



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

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

November 5, 2014  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director  
Clerk of the Board Division

Judy Marsh, Commission Reporter  
(305) 375-1967



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

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on November 5, 2014, at 6:07 p.m. at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building, 8000 NW 21 Street, Doral, Florida 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Mr. Mario Alvarez; Dr. Anthony Atwood; Ms. Rosa Brito; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Ms. Diana Gonzalez; Mr. Kevin Humes; Mr. Michael Sergei Kowalchik; Mr. Eduardo Lombard; Mr. Joseph Martory; and Retired Lt. Colonel Jorge Sibila.

The following voting Board members were absent: Mr. Alex Acosta; Mr. David Blake; Mr. Mark Blumstein; Mr. Thomas Davis; Mr. Manuel Gonzalez; Mr. Charles Johnson; Mr. Phil Lyons; and Mr. Keith Vail Whitbeck.

The following non-voting Board members were present: Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr; Colonel Greg Julian; Captain Benjamin Davis; Mr. Paul Russo; and Officer Victor Milian.

The following non-voting Board members were absent: Major Brooke Cortez; Lt. Colonel Son Vo; Ms. Glorianne Amor; Mr. Ed Haynes; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; and Ms. Joanna Sandstrom.

The following staff members were present: Mr. Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; Antonio Crawford, Commission Auditor's Office; and Deputy Clerk Judy Marsh.

The following guest was present: Mr. Donald "Andy" Bird, Garrison Manager, United States Army Garrison-Miami.

❖ **Welcome**

Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and welcomed MAB members and guests to tonight's (11/5) meeting.

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

Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert 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:

Chairman Diaz announced that Retired Marine Sergeant Andrew Tahmooressi was released and was now in the United States.

Councilman Timothy Daubert noted Sergeant Tahmooressi landed at Opa-locka Airport on Saturday morning and was now with his father in Weston.

Colonel Greg Julian advised that the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) was providing speakers for 14 different Veterans Day related events on and around Veterans Day, and seven additional color guard events. He noted the community was looking forward to the Veterans Day Parade being hosted by the City of Doral and Miami-Dade County.

Ms. Rosa Brito, South Dade Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber was working with the City of Homestead and the Military on issues regarding local homeowners' associations, and how they facilitate the approval process and charges. She noted Chamber representatives met today (11/5) with the City of Homestead's Vice Mayor, representatives from SOUTHCOM and Homestead Air Reserve Base to develop a plan to expedite applications for military personnel coming into area. Ms. Brito said that she would provide an update when the project was finalized.

Ms. Diana Gonzalez, Military Miami-Dade, commented on a meeting that was held last Friday at Miami-Dade College's Homestead Campus regarding the shared services public/private partnership process being undertaken by the Air Force. She noted this was the last meeting to identify projects and initiatives that the community and the Base would be addressing together. Ms. Gonzalez said she would discuss the Central Information Repository later in the meeting; however, several projects had developed from this process, including a leadership committee to create more communication with the MAB. She noted this would be an ongoing process and quarterly meetings would be held with the Air Force to track the projects that had been identified; and to identify any new issues or projects that must be addressed. Ms. Gonzalez said this had been a good interaction with Homestead residents and the community.

Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca Jr., United States Navy and Marine Corps Reserves, said the Toys for Tots kickoff would be held tomorrow (11/6) at Toys-R-Us, International Mall, until 3:00 p.m. He noted 20 events were scheduled to collect toys, beginning tomorrow until December 16, 2014, and information was available on the Toys for Tots Website, including information regarding the Panthers games, the Dolphin games, and car shows.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard, representing County Commission District 11, said the Young Marines' Ball was very successful, and thanked Ms. Gordillo, Ms. Colon, Ms. Forbes and Ms. Sauer for their assistance with this event. He said the Young Marines would be making holiday cards for deployed servicemen and were asking for fundraising ideas; and would also be collecting toys for Toys for Tots on Saturday, November 8, 2014. Mr. Lombard requested Mr. Cruz' assistance in contacting the three individuals who were

involved in the Toys for Tots program to determine whether school students could participate in this activity.

Mr. Joe Martory, representing County Commission District 6, commented on the Veterans Day Parade to be held in the City of Doral. He noted the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10212; American Legion Post 346; Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 620; and the Cuban American Veterans Association would be participating in the parade in full uniform. Mr. Martory asked whether transportation would be provided for disabled participants.

