



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES
Miami-Dade Military Affairs Board**

Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp.
8000 NW 21 Street
Miami, FL 33122

March 5, 2014
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

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Clerk of the Board Division

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CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MEETING AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD
March 5, 2014

The Military Affairs Board (MAAB) convened in a meeting on March 5, 2014 at 6:01 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp., 8000 NW 21 Street, Miami, FL 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Mark Blumstein; Rosa Brito; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Thomas Davis; Diana Gonzalez; Manuel Gonzalez; Eduardo Lombard; Joseph Martory; Jorge Sibila; and Keith Whitbeck.

The following voting Board members arrived late: Mario Alvarez; Dr. Anthony Atwood; David Blake; and Kevin Humes.

The following voting Board members were absent: David Conley; Christopher Miller;

The following non-voting Board members were present: Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr.; Major Brooke Cortez; Colonel Greg Julian, Robert Appin, Commander Jose Pena for Captain Benjamin Davis, Gisselle Reynolds and Karen Ramirez for United States Congressman Mario Diaz-Ballart and Paul Russo.

The following non-voting Board members were absent: City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz, Mr. Ed Haynes; and Ms. Joanna Sandstrom

The following staff members were present: Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

The following guests were also present: Ms. Daniella Levine Cava; Ms. Priscilla Dames; and Ms. Helen Litsky.

❖ **Welcome**

Chairman Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed MAB members and guests to tonight's (3/5) meeting

❖ **Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegance**

Mr. Keith Whitbek led the MAB in a moment of prayer; followed by Mr. Joseph Martory in the Pledge of Allegiance.

❖ **Board Member Roundtable**

The following introductions and updates were made by MAB members:

Ms. Helen Glitsky (phonetic), representing Mr. Kevin Humes, District 1.

Mr. Paul Russo, Medical Center Director, Miami Veteran's Administration Healthcare System.

Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr., representing the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Reserves, announced the recent transition to a Civil Affairs Group.

Mr. Robbert Appin, Deputy Chief, Public Affairs, United States Southern Command (Southcom), noted Southcom would participate in a homeless veterans program in May 2014.

Colonel Greg Julian, Public Affairs Chief, United States Southern Command (Southcom), announced that the upcoming Maltz Challenge, sponsored by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, would be held on March 21, 2014 at 8:00 a.m., at the Southcom headquarters. He said that this 8th Annual Recognition for Fallen Troops was a fitness event honoring Lt. Robert Kelly and open to all law enforcement, first responders, military, friends and family. Colonel Julian pointed out that the 70th Anniversary of D-Day coincided with the Army's birthday; that the Army decided to focus on Miami; and a General would be available to address a local Spanish speaking audience.

Retired Lt. Colonel Jorge Sibila, representing District 5.

Mr. Joe Martory, representing District 6, announced a veterans and military event on Saturday, March 8, 2014 near the Veterans of Foreign War Post 10211, in Key Largo at Mile Marker 100 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard, representing District 11, asked MAB members to acknowledge and support the County's non-profit hospital. He also asked MAB members to express their appreciation to members of the State legislature for supporting House Bill 7015, noting this legislation offered a variety of benefits to Florida's military and veterans. Mr. Lombard pointed out the Young Marines of Miami-Dade County worked cooperatively with the Marine Corps League.

Lt. Colonel Son Vo, representing the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), announced that the eight local university's with ROTC programs did not receive budget cuts or placed on probation. He also announced that construction of the military style obstacle course at Florida International University's Main Campus was underway and that it would be open to the general public when completed.

Councilman Timothy Daubert, representing District 13.

Mr. Thomas Davis, representing District 8, announced that he distributed the following two articles: "Pentagon Plans to Shrink Army to Pre-World War II Level" and "Pentagon

May Oust Troops Involuntarily to Meet Reductions in Budget Plan". He said organizational and personnel reductions would impact decisions of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Committee. Mr. Thomas explained that South Florida attracted veterans because of its supply of affordable housing, noting this influx would be seeking employment and other local services.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez, Coordinator, Miami-Dade Defense Alliance.

Ms. Rosa Brito, President, Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, announced that the Chamber was busy putting together its events for the Military Appreciation Month in May 2014 in cooperation with the City of Homestead and the Homestead Air Reserve Base. She said that additional details would be available at next month's meeting.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck, representing District 3, explained that his recent absence from MAB meetings was due to a heart condition. He asked the MAB to sponsor a cookout for veterans' living in the Veterans Administration Hospital's convalescent home.

Mr. Manuel Gonzalez, representing District 10.

Mr. Mark Blumstein, representing District 4.

Major Brooke Cortez, representing the United States Air Force Base (Homestead), announced that the Golden Knights were still jumping, noting that tandem jumps were available to any MAB member who was interested. She noted that local troops were still deployed to Afghanistan. Major Cortez said that training exercises and loud explosions would take place at the base during the weekend beginning March 7, 2014. She noted she was working with Ms. Diana Gonzalez to prepare a visit agenda for the upcoming Florida Defense Support Task Force meeting.

Commander Jose Pena for Captain Benjamin Davis, United States Coast Guard District 7.

Ms. Gisselle Reynolds, Congressional Aid responsible for Veterans Affairs for United States Congressman Mario Diaz-Ballart.

Ms. Karen Ramirez, Staff Assistant for United States Congressman Mario Diaz-Ballart.

Professor Anthony Atwood, representing District 9 and the South Florida Military Museum and Veterans Memorial.

Mr. Mario Alvarez, representing Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

Mr. Kevin Humes, representing District 1.

Mr. David Blake, representing District 2.

❖ **Old Business**

➤ **MAB Logo**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz said he requested the County's Graphics Department to prepare several draft MAB Logo's for the Board's approval at the April meeting.

Chairman Diaz asked MAB members to provide their suggestions to Mr. Cruz.

➤ **West Kendall Baptist Hospital Dinner**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz said that he along with Mr. Eduardo Lombard and Mr. David Blake attended a dinner for military families and veterans sponsored by Baptist Hospital. He noted that dinners were held on the last Wednesday of each month; that the next dinner would be March 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. and was open to anyone in the community.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that Baptist Hospital expressed their desire to become part of the veteran community and that he asked them to meet with Mr. Paul Russo from the Miami Veteran's Administration Healthcare System to discuss mutually beneficial opportunities.

➤ **70th Anniversary of D-Day**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz said he was coordinating activities with Commissioner Javier Souto's office. He explained the event began in Normandy and travelled eastward through Europe. Mr. Cruz noted that many dignitaries including President Barack Obama and other heads of state, the Queen of England and the Prime Minister would be in attendance.

Colonel Greg Julian commented that the one-year celebration began in June with reenactments performed by each country with authentic United States equipment and uniforms from the period. He said that a United States base reenact group would present a 120 mile tactical reenactment from Paris, France to Manche, France.

Chairman Diaz inquired whether any travel arrangements have been prepared.

Mr. Cruz responded that the size of the party needed to be determined in order to obtain rates.

Chairman Diaz commented Spain had offered a vessel for a delegation related activity. He said that travel and other event details would be available on the MAB website as they became available.

Professor Anthony Atwood shared the Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. R-769-13, sponsored by Commissioner Javier D. Souto, and approved on September 17,

2013. This resolution formally requested the MAB to consider organizing a patriotic mission to Normandy, France in 2014 to commemorate the upcoming 70th Anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2014; requesting the MAB to consider travel options that included promotion of cities and ports with whom the County had sister city and/or port agreements; and requesting the MAB report back the results of its organizational efforts within sixty (60) days.

➤ **Golden Veterans Day Parade Analysis**

Chairman Diaz apologized that that he was unable to review the final accounting of the Golden Veterans Day Parade and this information would be provided to MAB members in a manner that will be in compliance with the Florida Sunshine Law.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez pointed out that she secured the \$25,000 grant for the Parade and needed to submit them the financial information.

❖ **New Business**

➤ **Tribute to the Military 5K**

Chairman Diaz announced that the Tribute to the Military 5K would be held at Tropical Park on Sunday, March 16, 2014, noting that event fliers were distributed. He commented that many units from the United States Southern Command participated in this event in prior years.

➤ **Resignation of Christopher Miller from District 7**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted Mr. Christopher Miller had resigned from the MAB due to work commitments outside of Miami. He said that District 7 Commissioner Xavier Suarez was notified and another appointment would be forthcoming.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that Commissioner Suarez was open to recommendations from MAB members as to a potential appointment.

Mr. Cruz noted that the person would need to be a County resident and did not need to live within District 7.

➤ **Resignation of Don Slesnick II from District 12**

Chairman Diaz informed the MAB that Mr. Don Slesnick II had also resigned from the MAB due to other commitments.

➤ **Appointment of Alexander Acosta from District 12**

Chairman Diaz announced the appointment of Mr. Alexander Acosta, currently a Law Professor at Florida International University and a former United States Attorney for the Southern Region. He noted this appointment would help move the Veterans Court initiatives forward.

➤ **Resignation of David Conley from the American Red Cross**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz said that Mr. David Conley no longer worked with the American Red Cross and a new MAB member would be named as soon as possible.

➤ **U.S. Southern Command changes for the MAB**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted that Colonel Greg Julien would be the new MAB representative from United States Southern Command (Southcom), replacing Colonel Morris Hatcher.

Mr. Cruz also noted that Mr. Robert Appin would be Southcom's replacement for Ms. Mognon (Scottie) Moore.

➤ **USCG Miami Beach change for the MAB**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz announced that Captain Benjamin Davis would replace Captain Mark Jackson on the MAB as the United States Coast Guard District 7 representative.

➤ **EDC Golf Tournament presented by David Blake**

Mr. Blake announced that veterans would receive a 25 percent discount at the upcoming Economic Development Council's Golf Tournament to be held at the Deering Bay Yacht & Country Club on Monday, March 10, 2014. A flier for the event can be obtained from the MAB office.

