall AFB

The 95th Fighter Squadron departed Tyndall AFB in September with the last F-15s to leave the base due to the Combat Air Force Restructuring.

F-22s

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Neubauer credits the good news to the hard work of many BDA board members who volunteer their time and expertise, our Congressional delegation, and an outstanding relationship with our consulting team.

After successful completion of an Environmental Impact Statement, plans to place operational, combat-coded F-22s at Tyndall along side the 29 F-22s associated with the fighter training unit will move forward.

On August 2, Congressman Allen Boyd visited Bay County to formally announce the plan and answer questions about the planned bed down of the aircraft.

Boyd announced that the movement will take place in late 2012 or early 2013 and the Air Force has suggested that the operational squadron will directly employ 589 military personnel.

The addition of operational F-22s will mean that the Air Force plans to reflag Tyndall AFB from an Air Edu-



Bay Defense Alliance members Tom Neubauer, left, Elizabeth Walters, and Glen McDonald recently visited Air Combat Command.

cation Training Command (AETC) to the Air Combat Command (ACC) installation.

It was noted that the merger of operational and training aircraft at one base is not a new concept to the Air Force.

The successful merger of a Fighter Training Unit (FTU) and an operational squadron has been accomplished before. The F-15E training was consolidated with F-15E operational squadrons at Seymour Johnson AFB.



Photo by Dave Sussman/NSWC PCD

CAPT Tom Brovarone, Dr. David Skinner, and Dr. Ace Summey, as Dr. Skinner received the 2009 Hall of Fame Award.

Farewell, Dr. David Skinner

A long-term Bay Defense Alliance Board member and former member of the Navy Senior Executive Service, Dr. David Skinner, passed away August 22nd.

Dr. Skinner served on the Bay Defense Alliance board since his retirement from the Navy in 2005 and became a professor at Florida State University, leading the Science,

Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program at the Florida State Panama City Campus. Due to the efforts of friends and colleagues earlier this year, Dr. Skinner was honored with an endowed scholarship in his name.

BDA member Leon Walters is working with FSU PC to ensure the continued success of the STEM program.



AETC Change of Command

Members of the Bay Defense Alliance traveled to San Antonio for the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Change of Command on November 17th as Gen. Edward Rice, middle, assumed command, relieving Gen. Stephen Lorenz, who was retiring after 37 years of Air Force service. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, left, presided over the ceremony and praised Gen. Lorenz for his service, according to the Air Force Times. Elizabeth Walters and Glen McDonald worked closely with Gen. Lorenz as members of the AETC Civic Leaders group.

15th EXWAR conference a success

The National Defense Industrial Association held its 15th Annual Expeditionary Warfare Conference at the Bay Point Marriott in October. The conference featured speakers including Gen. James Conway, Commandant, USMC; Lt. Gen. George Flynn, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Combat



Development and Integration, HQMC; Maj Gen Timothy Hanifen, USMC, Director, Expeditionary Warfare Division, OPNAV N85; ADM

John C. Harvey, Jr., USN, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; Hon. Robert C. Work, Under Secretary of the Navy, Office of the Secretary of the Navy; Brig. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, USMC; RADM Mike Nowakowski, USN Ret. The 16th annual conference will be held Oct. 24-27, 2011.

Grant awards benefit county

Bay County military installations will benefit from recent grant award announcements from Enterprise Florida.

In June, Bay County learned that it was awarded \$250,000 for a Defense Infrastructure Grant project to investigate planning related to expansion of the LambdaRail high speed internet service to our area.

Activities regarding the LambdaRail project are underway and will kickoff with a scoping meeting in early December with project stakeholders interested in supporting progress of the LambdaRail project.

In October, the Bay Defense Alliance learned that it was awarded a \$150,000 Defense Reinvestment Grant as well as a \$67,000 Military Base Protection Grant.

Since its inception, the State of Florida's defense grant program has provided more than \$4 million in defense grant funding to Bay County.

BDA Briefs

Welcome Addition

Dr. Ken Shaw, dean of Florida State University Panama City campus, was



Dr. Ken Shaw

was unanimously elected to the board of the Bay Defense Alliance and attended his first meeting on November 4th.

FDA Meeting

The Florida Defense Alliance held its semi-annual meeting on November 3rd in Bay County. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Growth Management and Family Support Committee to meet prior to the regular meeting. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a tour of Naval Support Activity Panama City prior to the regular meeting. During the meeting, new officers for the Florida Defense Alliance were announced with Craig Dalton of the Pensacola Chamber taking over leadership duties from Diana Gonzalez, who has served for the past several years. Pete Giambastiani provided an update from Washington, D.C., and Rocky McPherson provided updates from around the state.

The group was advised the Florida Defense Alliance is working with the Haas Center to update its study of the economic impacts of the defense industry in the State of Florida. The next Florida Defense Alliance meeting will be held on May 25th.



Photo courtesy Bay County Chamber

Congressman-elect Steve Southerland addresses the Military Affairs Committee reception after the Florida Defense Alliance semi-annual meeting as MAC chair Sean McNeil looks on.

Congressional Delegation Key to Success

Defense organizations like BDA rely on a strong partnership with their congressional delegation to ensure there is one clearly focused vision for the continued success of their installations. The Bay County community and BDA board is looking forward to working closely with a new Congressional leader, our own Steve Southerland.

According to BDA Chair Tom Neubauer, "Steve certainly understands our community and both of our bases very well. He served as Chamber Chairman, Military Affairs Committee Chairman and as a member of the Bay Defense Alliance for two years. Quite simply, Steve Southerland 'gets it.' We anticipate a continued strong and positive relationship at a crucial time for our department of defense and our installations." Of course, communities throughout Florida will continue to focus on the importance of our Defense industry to the state and it will remain important to keep Florida's entire delegation in tune to the needs of our military.

Senator Nelson visit

Senator Bill Nelson visited Bay County to discuss



Senator Bill Nelson

defense issues on August 9th. The Bay County Chamber of Commerce invited Senator Nelson to attend a dinner with Chamber and Bay Defense Alliance members at Capt. Anderson's Restaurant. Senator Nelson provided the group with insight into the planned VA medical facility to be located at NSA Panama City and the increasing competition for military missions by states around the country who understand the impact of defense on state economies.

Commander's BRIDGE Breakfast

The Naval Support Activity Panama City hosted the Commander's BRIDGE Breakfast on September 28th. The breakfast is a semi-annual meeting between Navy leadership and the Bay Defense Alliance.

The next meeting will be held in March 2011.

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