In response to Mr. Martory's inquiry, Mr. Gustavo Cruz, Director, MAB, said that a representative from Doral was present to respond to Mr. Martory's inquiry later in the meeting.

Dr. Anthony Atwood, representing County Commission District 9, said that the Military Museum would be supporting the Bark Basil event on December 7, 2014. He noted this was a spinoff of Art Basil and the initial event would be held in Coral Gables. Dr. Atwood remarked that art would be donated and sold to provide funding for canines to assist military members who were experiencing post traumatic stress. He said that on December 17, 2014, the Military Museum would hold its tenth outreach at the West Dade Regional Library on military affairs. Dr. Atwood noted there would be a panel and a presentation on Southern Command by Colonel Greg Julian and himself.

Councilman Tim Daubert, Town of Miami Lakes, representing County Commission District 13, said that Miami Lakes would be holding its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, November 9, 2014 at 10 a.m. He noted the main stage would be located on 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Main Street, in front of Town Hall, and all were invited.

Mr. Mario Alvarez, representing Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, said he was working with a couple of private companies to provide approximately 200 to 400 turkeys to military personnel. He noted the companies wanted to deliver the turkeys to the military installation on Friday, November 21, 2014, and he was working on pricing the turkeys. Mr. Alvarez said that he contacted SOUTHCOM regarding the number of personnel, starting with the lower enlisted members, and asked Ms. Brito to provide him with the number of lower enlisted personnel at Homestead Air Reserve Base in order to deliver turkeys to those individuals.

Chairman Diaz noted the City of Doral would be hosting a Thanksgiving event for military personnel, under the sponsorship of Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz. He suggested that Mr. Alvarez contact MAB Director Cruz regarding this event.

Mr. Alvarez indicated that he would discuss this event with the private companies who would be donating the turkeys to SOUTHCOM and Homestead.

Mr. Sergei Kowalchik, representing County Commission District 7, advised that a Veterans Day ceremony would be held at the Village Green on Key Biscayne on

November 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. He commented on the two-day Magic by the Bay event and noted he would forward an electronic poster to Mr. Cruz. Mr. Kowalchick advised that he may have a conflict for the next MAB meeting and extended an invitation to the MAB members to the Army/Navy party to be held at the Titanic Restaurant in Coral Gables.

Retired Lt. Colonel Jorge Sibila, representing County Commission District 5, noted he would defer to Chairman Diaz and Mr. Cruz at the appropriate time for comments regarding the Veterans Court.

Officer Victor Milian, Miami-Dade Police Department, introduced himself.

Mr. Jose Pena, representing Captain Benjamin Davis, United States Coast Guard District 7, commented on the Coast Guard's involvement for the upcoming Veterans Day Parade.

Mr. Paul Russo, Director, Miami Veterans Administration Healthcare System, noted he would be attending events at the VA Hospital on Veterans Day. He distributed copies of a Fact Sheet regarding establishment of the Choice Program pursuant to the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA). This program enabled eligible Veterans to use eligible health care providers outside of the VA system and a Choice Card would be provided to all Veterans who were enrolled in the VA health care system as of August 1, 2014, and to recently discharged combat Veterans. Mr. Russo said the first group of Choice Cards with program eligibility information were sent out today (11/5) to Veterans who lived more than 40 miles of a VA facility; the next group of Choice Cards would be sent by November 17 to veterans who were currently waiting for an appointment more than 30 days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician. He noted additional information could be obtained at [www.va.gov/opa/choiceact](http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact). Mr. Russo said the VA was contracting with a third private administrator to assist in managing this program.

Mr. Kevin Humes, representing County Commission District 1, said that many veterans were being hired; many were proposing manufacturing projects; and financing opportunities were being developed to provide funding through the GOB schedule procurement contracting. Mr. Humes said they were focusing primarily on veterans industry on behalf of the Employment Committee and focusing on job creation for veterans by consolidating different industries and different investment mechanisms. Mr. Humes requested to meet with Chairman Diaz and Mr. Cruz to discuss available opportunities.

Chairman Diaz indicated he would schedule a Sunshine meeting with Mr. Humes.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Diaz called for individuals who would like to speak on any issues that were not noted on today's (11/5) agenda.