➤ **HARB Shared Services Project presented by Diana Gonzalez**

Ms. Diana Gonzalez indicated that the Homestead Air Reserve Base (HARB) would participate in a Shared Services Project, noting this was an organized program involving all military service branches. She noted that this project would bring communities and military bases together to discuss how they can work together; what kinds of services a community can bring to a base; and the services that a base can provide to the community. Ms. Gonzalez pointed out that the project's goal was to identify ways to reduce the cost of services to the base and make the base more mission effective.

Ms. Gonzalez noted examples where the County provided free land to the Maritime Safety and Security Team located at the HARB; the County provided 85 acres to develop

the United States Southern Command's South Headquarters; and the County gives HARB a reduction in water and sewer charges in perpetuity.

Ms. Gonzalez explained that the Shared Service Project was a planning exercise which was institutionalized in the National Defense Appropriation Act in January 2013. She said the six to eight month process included a kick-off meeting, planning, private consultants, a table top exercise, agreements between the base and local governments or other entities, and quarterly updates to ensure commitments were adhered to. Ms. Gonzalez noted the initial report would be distributed to MAB members.

➤ **Report from the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance by Diana Gonzalez**

Ms. Gonzalez announced that the Department of Defense was seeking input from communities on key issues affecting military service members and their families, particularly as related to State involvement. She noted an example where the State could reduce tuitions that were considered to be excessive. Ms. Gonzalez asked MAB members to share pertinent information and examples with their State legislators, the Florida Defense Alliance, and the Florida Defense Support Task Force.

Ms. Gonzalez said that she received a summary of President Barack Obama's budget from the Defense Task Force, noting the following key highlights that impact local military operations:

- Army: A contingency response force that was regionally aligned, forward deployed, and trained for decisive action.
- Air Force: Begin to restore full range of operations.
- United States Southern Command: Maintain full spectrum, global capabilities, and regional expertise.

Ms. Gonzalez explained that the budget contained personnel cuts, infrastructure reductions, and aircraft (A10 & U2) reductions. She noted a \$26 billion Opportunity Growth and Security Initiative for Fiscal Year 2015 that will provide readiness enhancements, including training additions in the Army and Air Force, increased aircraft investment, increased installation support, increased base sustainment, and additional military construction program funding for all military services. Ms. Gonzalez noted she would provide this information to Mr. Gustavo Cruz and it could also be obtained through the Florida Defense Support Task Force, the Florida Defense Alliance and the Association of Defense Communities.

Ms. Gonzalez announced the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance meeting would be held at the Beacon Council on April 22, 2014 at a time to be announced later. She also announced the Annual Doing Business with the Military event will be held on May 30, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to noon, at a location to be announced. She explained that this event brought

local businesses together with military procurement officers to learn how to conduct business with the military and to keep military procurement funds in this community.

➤ **Florida House Bill 7015 – Relating to Military and Veterans Support 2014**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz explained that House Bill 7015 appropriating \$8.8 million non-recurring funds for the Department of Economic Opportunities Military Base Protection Program for Base Buffers; \$12.5 million non-recurring funds for the Department of Military Affairs for State Readiness Centers (Armory) renovations; and the for Congressman C.W. Bill Young Veteran Tuition Waiver Program which waives out-of-state tuition fees for honorably discharged veterans of the Armed Forces, Reserve Forces and the National Guard.

Lt. Colonel Son Vo pointed out that veterans no longer needed to wait one year for in-state tuition at Florida International University, noting this represented a \$12,000 annual savings.

Mr. Cruz also noted that the Bill also included the following provisions: Veterans Preference would apply to all veterans including disabled veterans; the fees for professional licenses would be waived for veterans and their spouses; and the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor and Memorial Garden would be created.

It was duly noted that this Bill passed the Florida House earlier today (3/5).

➤ **Florida Senate Bill 378 – Discounts for Active Duty Military and Veterans at Parks**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz pointed out the Senate Bill 378 provided discount admission to parks for active military and veterans. He said that Miami-Dade County already provided discounts to the military and veterans at its parks that charged admissions, noting that many County parks did not charge admission other than a parking fee.

Chairman Diaz encouraged MAB members to contact State representatives to request their support.

➤ **Decommission of the USS Miami SSN 775 on 3/28/14 at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted local proclamations would be prepared and sent to commemorate the USS Miami's decommission and to celebrate its service to this Country.

Chairman Diaz commented that he would try to attend this event to represent the MAB and that he believed Mr. Don Slesnick II also planned to attend.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez noted it was her understanding that Miami-Dade County gave various gifts to the ship at the time it was commissioned and inquired whether these items could be returned or other pieces of the ship acquired and placed in a museum. She suggested that a formal request for the return of these items be made to the United States Navy.

Professor Anthony Atwood confirmed that artifacts were donated to the ship, including a silver service. He said he would gladly display any items that could be retrieved in the South Florida Military Museum.

❖ **Approval of Minutes for January 8, 2014 and February 5, 2014 MAB meetings**

It was moved by Ms. Diana Gonzalez that the minutes for the January 8, 2014 and February 5, 2014 MAB meetings be approved as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jorge Sibila, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 14-0 (Mr. David Conley, Mr. Manuel Gonzalez, and Mr. Christopher Miller were absent).

❖ **Next meeting date is scheduled for April 2, 2014**

Chairman Diaz requested that the next meeting be moved from April 2, 2014 to April 9, 2014 since several MAB members would be in Tallahassee on that day.

❖ **Discussion items for next agenda**

Chairman Diaz noted the video of the making of the Golden Veterans Day Parade would be shown at the next MAB meeting and that this production would be submitted in a national documentary competition.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that planning needed to begin for the next Veterans Day Parade. He said the parade was intended as a salute to all military; noting the salute to Vietnam and Bay of Pigs veterans was already done. Chairman Diaz said that the parade was intended to be the MAB's signature event; that it would be held on the Saturday one week prior to Veterans Day weekend; that the Bayfront Park amphitheater would be used to reduce costs; and that there would only be one musical performance. He encouraged MAB members to get involved now with suggestions, identifying sponsorships, a honorary grand marshal and other logistical details.

❖ **Good and Welfare Items**

Mr. Kevin Humes announced that The Enhancement Program, located in approximately ten County parks, was fully operational and serving individuals between the ages 55-60 to combat obesity and diabetes. Mr. Gustavo Cruz said he would distribute a program flier to MAB members once it was finalized.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck announced that the July 4th Air Force Association Picnic will once again be held at the Port of Miami and was open to all military personnel in the County.

Chairman Diaz asked all MAB members to provide Mr. Gustavo Cruz with any calendar events relating to the military and to provide that information in a timely manner.

Colonel Greg Julian commended Miami-Dade County for the warm welcome extended to United States Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills.

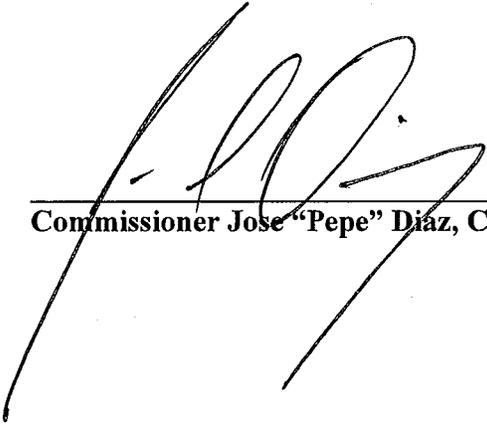
❖ **Guest Introductions**

Ms. Daniella Levine Cava introduced herself, noting that she was a candidate for County Commission District 8. She said she was interested in military issues, wanting to learn more and offer future support. She acknowledged Mr. David Blake for inviting her to attend tonight's (3/5) meeting and asked to be added to the MAB's mailing list.

Ms. Priscilla Dames, Black Affairs Advisory Board member and Immediate Past Chairperson commented that County Boards needed to make a greater effort to support one another. She asked for the MAB's endorsement of the "Parenting: It's a Journey Conference" on April 5, 2014, addressing human trafficking and other timely issues.

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Military Affairs Board meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



Military Affairs Board
March 5, 2014

Prepared by: Alan Eisenberg

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	3/05		Meeting Agenda
2	3/05		New York Times Article: Pentagon Plans to Shrink Army to Pre-World War II Level
3	3/05		Bloomberg Article: Pentagon May Oust Troop Involuntarily to Meet Reductions in Budget Plan
4	3/05		Resolution requesting MAB to consider organizing a patriotic mission to Normandy, France in 2014 to commemorate the 70 th Anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2016
5	3/05		Tribute To The Military 5K Walk/Run
6	3/05		Economic Development Council Golf Tournament
7	3/05		Meeting Minutes: January 8, 2014
8	3/05		Meeting Minutes: February 5, 2014
9	3/05		Parenting: It's a Journey Conference
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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, March 5TH, 2014
6:00 PM

FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL BUILDING
8000 NW 21 Street, Doral, FL 33122
AGENDA

- ❖ **Welcome**
- ❖ **Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance**
- ❖ **Board Member Roundtable**
- ❖ **Old Business**
 - **MAB Logo**
 - **West Kendall Baptist Hospital Dinner**
 - **70th Anniversary of D-Day**
- ❖ **New Business**
 - **Tribute to the Military 5K**
 - **Resignation of Christopher Miller from District 7**
 - **Resignation of David Conley from the American Red Cross**
 - **U.S. Southern Command changes for the MAB**
 - **USCG Miami Beach change for the MAB**

- EDC Golf Tournament presented by David Blake
- HARB Shared Services Project presented by Diana Gonzalez
- Report from the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance by Diana Gonzalez
- Florida House Bill 7015 – Relating to Military and Veterans Support 2014
- Florida Senate Bill 378 – Discounts for Active Duty Military and Veterans at Parks
- Decommission of the USS Miami SSN 755 on 3/28/14 at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine

- ❖ Approval of Minutes for February 5th, 2014
- ❖ Next meeting date is scheduled for April 2nd, 2014
- ❖ Discussion items for the next agenda
- ❖ Adjournment

The New York Times | <http://nyti.ms/1bBxzRT>



POLITICS

Pentagon Plans to Shrink Army to Pre-World War II Level

By THOM SHANKER and HELENE COOPER FEB. 23, 2014

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel plans to shrink the United States Army to its smallest force since before the World War II buildup and eliminate an entire class of Air Force attack jets in a new spending proposal that officials describe as the first Pentagon budget to aggressively push the military off the war footing adopted after the terror attacks of 2001.

The proposal, released on Monday, takes into account the fiscal reality of government austerity and the political reality of a president who pledged to end two costly and exhausting land wars. A result, the officials argue, will be a military capable of defeating any adversary, but too small for protracted foreign occupations.

Officials who saw an early draft of the announcement acknowledge that budget cuts will impose greater risk on the armed forces if they are again ordered to carry out two large-scale military actions at the same time: Success would take longer, they say, and there would be a larger number of casualties. Officials also say that a smaller military could invite adventurism by adversaries.

“You have to always keep your institution prepared, but you can’t carry a large land-war Defense Department when there is no large land war,” a senior Pentagon official said.

Outlines of some of the budget initiatives, which are subject to congressional approval, have surfaced, an indication that even in advance of its release the budget is certain to come under political attack.

For example, some members of Congress, given advance notice of plans to retire air wings, have vowed legislative action to block the move, and the National Guard Association, an advocacy group for those part-time military personnel, is circulating talking points urging Congress to reject anticipated cuts. State governors are certain to weigh in, as well. And defense-industry officials and members of Congress in those port communities can be expected to oppose any initiatives to slow Navy shipbuilding.

Even so, officials said that despite budget reductions, the military would have the money to remain the most capable in the world and that Mr. Hagel's proposals have the endorsement of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Money saved by reducing the number of personnel, they said, would assure that those remaining in uniform would be well trained and supplied with the best weaponry.

The new American way of war will be underscored in Mr. Hagel's budget, which protects money for Special Operations forces and cyberwarfare. And in an indication of the priority given to overseas military presence that does not require a land force, the proposal will — at least for one year — maintain the current number of aircraft carriers at 11.

Over all, Mr. Hagel's proposal, the officials said, is designed to allow the American military to fulfill President Obama's national security directives: to defend American territory and the nation's interests overseas and to deter aggression — and to win decisively if again ordered to war.

"We're still going to have a very significant-sized Army," the official said. "But it's going to be agile. It will be capable. It will be modern. It will be trained."

Mr. Hagel's plan would most significantly reshape America's land forces — active-duty soldiers as well as those in the National Guard and Reserve.

The Army, which took on the brunt of the fighting and the casualties in Afghanistan and Iraq, already was scheduled to drop to 490,000 troops from a post-9/11 peak of 570,000. Under Mr. Hagel's proposals, the Army would drop over the coming years to between 440,000 and 450,000.

That would be the smallest United States Army since 1940. For years, and especially during the Cold War, the Pentagon argued that it needed a military large enough to fight two wars simultaneously — say, in Europe and Asia. In more recent budget and strategy documents, the military has been ordered to be

prepared to decisively win one conflict while holding off an adversary's aspirations in a second until sufficient forces could be mobilized and redeployed to win there.

The Guard and Reserves, which proved capable in their wartime deployments although costly to train to meet the standards of their full-time counterparts, would face smaller reductions. But the Guard would see its arsenal reshaped.

The Guard's Apache attack helicopters would be transferred to the active-duty Army, which would transfer its Black Hawk helicopters to the Guard. The rationale is that Guard units have less peacetime need for the bristling array of weapons on the Apache and would put the Black Hawk — a workhorse transport helicopter — to use in domestic disaster relief.

The cuts proposed by Mr. Hagel fit the Bipartisan Budget Act reached by Mr. Obama and Congress in December to impose a military spending cap of about \$496 billion for fiscal year 2015. If steeper spending reductions kick in again in 2016 under the sequestration law, however, then even more significant cuts would be required in later years.

The budget is the first sweeping initiative that bears Mr. Hagel's full imprint. Although Mr. Hagel has been in office one year, most of his efforts in that time have focused on initiatives and problems that he inherited. In many ways his budget provides an opportunity for him to begin anew.

The proposals are certain to face resistance from interest groups like veterans' organizations, which oppose efforts to rein in personnel costs; arms manufacturers that want to reverse weapons cuts; and some members of Congress who will seek to block base closings in their districts.

Mr. Hagel will take some first steps to deal with the controversial issue of pay and compensation, as the proposed budget would impose a one-year salary freeze for general and flag officers; basic pay for military personnel would rise by 1 percent. After the 2015 fiscal year, raises in pay will be similarly restrained, Pentagon officials say.

The fiscal 2015 budget also calls for slowing the growth of tax-free housing allowances for military personnel and would reduce the \$1.4 billion direct subsidy provided to military commissaries, which would most likely make goods purchased at those commissaries more expensive for soldiers.

The budget also proposes an increase in health insurance deductibles and some co-pays for some military retirees and for some family members of active

servicemen. But Mr. Hagel's proposals do not include any changes to retirement benefits for those currently serving.

Under Mr. Hagel's proposals, the entire fleet of Air Force A-10 attack aircraft would be eliminated. The aircraft was designed to destroy Soviet tanks in case of an invasion of Western Europe, and the capabilities are deemed less relevant today. The budget plan does sustain money for the controversial F-35 warplane, which has been extremely expensive and has run into costly delays.

In addition, the budget proposal calls for retiring the famed U-2 spy plane in favor of the remotely piloted Global Hawk.

The Navy would be allowed to purchase two destroyers and two attack submarines every year. But 11 cruisers will be ordered into reduced operating status during modernization.

Although consideration was given to retiring an aircraft carrier, the Navy will keep its fleet of 11 — for now. The George Washington would be brought in for overhaul and nuclear refueling — a lengthy process that could be terminated in future years under tighter budgets.

A version of this article appears in print on February 24, 2014, on page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: Pentagon Plans to Shrink Army to Prewar Level.

Bloomberg

Pentagon May Oust Troops Involuntarily to Meet Reductions in Budget Plan

By Viola Gienger and Roxana Tiron - Feb 13, 2012

The Defense Department may have to force soldiers, Marines or other members of the military out of the services for the first time since the aftermath of the Cold War to achieve the spending reductions in its budget proposal.

The Pentagon plans to cut 67,100 soldiers from active and reserve Army units and the Army National Guard in the five years starting Oct. 1, as well as 15,200 from the active and reserve ranks of the Marine Corps as part of an effort to save \$487 billion over a decade, according to the budget sent to Congress today. The Navy and Air Force would lose fewer people -- 8,600 and 1,700 respectively -- because of their role in a strategic shift toward the Asia-Pacific region and the Middle East.

The military will first try buying out contracts or offering bonuses for people to leave, while working to keep those with valuable specialties such as cyber warfare and acquisitions, according to Travis Sharp, a fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington policy group, who attended a Pentagon briefing for analysts last month.

"I was surprised that they were going to complete the reductions to the Army and the Marine Corps in just five years," Sharp said in an interview before the budget was released. "What they told us is that they will try to use those types of positive incentives to the greatest extent possible, but that involuntary separations would probably still be necessary."

The Pentagon has said it is aiming to create a smaller, more agile military. Special operations forces, whose commandos killed Osama bin Laden last year, would be expanded.

Republican Opposition

Republicans in Congress already have signaled they will challenge the Pentagon reductions when lawmakers take up the proposed fiscal 2013 budget that President Barack Obama sent to Congress today.

Representative Howard "Buck" McKeon, the Republican chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, cited a comment by White House Chief of Staff Jack Lew in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press" that "the time for austerity is not today."

"They'll have a tough time explaining that to the 100,000 troops who will be forced from service under the president's new budget plan," McKeon of California said today in a statement.

The cuts, spurred in part by plans to wind down the war in Afghanistan in the next three years, would mark the first time the U.S. military has forced personnel out of the services since the larger troop reduction after the end of the Cold War with the Soviet Union.

Service Options

The military services, which decide how to achieve the cuts, may be able to tighten re-enlistment standards and offer incentives to leave, Defense Department Comptroller Robert Hale said.

"I don't think we can stand here and say there won't be any involuntary separation," Hale told reporters at the Pentagon today. "We have very high retention right now with the economy still fairly weak. If that changes, it will be easier. If it doesn't, it will be harder."

The department will seek to "do this in as humane a way as we can," Hale said.

The prospect of cutting the U.S. military to about 2.15 million people by October 2017, a reduction of 92,600 starting next year, creates political risks for Obama in an election year, and economic risks as military personnel enter the civilian workforce in coming years, Sharp said. Including reductions in the current year, the plan would eliminate 123,900 positions from all the branches.

'Kicking People Out'

"You are kicking people out of the military at a time when unemployment is not only a major challenge, it is also a primary factor in the upcoming presidential election," Sharp said. "They will have to start the machinery and the process of implementing these drawdowns this year."

The reductions would start with 31,300 uniformed positions, or 1.4 percent, eliminated in the 12 months starting Oct. 1, cutting the force size to 2,238,400 from 2,269,700 this year, according to the proposal.

After the Cold War, the military pared its active-duty ranks by 494,000 from 1991 to 1995, according to the Defense Department comptroller's office. That included 216,000 from the Army and 21,000 from the Marine Corps. Further cuts followed in the next few years, ending just before the Sept. 11 terror attacks by al-Qaeda.