Mr. Bill Carney, representing Project Courage, advised that the Task Force Courage Ruck Run event was rescheduled from November 10, 2014, to January 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at North Beach. He explained it was rescheduled as Project Courage had applied to be a commemorative partner with the Department of Defense (DOD) for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War and that was received on October 29, 2014. Mr. Carney said the organization was contacting the Veterans of Foreign Wars centers in Miami-Dade and Broward counties to attend the Ruck Run. He noted a pin ceremony would be included in the Ruck Run event and Project Courage was requesting pins from DOD for the ceremony. Mr. Carney also noted a request was made for the 13<sup>th</sup> Army Band and their color guard; and the Silver Wings Parachute Demonstration Team. He noted additional information was available at [www.ruckrun.com](http://www.ruckrun.com).

Chairman Diaz asked the Marines who were present at tonight's (11/5) MAB meeting to attend the event commemorating the Army's 239<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 10, 2014.

### **Old Business**

➤ No old business was presented.

### **➤ Veterans Court**

Chairman Diaz said that he and Mr. Cruz met with the State Attorney last Friday (10/31); and his Chief of Staff met with the State Attorney's Chief of Staff; along with Ms. Joanna Sandstrom. He noted a press conference would be held on Friday, November 7, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. regarding the Veterans Court. Chairman Diaz said that the Veterans Administration was a large part of this initiative, along with the Court, the State Attorney, and the Department of Defense.

Mr. Cruz said the critical components of the Veterans Court would be on board, and the press conference was scheduled this Friday at 2:00 p.m. at the State Attorney's Office.

### **➤ Veterans Parade**

Mr. Cruz advised that this year Miami-Dade County would be participating with the City of Doral for the Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2014. He noted the staging area would be located at the Tony Roma's Restaurant on NW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SW 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mr. Cruz said the Parade route would be from east to west, approximately one mile and a quarter, and would end at Veterans Park followed by the Veterans Day Ceremony. He acknowledged the presence of Ms. Bianca Peron, City of Doral's Park Department.

Ms. Peron thanked the MAB members for inviting her to tonight's meeting. She expressed appreciation to the MAB and SOUTHCOM for their participation in the City's Veterans Day Parade and noted fliers regarding the Parade were available.

In response to Mr. Martory's earlier inquiry as to whether transportation would be provided for individuals who would be unable to walk the entire Parade route, Ms. Peron suggested Mr. Martory contact the City's Special Events Coordinator. She noted shuttle service to Veterans Park following the Parade would be available for disabled visitors.

Chairman Diaz assured Mr. Martory that disabled visitors would be accommodated. He asked Ms. Peron to express his appreciation to Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz, who was attending a swearing-in of two Council members.

Mr. Cruz noted a request had been made to the Florida National Guard for military vehicles, and the MAB was awaiting approval. He advised the support would not be provided from the 50<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group, but from the Infantry Unit.

➤ **Toys for Tots 2014**

Ms. Diana Gonzalez advised that a Toys for Tots station would be held at the Beacon Council for the entire season, and a Toys for Tots pickup would be part of the Council's annual Key Ceremony.

**New Business**

➤ **Toy Drive at Tropical Park**

Chairman Diaz advised that he was working with a group of businessmen and motorcyclists who wanted to begin an annual toy drive. He noted the initial event would be held at Tropical Park on November 29, 2014, from approximately 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Chairman Diaz said this would be a family event showcasing motorcycles and show cars; and would benefit Toys for Tots and Miami Children's Hospital. He noted that approximately 450 motorcycles were expected; and the goal was to replicate the Toys in the Sun event that was held in Pompano Beach.

Mr. Cruz said the event would be held on the parking lot adjacent to Santa's Enchanted Forest. He noted he believed this event had the opportunity to grow each year.

Mr. Kowalchik noted he spoke with representatives for the Magic by the Bay event and they would contact Gunnery Sergeant Fonseca, Jr. regarding a tent for the toy drive at Tropical Park.

Chairman Diaz asked Gunnery Sergeant Fonseca, Jr., to ensure that boxes for toy collection were delivered to the six cities who were interested in participating in the Toys for Tots initiative.

Mr. Humes said that he believed the International Brothers of Teamsters would be willing to participate in the Toys for Tots initiative, and offered to provide Gunnery Sergeant Fonseca, Jr. with the name of the appropriate individual who could be contacted regarding this initiative.