Junior Officers

The Army forced more than 5,300 out of its officer ranks alone in the five years ended Sept. 30, 1997, according to a report published in October 2000 by a researcher at the U.S. Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute. The study found forced exits also contributed to attrition in the ranks of younger officers.

"With junior officers witnessing such an array of policies designed to entice or force over 23,000 of their peers and role models to leave, it is not surprising that their loyalty to the military has been redefined with a healthy dose of skepticism," the researcher, Leonard Wong, wrote in the report.

The Army's budget director, Major General Phillip McGhee, told reporters at the Pentagon today that his service will rely first on on-time and early retirements, reducing recruitment and other steps before resorting to involuntary measures.

"We really want to put minimum stress on the force as we do the rampdown," McGhee said.

Protracted Conflicts

In addition to focusing more national security attention on Asia and the Middle East, the Pentagon's revised strategy outlined last month sets aside previous assumptions that the military plan for large and protracted conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The cuts in uniformed personnel are in keeping with proposed steps such as eliminating eight Army brigades, five Marine infantry battalions and four of the Corps's tactical air squadrons. The Air Force would lose 303 aircraft and six fighter squadrons, while the Navy jettisons seven cruisers and 2 dock landing ships.

"In preparing this budget, we endeavored to avoid the mistakes of previous drawdowns that attempted to maintain more force structure than the budget could afford," the department wrote in a Jan. 26 summary of its five-year priorities.

Cuts by Service

Today's budget proposal fleshes out the cuts for each of the military branches.

Army forces would be reduced by less than 1 percent to 1,115,300 in 2013 and then drop to 1,048,200 in 2017. That's still far greater troop strength than in February 2002, a year before the U.S. invasion of Iraq, when the Army numbered about 480,000 on active duty.

The Navy would have 1.7 percent fewer personnel, or 385,200 in 2013, and faces a reduction of 3.9 percent to a total of 376,600 people in 2017.

The Marines would be down to 236,900 in 2013, or 2 percent fewer than this year. By the end of 2017, the Marines face a reduction of 8.3 percent from this year to 221,700.

The Air Force will have 501,000 personnel in 2013, or 1.9 percent fewer than this year. In 2017, Air Force personnel will decline to 499,300.

To contact the reporters on this story: Viola Gienger in Washington at vgienger@bloomberg.net; Roxana Tiron in Washington at rtiron@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: John Walcott at jwalcott9@bloomberg.net

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MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)

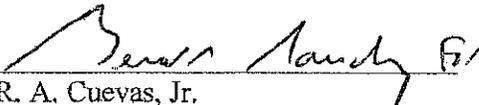
TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 17, 2013

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution requesting County's
Military Affairs Board to
consider organizing a patriotic
mission to Normandy, France
in 2014 to commemorate the
upcoming 70th Anniversary of
D-Day on June 6, 2014;
requesting the Military Affairs
Board to consider travel options
that include promotion of cities
and ports with whom the County
has sister city and/or port
agreements; and requesting such
Board report back the results of
its organizational efforts within
sixty (60) days
Resolution No. R-769-13

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Senator Javier D. Souto.


R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 17, 2013

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A) (18)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's _____, 3/5's _____, unanimous _____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(18)
9-17-13

RESOLUTION NO. R-769-13

RESOLUTION REQUESTING COUNTY'S MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD TO CONSIDER ORGANIZING A PATRIOTIC MISSION TO NORMANDY, FRANCE IN 2014 TO COMMEMORATE THE UPCOMING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY ON JUNE 6, 2014; REQUESTING THE MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD TO CONSIDER TRAVEL OPTIONS THAT INCLUDE PROMOTION OF CITIES AND PORTS WITH WHOM THE COUNTY HAS SISTER CITY AND/OR PORT AGREEMENTS; AND REQUESTING SUCH BOARD REPORT BACK THE RESULTS OF ITS ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS

WHEREAS, June 6, 2014, is the 70th anniversary of the Allies' invasion of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944, more commonly known as "D-Day"; and

WHEREAS, D-Day was the largest amphibious invasion in the history of modern warfare, which marked the beginning of the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi occupation during World War II; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate D-Day's 70th Anniversary, numerous events, tributes, and programs are being planned in Normandy, France; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County is home to thousands of veterans who may be interested in commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day by participating in a patriotic mission to Normandy, France in June of 2014; and

WHEREAS, organization and promotion of such patriotic mission will not only honor the memory and achievements of veterans from all branches of our armed forces and from those of our allies, but will also economically benefit Miami International Airport (MIA), MIA tenants

and air carriers, and potentially cities and ports with whom the County has sister city and/or port agreements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Miami-Dade County Military Affairs Board is hereby requested to:

Section 1. Consider organization and/or promotion of a patriotic mission to Normandy, France in June of 2014 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day;

Section 2. In connection therewith, consider travel options that promote cities and ports with whom the County has sister city and/or port agreements; and

Section 3. Report back to this Board, without committee review, the results of the Military Affairs Board's efforts in connection with Sections 1 and 2 above within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this resolution.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Senator Javier D. Souto. It was offered by Commissioner **Audrey Edmonson**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Xavier L. Suarez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Rebeca Sosa, Chairwoman	aye
	Lynda Bell, Vice Chair	absent
Bruno A. Barreiro	absent	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. aye
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	absent	Audrey M. Edmonson aye
Sally A. Heyman	aye	Barbara J. Jordan aye
Jean Monestime	aye	Dennis C. Moss absent
Sen. Javier D. Souto	absent	Xavier L. Suarez aye
Juan C. Zapata	absent	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 17th day of September, 2013. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK



Christopher Agrippa

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

SBB

Steven B. Bass

TRIBUTE TO THE MILITARY 5K WALK/RUN

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2014
0800 START
TROPICAL PARK
7900 SW 40TH ST, MIAMI



GRAND MARSHAL
 Commissioner
 Jose "Pepe" Diaz
 District 12

HONORING OUR FALLEN HEROES
 Army Spc. Daniel Agami of Florida



Association of the United States Army,
 Bacardi USA,
 Chiquita Fresh Bananas,
 Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz,
 Cuban American Veterans Association
 Dr. Ino Halegua, Internal Medicine/Cardiology,
 Hearing Research Institute,
 Jewish War Veterans of America,
 Miami Community Newspapers,
 Royal Rent-a-Car,
 Select Engineered Systems, Inc.,
 Tribute to the Military,
 UM Bagel Emporium at University Center Coral Gables,
 U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion,
 Vietnam Veterans of America



Packet Pickup:
 available at FootWorks:
 5724 Sunset Drive, South Miami
 from Mar. 11 - Mar. 15 or on race
 day at race site.

Awards:
Overall
 Plaques to the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
 overall male & female

Wheelchair
 1st Place

Military
 Plaques to the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
 overall Male & Female

Special Military Award:
 Best Run Formation

Age Groups
 Medals to the top 3 Male &
 Female

14 & under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-
 34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59,
 60-64, 65-69, 70 & over.

Race Site:
 Tropical Park
 7900 Bird Road
 Miami Florida 33155

Race Registration:
5K Civilian entry fee:
 \$25 on or before 2/28/14
 \$30 3/1/14 - 3/15/14
 \$35 Race Day 3/16/14

5K Active Duty entry fee: from
 all branches including Reserve
 and National Guard, ROTC, JROTC
 \$20 on or before 2/28/14
 \$25 3/1/14 - 3/15/14
 \$30 Race Day 3/16/14

Post race refreshments
 We will have lots of bagels, coffee,
 fresh fruit and more!

tributetothemilitary.org

Tribute to the Military 5K Sunday, March 16, 2014

Last Name		First Name		Age on Race Day	Gender	Official Use Only
[]		[]		[]	[]	T-Shirt Size (circle one)
Street		City	State	Zipcode	Cellphone	
[]		[]	[]	[]	[]	

Registration

MILITARY PERSONNEL	5K	CIVILIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	thru 2/28/14	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	3/1/14 - 3/15/14	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	race day - 3/16/14	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Make Checks Payable:
Split Second Timing

I plan to pay by:

CASH
 CHECK

Optional Donation: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

Liability Waiver: Please read and sign - I know that participating in a run/walk event is potentially hazardous. I will not enter and participate unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the event. I assume all risks associated with the event. Including but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather, the conditions of the road and traffic on the course. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, and in consideration of your acceptance of my entry, I, for myself, and anyone acting on my behalf, waive, release and hold harmless Split Second Timing, Inc., Wildside Online Inc., Florida Gulf Stream Chapter of the Association of United States Army, Hearing Research Institute, Miami-Dade County, all suppliers and any individual or group associated therewith, from and against all claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses, of any kind, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising out of my participation in this event. I grant permission to all of the foregoing to use any photographs, motion pictures, recordings, verbal or written statements, or any other record of this event, for any legitimate purpose. I am of legal age, have read this release, fully understand it, and freely agree to all of its terms.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____
 (If under 18, signature of legal guardian required) **Mail payment and completed form to:** Split Second Timing, 10112 NW 53rd ST, Sunrise, Florida 33351

Title Sponsor



Corporate Sponsors



About the Council

Founded in 1992, the Economic Development Council (formerly known as the Perrine-Cutler Ridge Council) is a non-profit economic development organization encouraging the kind of development that creates a better future for both business and residents. The Council's primary objectives are to support the expansion and retention of existing businesses, to increase the overall economic vitality of our communities, and to attract new, diversified businesses and employment to the area.

How Can the Council Help Your Business?