➤ **MD Central Information Repository**

Ms. Gonzalez advised that she and Ms. Rosa Brito, Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, were partnering as part of the shared services effort. She indicated that they were working closely with Miami-Dade County to create a Central Repository Information on the MAB Website for military families who would be assigned to Miami-Dade County. Ms. Gonzalez said the parties began formulating and identifying the

Websites of various agencies that would be linked to the Repository on the MAB Website, and would include at a minimum, the three chambers. She noted the Repository would include information pertaining to the Veterans Administration, Florida International University, Miami-Dade College, Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade Defense Alliance's program at the Beacon Council, the local installations, and other resources. Additionally once these military families were relocated, they would be able to obtain discounts and additional resources about the community, Ms. Gonzalez said.

Ms. Gonzalez commented on additional marketing for the military families and referred to a draft brochure on the military industry in Miami-Dade County, which was previously approved by the MAB. She noted the brochure contained information on the different installations in the County, Military Miami-Dade, the Military Affairs Board, and how businesses and the community could provide assistance. Ms. Gonzalez said the brochure was being finalized and would include an updated map of all the installations in Miami-Dade County and any related information. She noted the updates, the Repository, and any other marketing efforts would be paid for from an upcoming State grant. Ms. Gonzalez said the parties were seeking to accomplish these efforts with the MAB's moniker.

Ms. Brito noted that she was in the process of updating the Chamber's directory and would add the information provided by Ms. Gonzalez to the directory. She also noted that she would include information regarding discounts in the Chamber's Save Local Program application.

Ms. Gonzalez indicated that she was working with the County's Community Information and Outreach office regarding a Smart Phone application.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted information on the Repository would be available via a desktop and Smart Phone application.

➤ **U.S. Military Entrance Processing (MEPS) Presentation**

Army Captain Petr Vach, Executive Officer, Miami Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), said it was brought to his attention that despite the MEPS' 12-year presence in Doral, not many people were familiar with MEPS or its mission. He noted the new command team had reached out to local law enforcement via the County and City; and to the County and City emergency service departments. Army Captain Vach expressed appreciation to City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz for supporting MEPS' needs and efforts. He noted MEPS' mission was to process existing applicants who had been recruited by recruiting battalions and qualify them for service. Army Captain Vach said he wanted to ensure that MEPS was fully integrated into the local community.

Chairman Diaz extended the MAB's support to Captain Vach and the MEPS.

➤ **SOUTHCOM Garrison Presentation**

Mr. Donald "Andy" Bird, Garrison Manager, commented on U.S. Army Garrison-Miami. He noted the Garrison provided installation support services, infrastructure, and family

programs to service members, their family members and civilian employees assigned or attached to the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM).

Mr. Bird commented on the Soldier for Life Campaign, an initiative to connect the Army, governmental, and community efforts to build relationships that facilitate successful reintegration of soldiers, retired soldiers, veterans, and their families, in order to keep them Army Strong and instill their values, ethos, and leadership within communities. He noted the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) Act, a Congressional approved public law in November 2011, was a precursor to this initiative. Mr. Bird commented on the need for industries to hire veterans, and noted a Summit would be held at U.S. Army Garrison-Miami on November 13, 2014 to launch the Soldier for Life Campaign. He noted he would be contacting members of the Military Defense, Military Affairs, the community, and businesses to be partners in the Soldier for Life Campaign. Mr. Bird said that he would like to discuss the outcome of the Summit at the MAB's meeting on December 3, 2104.

Chairman Diaz thanked Colonel Bird for his presentation and offered the MAB's support.

Colonel Bird responded to Mr. Humes' inquiry regarding manufacturing opportunities for veterans.

Chairman Diaz said he was pleased Colonel Bird clarified that the Soldier for Life Campaign applied to any service member. He noted the MAB was a unique board which worked with all governmental entities.

#### ❖ **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Councilman Timothy Daubert that the following Military Affairs Board meeting minutes be approved: May 7, 2014; July 2, 2014; August 6, 2014; September 10, 2014; and October 1, 2014. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jorge Sibila, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0, (Mr. Alex Acosta, Mr. David Blake, Mr. Mark Blumstein, Mr. Thomas Davis, Mr. Manuel Gonzalez, Mr. Charles Johnson, Mr. Phil Lyons, and Mr. Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

#### ❖ **Next Meeting Date is Scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building**

#### ❖ **Discussion Items for the Next Agenda**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz commented on the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) recent trend to highlight students' performances in the community. He noted, in observance of the Veteran theme, G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School's Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) performed an armed and an unarmed close-order drill at today's (11/5) BCC meeting. Mr. Cruz said the armed team came with M1 rifles, and the Mayor and BCC members were impressed by their performance. He added that Captain Juan Fernandez, a Marine Corps Mustang, was in charge of both the armed and unarmed teams. Mr. Cruz said this was the top ranked close-order drill team in the County. He

noted there were other drill teams throughout the County that he would like to introduce to the BCC to demonstrate the leadership and confidence the ROTC build in young students.