The EDC of South Miami-Dade is your Business Assistance and Resource Center. The Council can assist your business with your expansion and/ or relocation needs. The Council works with businesses confidentially and offer the following **FREE** services:

- Consulting Services to Local Business
- Business and Educational Seminars
- Area Research and Demographical Information
- Business Costs Analysis
- Labor Training Information
- Information on Business Incentives and Loans

Hole in one contest
Winner will drive away
in a
2014 Mercedes GLK



Sponsored by



Mercedes-Benz
of Cutler Bay



*Golf Tournament/Fundraiser
at the Prestigious
Deering Bay
Yacht & Country Club*

*Monday, March 10, 2014
Noon Tee Time*

*Benefiting
South Miami-Dade's
Economic Development
Organization*

Each Golfer will enjoy:

**Lunch and Dinner Included
Food and Adult Beverage on Course
Golf Shirt, Cigars & other giveaway items
Auction premium items at dinner**

Economic Development Council

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE
Growing Our Communities Together

Steven J. Cranman 16th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament

10:30a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Check-In
Pick-up Golf Shirt,
Cigar, Golf Balls, Etc

Noon Shotgun Tee-Off
4-Man Scramble

Lunch served on course
Sponsored by:



Closest to the Pin on Par 3's
Longest drive on Par 5
Putting Contest

5PM
Dinner
Sponsored by:



Auction for Premium items,
Awards for 1st, 2nd and Last Place Teams

Open Bar

Golfer Registration

Before February 28, 2014	
Individual Golfer	\$200
Foursome	\$800
After February 28, 2014	
Individual Golfer	\$225
Foursome	\$900

Sponsorship Opportunities

Circle desired level of sponsorship
and fax to the EDC at (305) 328-4898

Presenting Sponsor	\$3,500
Corporate Sponsor	\$2,500
Hat or Golf Towel Sponsor	\$2,000
Awards Sponsor	\$1,000
Automobile Hole in One Sponsor	\$1,500
Putting Contest Sponsor	\$1,000
Driving Range Sponsor	\$1,000
Par 3 Hole Closest to the Pin	\$1,000
Ball Sponsor	\$ 750

Company Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
E-Mail: _____
Corporate Contact: _____

Make checks payable and mail to:
Economic Development Foundation

Golf Tournament

18001 Old Cutler Road #641

Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

For more information: Tel: (305) 378-9470 or

Email: Info@edcsouthdade.com

Pay Now



The *Economic Development Foundation*
is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt
organization that raises funds for the Economic
Development Council.

Foursome Sponsor: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(____) _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Shirt Size _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(____) _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Shirt Size _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(____) _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Shirt Size _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(____) _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Shirt Size _____

Fax form to 305-328-4898

Scan for to: info@edcsouthdade.com

For more information: Tel: (305) 378-9470 or

Email: info@edcsouthdade.com

CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MEETING AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD
January 8, 2014

The Military Affairs Board (MAAB) convened in a meeting on January 8, 2014 at 6:15 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building Corp., 8000 NW 21 Street, Miami, FL 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Mario Alvarez; Anthony Atwood; Rosa Brito; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Thomas Davis; Diana Gonzalez; Manuel Gonzalez; Eduardo Lombard; and Joseph Martory.

The following voting Board members were absent: David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Kevin Humes; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Jorge Sibila; Don Slesnick II; and Keith Whitbeck.

The following non-voting Board members were present: GY Sgt. Eddy Fonseca, Jr.; Ed Haynes; Tim Norton for Major Brooke Cortez; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; and Mr. Paul Russo.

The following staff members were present: Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; Gloria Garces, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz' Office; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

The following guests were present: Marina Aviles; Michael Giallambardo; Thomas Hastings; and Aldo Ruiz.

Chairman Martinez notified MAB members that Ms. Gloria Garces obtained full-time employment with a Spanish Talk Show and that she would continue working part-time in his office.

- **Welcome**

Chairman Diaz welcomed Board members to tonight's (1/08) MAB meeting.

- **Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence**

Mr. Joseph Martory led the MAB in the Pledge of Allegiance; followed by Mr. Manuel Gonzalez in a moment of prayer.

- **Board Member Roundtable**

Mr. Eduardo Lombard commented on the following programs and events: the Vietnam Veterans of America and American Legion are holding a fundraising event on January 8,

2014; the Medley Police Department and the U.S. Marine Corps. conducted a joint Toys for Tots event; the City of Doral has a brick naming campaign at their Veteran's Park; and that volunteers were needed to help serve food to residents of the Chapman Partnership's homeless shelter as part of the Veteran's Stand Down.

GY Sgt. Eddy Fonseca, Jr. commented that the Toys for Tots program did not collect as many donations for needy children in this community as they did in previous years, despite television and other media promotions. He explained that he believed they were approximately 2,000 toys short with 110 organizations receiving toys and another 30 that did not. GY Sgt. Fonseca said a complete report would be presented at the next meeting as to the number of toys.

Mr. Paul Russo noted that the expansion of the outpatient blood draw area from 600 to 1,600 square feet was completed; that the new parking lot will open on January 20, 2014 with 200 additional parking spaces; that the first floor main hospital outpatient areas and waiting rooms are currently being renovated; and that the average time to process claims was averaging 22 days, significantly ahead of the 30 day mandatory goal.

Chairman Diaz congratulated Mr. Russo on the tremendous improvements at the Veterans Hospital.

Mr. Joseph Martory commended Mr. Russo on the quality of care he recently received at the Veterans Hospital Emergency Room.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez was pleased that the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance received notification from the State of Florida that they would receive continuation funding. She said that she addressed the United States (U.S.) Senate Caucus on Defense Communities in Washington, D.C in December, 2013 and that U.S. Representative Joe Garcia agreed to join the House Caucus on Defense Communities as a result of the Golden Veterans Parade, noting that no other community in Florida was represented on the caucus. Ms. Gonzalez pointed out that the caucuses gave South Florida a greater voice on a national level for military issues. She mentioned a Miami-Dade Defense Alliance meeting would be scheduled within the next couple of months and programing would begin upon receiving grant funds.

Ms. Rosa Brito expressed her appreciation for being invited to participate on the MAB. She noted the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce and the Homestead City Council were working on the Third Military Appreciation Celebration beginning on May 17, 2014 and seeking sponsorships and other assistance. Ms. Brito explained that free meals would be provided to military personnel and an art and essay contest would be held in local schools. She said the Annual Excellence Awards nomination deadline was extended to February 10, 2014, and that first responders, military service person of the year, and hiring our heroes' military award were added as additional award categories.

Mr. Anthony Atwood noted Season's Greetings cards and calendars were distributed to all Florida Legislators. He distributed a copy of the card for MAB members to view. Mr. Atwood said that that U.S. Congressman Joe Garcia, State of Florida Senator Dwight Bullard, and State Representative Frank Artiles along with another 200 guests attended the December 7, 2013 holiday event. It was held inside the Military Museum in order to show visitors that additional funding was needed to complete interior renovations, said Mr. Atwood. He explained that the building was previously used to collect toys for the Toys for Tots program and offered the facility for future collections. Mr. Atwood informed MAB members that Florida International University (FIU) was considering placing an educational institute for the study of public history and heritage at the Military Museum. Mr. Atwood said a fundraising event was scheduled for May 17, 2014 at the Biltmore Hotel in conjunction with FIU's Veteran's Alumni Chapter.

Ms. Sandra Ruiz pointed out that the City of Doral was committed to support the MAB and the U.S. Southern Command. She said she was currently working on the 2nd Annual Women in the Military luncheon, noting that U.S. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez from California would participate in this year's event and the date would soon be announced.

Chairman Diaz acknowledged Ms. Ruiz' and the City of Doral's support of the Golden Veterans Parade.

Ms. Ruiz expressed her appreciation to Martin and Sons for their assistance promoting the Golden Veterans Parade on local bus benches.

Mr. Timothy Daubert noted he had a conversation with Ms. Kathleen Kauffman, Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation and Archeological Resources Chief, where he was informed of the Military Museum's history, noting that it was relocated to its current location.

Mr. Mario Alvarez expressed his appreciation to everyone who helped make the Golden Veterans Parade a reality.

Mr. Thomas Davis commended Chairman Diaz and his staff for their exceptional accomplishments in bringing the Golden Veterans Parade to fruition in approximately sixty days. He also acknowledged Mr. Manuel Gonzalez for coordinating the aircraft and flyover component. Mr. Davis commented that the Chapman Partnership worked in cooperation with the Homestead Air Reserve Base and that airmen served Christmas Day meals at the homeless center for several years.

Mr. Manny Gonzalez pointed out that there was a magnificent team effort by everyone to produce the Golden Veterans Parade. He announced that the new military lounge was recently re-opened at Miami International Airport.

Chairman Diaz commented that the military lounge was appropriately named on behalf of Mr. Keith Whitbeck.

Mr. Tim Norton commented that approximately 300 soldiers from the Homestead Air Reserve Base would be deployed to Afghanistan within the next couple of weeks. He noted the retirement ceremony for Colonel David Davis would be held Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the Base Fitness Center. Mr. Norton said \$9.8 million was authorized in the upcoming U.S. Defense Department budget to build a new entry control complex.

Chairman Diaz informed MAB members that he would introduce a resolution at the next MAB meeting that would be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners, authorizing MAB and County support of the Toys for Tots program. He noted participation would be limited to Miami-Dade County boundaries.

Ms. Ruiz suggested that all cities and municipalities be asked to jointly participate, similar to the approach used for the Golden Veterans Parade.

- **Old Business**

- **Veteran's Day Parade Recap**

Chairman Diaz expressed his appreciation to MAB members and his staff, particularly Ms. Gloria Garces and Mr. Gustavo Cruz for contributing to the parade's tremendous success. He said that his goal was to make a difference in the lives of the veterans who were honored at the parade. Chairman Diaz commented that the veterans attending the Miami Heat event at the American Airlines met Mr. Pat Riley, Miami Heat President and Mr. Micky Arison, Miami Heat Owner.

Chairman Diaz acknowledged Mr. Mario Alvarez for his introduction to Hershey's Chairman of the Board who subsequently made a \$200,000 contribution to the parade. He noted that up to day of the event; various plans were set to be implemented based upon different funding and logistical scenarios. Chairman Diaz pointed out that military assets were taken away just one week prior to the parade due to the Congressional Sequestration. He said that Miami was the only parade in the United States that had its military assets returned by the Secretary of Defense after communicating with Governor Rick Scott and other officials.

Chairman Diaz indicated that Mayor Carlos Gimenez offered County resources to support the parade. He said that Board of County Commissioners Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and her colleagues also offered their support. Chairman Diaz pointed out that President Barack Obama's decision to visit Miami the same day as the parade could have impacted the event; however, his visit was moved to later in the day with the assistance of U.S. Congressman Joe Garcia. He proceeded to acknowledge Ms. Diana Gonzalez for contributions.

Chairman Diaz indicated that the Golden Veterans Parade, honoring Vietnam and Bay of Pigs veteran's, was a one-time event; however, he expressed the opinion that the MAB

needed to adopt a signature event. He proceeded to ask the MAB to sponsor an annual military parade supporting all veterans along with active and reserve military personnel.

Discussion pursued among the MAB members over the scheduling of the parade.

It was moved by Mr. Manuel Gonzalez that a veteran's parade be designated as the MAB's signature event and that it would be held on a Saturday, the weekend prior to Veterans Day weekend, so that it would not conflict with any other community events. This motion was seconded by Mr. Timothy Daubert and upon being put to a vote passed by an unanimous vote.

Mr. Timothy Atwood pointed out that the 100th Anniversary of the beginning of World War I was approaching, noting that units for the parade could be acquired from France, Britain and elsewhere.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez commented that there needed to be advance planning in order to secure grant funding.

Chairman Diaz suggested that an appropriate resolution be prepared to permit the MAB to pay a commission associated with a sponsorship.

Chairman Diaz said that a complete report on the parade would be provided to MAB members by the next meeting. He noted that bags would be available after the meeting for anyone who did not receive one the day of the parade.

- **New Business**
 - **Three Kings Parade**

Chairman Diaz noted the importance for the MAB's participation in the parade.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz said the parade was Sunday, January 12, 2014, beginning at 12:00 p.m.; that vehicles needed to be lined up at 8:00 a.m.; and that everyone should convene at approximately 10:30 a.m. He noted the parade headed westbound on SW 8th Street, beginning at SW 4th Avenue. Mr. Cruz asked MAB members to inform him of any veteran's organizations wanting to walk with the MAB.

Mr. Joseph Martory inquired about vehicle compliance issues.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that there would not be a charge for military vehicles; that other vehicles would be subject to a charge; and there was a \$150 fee for a convertible car. He commented that the spectators loved seeing the military in uniform at last year's parade. Chairman Diaz suggested contacting Florida International University and the University of Miami to see if they wanted to participate as well as asked GY Sgt. Eddy

Fonseca about whether there was any availability through the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Reserves.

➤ **70th Anniversary of D-Day**

Chairman Diaz noted he concurred with Commissioner Souto that it was important for Miami-Dade County to send a delegation to the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Normandy. He said that preliminary information was being compiled about the costs and other arrangements; however, in the meantime, suggested MAB members identified individuals interested in attending. Chairman Diaz commented that France's Port of Heron offered to support and do something special for our delegation at this event.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz pointed out that U.S. President Barack Obama, Queen Elizabeth, the British and Canadian Prime Ministers and many other heads of state would be attending. He noted the initial plan would be to arrive a few days prior to the official ceremony. Mr. Cruz said that information would be available on the MAB website, once finalized.

Chairman Diaz asked MAB members for a vote of support to proceed with an exploratory planning process for this event; however, there was not a quorum present.

➤ **Sub-committee involvement**

Chairman Diaz said he would request the resignations of several MAB members who did not attend meetings.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez pointed out that the MAB Director could notify those individuals rather than Chairman Diaz, in order to comply with the Sunshine Law provisions.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz explained the critical role of the MAB's sub-committees, noting that MAB members needed to collectively identify and support issues pertinent to the MAB for the upcoming year through these committees. He said he was working with Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez to address changes to the MAB's by-laws.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez suggested the MAB convene a strategic planning session to determine committee structure and makeup as well as to develop a work plan. She said the issues associated with the Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) was critical this year, noting conflicting information being disseminated from the state and federal governments. Ms. Gonzalez indicated that homelessness, housing and education issues needed to be addressed as well as a clear list of projects and initiatives to focus on needed to be developed.

Chairman Diaz concurred over the need to convene a strategic planning session. He said that the hiring of veterans should become a priority. Chairman Diaz noted the MAB needed to focus on the needs of our veterans and develop solutions to their issues.

Chairman Diaz reiterated that Mr. Cruz would be communicating with MAB members regarding their membership status. He asked Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez to schedule ethics training for MAB members as part of the strategic planning session.

Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez pointed out that the Commission on Ethics had a presentation for boards covering public records and Sunshine Law issues.

➤ **South Florida Region Homeless Veterans Stand Down**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz explained that Lt. Col. Antonio Colmenares from the American Red Cross was now working with the Veterans Association at the City of Miami. He noted they were in the process of identifying homeless veterans in the community in order to provide them with appropriate services. Mr. Cruz said he would invite Lt. Col. Colmenares to the next MAB meeting to address the Board.

➤ **Allocation of MAB Trust Fund money for an electronic tablet for the Director**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted the need for an electronic tablet in order to access the County's computer resources while away from the office. He said he would place this on next month's meeting agenda for approval since there was not a quorum.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez explained that Mr. Cruz did not need put the purchase out for bid after the item was approved and could go directly to the market to obtain the best deal.

➤ **Sunset Review**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz pointed out that County boards were required to annually submit a Sunset Review to the Board of County Commissioners. He said this was a questionnaire reporting the board's purpose and accomplishments over the previous year. Mr. Cruz encouraged MAB members to contact him should there be any questions or comments and that it would be presented at the next meeting for approval.

➤ **Creation of MAB logo**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted the County's graphics department could create a MAB logo for future use on the website, letterhead and other promotions. He proceeded to ask MAB members for input into the design.

It was mentioned by several MAB members that they believed the MAB already had a logo. Mr. Anthony Atwood provided a copy of a logo to Mr. Cruz.

➤ **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz commented that the minutes would be approved at the next meeting since there was not a quorum.

➤ **Next meeting date**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz informed MAB members that the next meeting date was February 5, 2014.

➤ **Discussion items for the next agenda**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz encouraged MAB members to send him agenda items for the next meeting.

• **Guest Introductions**

Mr. Daubert introduced his guest, Mr. Michael Giallambardo, representing Heroes Entering Life's Opportunities (HELO) Foundation. Mr. Giallambardo explained that HELO helped to establish veteran's resource centers at universities.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz pointed out that the MAB was very interested in HELO's work. He informed Mr. Giallambardo that the Military Support Center at the University Park Campus of Florida International University (FIU) would be holding a grand opening on January 23, 2014 and that he would introduce him to the Center's Director. Mr. Cruz commented that FIU had approximately 2,000 enrolled veterans and that this would be the first veteran's center at a State funded university in Florida.

Ms. Sandra Ruiz introduced her husband, Mr. Aldo Ruiz, a retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant, noting he sponsored and underwrote last year's Women in the Military luncheon and that he obtained a physical therapy degree at FIU through a Veterans Administration program.

Mr. Cruz commented that FIU had an accelerated nursing degree program for medics and core men, where they received credit for previous experience.

Ms. Marina Aviles, Project Coordinator, The Miami Beach Coalition (MBC), explained that MBC worked to address gaps in veterans, homelessness, mental health and substance abuse issues in conjunction with existing community based organizations. She noted that MBC had various resources to offer the MAB and could assist in community events.

Mr. Thomas Hastings, Contractor, Homestead Air Force Reserve Base introduced himself.

Mr. Blair Sawyer, Special Assistant to General John Kelly, Commander, U.S. Southern Command, noted he was a guest of Mr. David Blake.

Ms. Sandra Sawyer, also a guest of Mr. David Blake, noted she was an attorney practicing V.A. Claims law.

- **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Military Affairs Board meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman

CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
February 5, 2014

The Military Affairs Advisory Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on February 5, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building, 8000 N.W. 21st Street, Miami, Florida, 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Mario Alvarez; Dr. Anthony Atwood; Rose Brito; Thomas Davis; Councilman Timothy Daubert; Diana Gonzalez; Kevin Humes; Eduardo Lombard; Joseph Martory; and Jorge Sibila.

The following voting Board members were absent: David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck.

The following non-voting Board members were present: Edward Haynes; Lt. Col. Robert Stacks; and Shane Suzuki.

The following non-voting Board members were absent: Glorianne Amor; Major Brooke Cortez, Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr; Colonel Morris Hatcher; Captain Mark Jackson; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; and Joanna Sandstrom.

The following staff members were present: Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; Antonio Crawford, Office of Commission Auditor; and Deputy Clerk Mary Smith-York.

The following guests were also present: Lt. Col. Antonio Colmenares, USMC (Ret); Dr. William Valencia, Miami Veterans Administration Healthcare System (VAHS); Ms. Karen Vassell and Mr. Ralph Rios, West Kendall Baptist Hospital; Lt. Col. Sonny Vo, Florida International University (FIU) Army ROTC; and Mr. Arturo Campa, Executive Producer, Miami International Jazz Fest.

❖ **Welcome:**

Chairman Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and welcomed MAB members and guests to tonight's (2/5) meeting. Pursuant to Florida Statutes, he opened the public hearing calling for anyone wishing to be heard on any item on tonight's agenda. Seeing no one appear wishing to be heard, Chairman Diaz closed the public hearing.

❖ **Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance:**

Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert led the MAB in a moment of silence, after which Mr. Joseph Martory led the Pledge of Allegiance.

❖ **Board Member Roundtable:**

The following introductions and updates were made by MAB members:

Mr. David Blake, representing Commissioner Monestime, District 2.

Mr. Kevin Humes, representing Commissioner Jordan, District 1, advised that, on behalf of the Health Foundation of South Florida, he would later today make a presentation regarding the Enhanced Fitness Exercise Program.

Professor Anthony Atwood, representing Commissioner Moss, District 9, reported that on May 5, 2014, the Military Museum would be supporting a family survivor-type event at U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and on May 17, 2014, a possible fundraising event.

Lt. Col. Jorge Sibila, representing County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro, District 5.

Mr. Joseph Martory, representing BCC Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa, District 6, announced that the Veteran's Association would host a dinner dance on February 8, 2014, at the Miami Elks Lodge #948, 10301 Sunset Drive, Miami, Florida, and invited those interested in attending to see him later.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard, representing Commissioner Zapata, District 11, announced that this Friday (2/7), the FIU Department of Veterans and Military affairs and the Miami Vet Center would host its annual Veterans Career and Resource Fair at FIU; and that the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall would be stationed in Key Largo from April 11-14, 2014.

Councilman Timothy Daubert, representing Commissioner Bovo, District 13.

Mr. Thomas Davis, representing Commissioner Bell, District 8, noted that over 200 had been deployed from the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez, representing the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance.

Ms. Rosa Brito, representing the Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Mario Alvarez, representing Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

Mr. Shane Suzuki, representing the Miami Veteran's Administration Healthcare System.

❖ **Old Business:**

➤ **MAB Logo**

Chairman Diaz provided a brief overview of the MAB's discussion on creating a logo for this entity and displayed a draft designed by a staff member. He advised that he would request County staff to create several designs to present for MAB members' consideration at the next meeting. Chairman Diaz stated that Mr. Cruz would distribute copies prior to the next meeting so MAB members could review and prepare to discuss the designs at the next meeting.

Mr. Cruz explained that the purpose of establishing a logo for the MAB was to identify the organization at events and activities.

➤ **South Florida Region Homeless Veterans Stand Down**

Lt. Col. Antonio "Mico" Colmenares, USMC (Ret.), Veterans Services Director, City of Miami and Florida Veterans Foundation Director, Tallahassee, appeared before the MAB and announce that his organizations were sponsoring a San Diego Styled Homeless Veterans 3-Day Stand Down. He noted this event would be held at the American Legion Post 29, located at 6445 NE 7th Avenue, Miami, FL 33138, over the Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-25, 2014 and would be at no cost to participants. Lt. Col. Colmenares invited volunteers to get involved and help with this event and distributed packets containing complete details regarding the stand down event. He also encouraged members to inform him of friends, relatives, and political associates, as well as all interested agencies and organizations, who would like to assist with this event that would help an estimated 500 homeless veterans. Lt. Col. Colmenares noted the opening ceremony would be held that Friday, May 23, 2014, and noted the City of Miami would provide the stages and other supplies, with the Florida Veterans Foundation providing all other necessary items. He noted a site of 50 tents named "Camp Hope" would be set up and expressed a need for the County to provide buses for this event. Lt. Col. Colmenares advised that the last such event had held in Miami was in 2007, and that he was excited that, at last count, the number of homeless veterans on the streets was less than 200. He announced that the goal was to report in June 2014, that one of the major cities in the county, and in the country, had ended veterans' homelessness.

In response to Chairman Diaz' inquiry as to what process would be used to determine the authenticity of veterans, Lt. Col. Colmenares explained the verification system that would be done by the Veterans' Administration; emphasizing that the event designed strictly for veterans on the street; not those in shelters. He displayed informational cards, advising that he would distribute them to MAB members for issuance to homeless veterans when the date was near.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) was interested in doing a similar activity for women and that she would share this information with that organization.

Lt. Col. Colmenares announced that a meeting to discuss this event was scheduled for 12:00 noon on February 12, 2014, at Goodwill Industries Store, 2121 NW 21 Street, Miami, Florida, and asked that those planning to attend RSVP because lunch was being served.

Mr. Suzuki briefly described the authentication process and the services that would be provided in an effort to assist the homeless veterans.

Chairman Diaz noted his concerns regarding abuse of this effort were address during his conversation with Lt. Col. Colmenares and expressed his support of this event.

It was moved by Councilman Daubert that the MAB support the 2014 Memorial Day Weekend Homeless Veteran Stand Down Event and place information regarding the event on its Website.

This motion was seconded by Ms. Brito, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0 (Members David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

Responding to Mr. Haynes question pertaining to participating agencies, Lt. Col. Colmenares advised that an awards luncheon for all participants was planned for all individuals and agencies who participated in the event. He noted a few celebrities scheduled to appear at the event and emphasized that the focus was to place 20 veterans into housing.

➤ **70th Anniversary of D-Day:**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz distributed copies depicting the D-Day logo that would be used on information commemorating the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. He noted he was working with County staff to provide a link on the MAB Website that would announce that June 2014 was the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and provide information about related activities and events.

Chairman Diaz asked that MAB members, who wanted to participate in the efforts toward making this event successful, contact Mr. Cruz.

❖ **NEW BUSINESS**

➤ **Chairman's Comments/Appointment:**

Chairman Diaz advised that, due to excessive absences, MAB members, Mr. Don Slesnick and Mr. Charles Johnson, was asked to withdraw their membership, and stressed the importance of members being able to attend meetings.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez advised that the ordinance creating the MAB provided for automatic removal of those members with a specific number of absences; however, if the MAB wished to formalize this action, it could conduct a vote.

Chairman Diaz stated that allowing the automatic removal, pursuant to the ordinance, would prevent potential issues and asked MAB members to recommend individuals who were willing to perform for those vacant seats. He explained that the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce would need to make a new appointment and that he would need to make the other appointment for District 12.

➤ **BRAC**

Chairman Diaz noted he spoke with Ms. Donna Shalala, President, University of Miami, and Mr. Mark B. Rosenberg, President, Florida International University, regarding the issue of ROTC and centralizing Southern Strike among the three schools.

Lt. Col. Sonny Vo, Professor of Military Science, Florida International University (FIU) Army ROTC, appeared and explained that, although the ranks in the army were being depleted with the drawdown, quality men and women were still needed to fill those ranks. He stated that in South Florida, he was in charge of training military cadets in seven universities, including University of Miami (UM), FIU, Palm Beach Atlantic University. Lt. Col. Vo noted the Southern Strike

Battalion program cadets graduated at the same level as cadets attending West Point Academy, with the exception of being more mature. He described a program, at FIU's School of Nursing, for which the Department of Defense approved a multimillion grant that allowed Army medics to enroll in an accelerated program and earn Bachelor of Nursing degrees in 12 months versus 24 months. He requested MAB members to submit the names of any army medics who might be interested in this opportunity to Mr. Cruz.

In response to Mr. Haynes' question regarding individuals experiencing difficulty in traditional enrollment, Lt. Col. Vo stated he would be the point of contact for those students and described examples of the assistance available to help students achieve degrees. He noted this program was open to all branches of the armed service.

Chairman Diaz expressed great respect for Lt. Col. Vo and noted his support for this program, commenting that he recently visited the new Military and Veterans Affairs Building, formerly the old airport tower. He requested a motion that a portion of the MAB be accepted as voting members in the Southern Strike Program at three schools: FIU, UM, and Miami-Dade College, which he noted would be presented for approval to be included in the MAB By-laws by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

It was moved by Ms. Gonzalez that a request be made to the BCC that a portion of the MAB members be approved to serve as members of the Southern Strike Program and that the By-laws be amended to reflect this change. This motion was seconded by Ms. Brito, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0 (Members David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

Mr. Thomas Davis distributed handouts containing information regarding the Base Realignment and Closure Program (BRAC) and discussed issues concerning the BRAC Committee. He warned that the military BRAC was imminent and that the significant drawdowns would affect the Veterans Administration (VA) and jobs in South Florida. Mr. Davis briefly described the overall consequences that would result from the closing of military bases and listed the units located in South Florida that could be impacted. He indicated that within the next few weeks, efforts to energize views about BRAC and prepare for the impending cuts needed to take place. He noted Ms. Diana Gonzalez and Councilman Timothy Daubert were members of the BRAC Committee and knowledgeable assets in preparing to protect the Homestead Air Force Base, the U.S. Special Operations Command South (SOCSOUTH), and all the small National Guard Units in this community. Mr. Davis explained that the military had already begun making cuts and defined success as not losing a unit once the BRAC process was activated and providing the space, acreage, and support to the displaced smaller organizations resulting from the closure of Youngstown Air Reserve Station or other National Guard base.

In response to Chairman Diaz' inquiry as to the status of the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) assembled by Governor Rick Scott, Ms. Gonzalez noted a visit to South Florida was originally planned for October 2013; however, because the base could not support that visit, it was rescheduled for May 2014. She referred to the article distributed by Mr. Davis entitled "The Spectrum Group" and noted this group had partnered with The Principi Group to form the

consulting team, Principi Spectrum, hired by the State. Ms. Gonzalez informed members that Secretary Anthony J. Principi was the chair of the 2005 BRAC Commission and addressed the FDSTF at every meeting. She stated the team had visited Homestead and had listed together with MacDill Air Force Base and Florida Defense Alliance in Orlando, as the three Florida bases in danger of closing. Ms. Gonzalez recommended the MAB engage in the same type of methodology utilized in 2005, including establishing community leaders forums and developing a strategic plan. She concurred with Mr. Davis' comments about now being the time to get motivated to minimize any negative impact, and that movements were being made daily toward the BRAC process.

Chairman Diaz commented that this Board was created to address just this type of issue and listed the areas of the government, military, community that the MAB members represented.

Mr. Davis advised that Ms. Gonzalez had informed him that the military in Miami-Dade County was a \$5 billion dollar industry and suggested the MAB's motto be "We are going to fight for Miami-Dade."

In response to Mr. Haynes' question as to whether the National Guard Armory, on N.W. 7th Avenue, would be impacted by the BRAC process, Mr. Davis stated that, according to the articles he distributed, there was no way to know what would actually happen.

Lt. Col. Robert Stacks noted that he was asked to submit three nominations to the Secretary of the Army to serve as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, and noted a vacancy existed in South Florida. He asked all interested in serving in this position let him know and he would pass names in.

Chairman Diaz requested members to submit any names to Mr. Cruz to remain in compliance with the Sunshine Laws.

Lt. Col. Stacks stated there were three weeks remaining in this recruitment period and advised that those interested should prepare a one-page biography, adding that he would submit the requirement to Mr. Cruz for distribution to the MAB members.

➤ **Allocation of MAB Trust Fund money for an electronic tablet for the Director**
Mr. Gustavo Cruz introduced the foregoing request and stated the reason for the request was to provide the MAB Director with the ability to showcase the MAB's activities during meetings with other organizations.

It was moved by Mr. Daubert that the MAB approve allocation of an amount, not to exceed \$1,500.00, for the purchase of an electronic tablet for use by the MAB Director. This motion was seconded by Ms. Brito, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0 (David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

➤ **Sunset Review Approval**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director, advised that it was time for the MAB's sunset review, which occurred every two years. He distributed copies of the completed 2014 Sunset Review Questionnaire and asked members to review the content, and if acceptable, approve for submittal to the Clerk of the Board.

Following review, it was moved by Ms. Brito that the MAB 2014 Sunset Review Questionnaire be approved as presented. This motion was seconded by Ms. Gonzalez, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0 (David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

➤ **West Baptist Hospital Dinner for Veterans**

Ms. Karen Vassell, Community Relations and Special Projects Manager, appeared before the MAB and introduced Mr. Ralph Rios, Vice President, West Kendall Baptist Hospital, who would make today's (2/5) presentation.

Mr. Ralph Rios, Vice President, West Kendall Baptist Hospital, stated that West Kendall Baptist Hospital was the newest members of the Baptist Health family and was building a sense of community in that area. He announced that the organization had initiated on January 22, 2014, hosting a Military Family Appreciation Dinner to honor service members and bring their families together. Mr. Rios explained that five additional dinners were scheduled for the coming months and would likely be extended for a year based on positive feedback. He distributed announcement cards and asked that MAB members promote this free event to the service members and families in the community. Mr. Rios advised that on May 28, 2014, Lexus of West Kendall would be hosting a larger event for military veterans and their families, and asked that MAB members spread the word and distribute the announcement cards.

In response to Ms. Gonzalez' recommendation that this information be disseminated through the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) offices, Chairman Diaz requested a vote from MAB members to support these efforts and advertise this event on the MAB Website.

It was moved by Councilman Daubert that in support of the West Kendall Baptist Hospital's efforts, the MAB post the announcements for the Military Family Appreciation Dinner events on the MAB Website. This motion was seconded by Ms. Brito, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0 (Members David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

➤ **Resolution for Toys for Tots 2014**

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez referenced the vote at the last MAB meeting, directing him to draft a resolution requesting the County's support for the Toys for Tots Drive this year (2014). He advised that the draft resolution was available for the MAB's approval and would provide for a subsequent appropriation of funds and support from the County Mayor's Office and urge other municipalities to provide support as well.

It was moved by Ms. Gonzalez that the Resolution requesting support for the 2014 Toys for Tots Drive be approved as presented. This motion was seconded by Ms. Brito, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 10-0 (Members David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Timothy Daubert; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

➤ **Proclamation for Colonel Valeria Gonzalez-Kerr**

Chairman Diaz introduced the foregoing item and recognized Col. Gonzalez-Kerr's courage in informing him that the assets for the parade had been lost. He stated that because funding was not available to send a MAB member to present the proclamation to Col. Gonzalez-Kerr, it would be sent by a representative.

Mr. Cruz advised that, on behalf of the MAB, BCC Chairwoman Sosa, Commissioner Diaz, and Mayor Gimenez signed a proclamation declaring Saturday (2/8) Colonel Valeria Gonzalez-Kerr Day. He stated that this proclamation would be presented to Col Gonzalez-Kerr by Major McMillan during the change of command ceremony at Camp Banding Joint Training Center, in Stark, Florida.

➤ **Allocation of funds for Golden Veterans Parade poster contest runners up**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz introduced the foregoing request, informing MAB members that a Golden Veterans Parade Poster Contest was held for high school students and that the funds were already allocated for the top three winners. He advised that this request was for additional money to fund prizes of \$250.00 for each of the five (5) runners-up, for a total of \$1,250.00.

It was moved by Ms. Brito that the MAB approve the allocation of \$1,250.00, to award \$250.00 to each of the five (5) runners-up in the Golden Veterans Parade Poster Contest. This motion was seconded by Ms. Gonzalez, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0 (David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

➤ **Presentation by Dr. Valencia of UM Health on an exercise program for veterans in County parks**

Mr. Kevin Humes noted a program focused on the issue of obesity and diabetes for senior veterans and noted the Park, Recreation and Open Spaces Department (PROS), the University of Miami (UM), and the Veterans Administration Healthcare System (VAHS) had created a free advanced fitness program. He stated PROS had identified 12 parks in the County that would participate in this program and noted this effort was being correlated with the 12 districts and the veteran representative in each district. He provided a brief description on the components of the program and its goal to recruit Afghanistan and Iraqi veterans.

Dr. William Valencia, Engineer of Design & Technology, Miami Veterans Administration Healthcare System (VAHS), distributed copies of a PowerPoint Presentation outlining the five-year implementation of the Enhanced Fitness Exercise Program at Miami VAHS. He highlighted the following issues: 1) the objectives; 2) the problem 3) the available intervention; and 4) the alternative solution. Dr. Valencia noted the program revealed that approximately 80

percent of veterans were overweight. He addressed the fact that most VA hospitals lacked the amount of space needed for exercise rooms and described the success rate of the program. Dr. Valencia stated his organization was working to develop methods to sustain the program, making it available to veterans at no cost to the county or to the veterans. He advised that implementation required leaders, licenses, locations, trainers, and participants and would be available in 13 parks around Miami-Dade County.

➤ **Medal of Valor Ceremony 2014**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz provided a brief overview of the foregoing item, noting the Medal of Valor was the highest honor awarded to the families of service men and women who were killed in active duty. He stated the tentative date for the ceremony was May 20, 2014 and gave a brief description of the process.

➤ **Financial Disclosures for 2013**

Mr. Cruz stated members must complete the Advisory Board Training.

Mr. Cruz requested members to complete the form and submit it to him for finalizing and forwarding to the Clerk of the Board for processing.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez stated he thought it was for voting members only but would verify if applicable to non-voting members

Non-Agenda Item

Mr. Arturo Campa, Executive Producer, announced the Miami International Jazz Festival and asked for the Board's support, highlighting the positive fiscal impact to this County. He noted his music career of 40 years and explained that this event would provide benefits countywide. Mr. Arturo stated that, as a veteran and out of respect for fellow veterans, he would offer a 25 percent discount to all veterans who supported this event. Mr. Campa further expressed his desire to establish a program called "Idle Hands" that would help teach students in the music field. He asked for the MAB's support in sponsoring the Miami International Jazz Festival, which currently had only \$10,000 of the actual \$35,000 cost to produce the event.

Mr. Cruz noted loss of quorum and asked Mr. Campa to present him with information on his proposal so he could pass it on to the MAB members.

❖ **Approval of Minutes:** (September 4, 2013; October 2, 2013, and October 29, 2013)

It was moved by Ms. Brito that the minutes for the MAB meetings of September 4, 2013; October 2, 2013; and October 29, 2013 be approved as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Davis, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0 (Members David Blake; Mark Blumstein; David Conley; Manuel Gonzalez; Charles Johnson; Christopher Miller; Don Slesnick, II; and Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

❖ **Next Meeting date is scheduled for March 5, 2014.**

❖ **Discussion items for the next agenda**

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Military Affairs Advisory Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



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- Cyber Warfare



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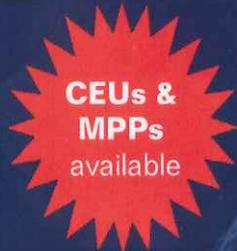
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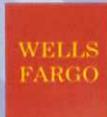
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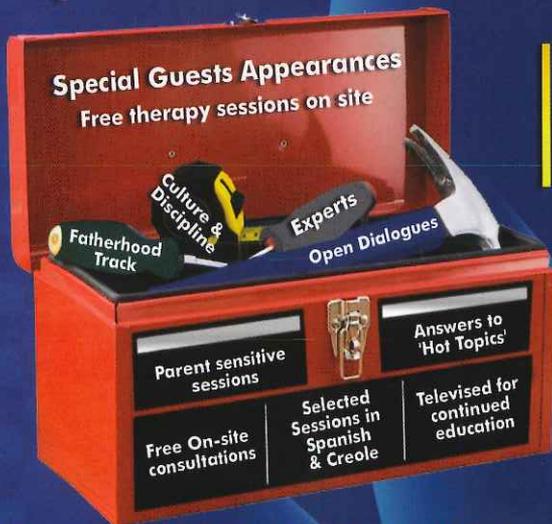
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Saturday
April 5, 2014
8:00 am-4:00 pm

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