Mr. Cruz also noted the Board's Invocation was led by Lt. Colonel Towery, Deputy Chaplain for the United States Southern Command.

Chairman Diaz advised that a clip of the Vietnam War Memorial documentary which was shown in North Miami Beach, was shown at today's (11/5) BCC meeting, and it was very emotional. He noted the documentary would be competing for an Emmy on December 13, 2014.

Mr. Cruz requested the MAB's approval of payment to Bottega Express in the amount of \$101.83 for providing breakfast for the Braddock Senior High School's Navy Junior ROTC.

Ms. Gonzalez advised that a credit was due to the MAB as Bottega was overpaid on a previous bill.

It was moved by Councilman Timothy Daubert that the Military Affairs Board approve the remaining outstanding amount due to Bottega Express. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jorge Sibila, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0, (Mr. Alex Acosta, Mr. David Blake, Mr. Mark Blumstein, Mr. Thomas Davis, Mr. Manuel Gonzalez, Mr. Charles Johnson, Mr. Phil Lyons, and Mr. Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent).

Chairman Diaz expressed appreciation to Dr. Anthony Atwood for performing Taps on short notice, at the funeral of former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jorge Valdes, the first Cuban Commissioner, and his mentor, who passed away suddenly. He noted Commissioner Valdes had also served in the Army. Chairman Diaz also expressed appreciation to Dr. Atwood on behalf of Commissioner Valdes' family.

Dr. Atwood said it was an honor to have provided this service to Commissioner Valdes' family.

Referring to G. Holmes Braddock High School, Dr. Atwood noted the School was named after G. Holmes Braddock, who was a School Board Chairman, and an Army Medic at D-Day.

Mr. Cruz requested the MAB's approval to begin the process for polo shirts to be made with the MAB's logo. He also requested the MAB members to email him their sizes.

Chairman Diaz noted all MAB members, or representatives of the MAB, would receive a shirt.

It was moved by Councilman Daubert to begin the process for the polo shirts. This motion was seconded by Mr. Sibila, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of

11-0, ((Mr. Alex Acosta, Mr. David Blake, Mr. Mark Blumstein, Mr. Thomas Davis, Mr. Manuel Gonzalez, Mr. Charles Johnson, Mr. Phil Lyons, and Mr. Keith Vail Whitbeck were absent)).

Mr. Cruz noted he would provide several options, including cotton shirts, to the MAB members.

Retired Lt. Colonel Sibila suggested, and Chairman Diaz concurred, that the MAB consider presenting certificates to outstanding students.

Chairman Diaz noted that in addition to the certificates, a scholarship be awarded to a graduating senior who would be continuing in the ROTC. Chairman Diaz asked Colonel Sibila to discuss this with Mr. Cruz for placement on the next agenda.

Mr. Kowalchik pointed out that the teachers at MAST Academy were very helpful in selecting the students.

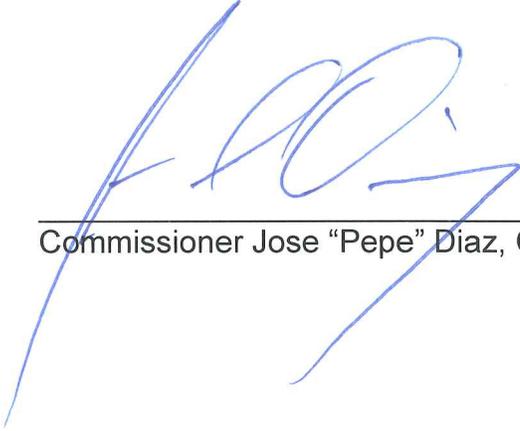
Chairman Diaz noted every year he had an essay contest for high school seniors in his District, who attended regular schools and charter schools; and three of the best essays received \$2500 each.

In response to Councilman Daubert's inquiry as to whether Chairman Diaz had received the IPAD, the MAB had approved, Mr. Cruz acknowledged receipt of the IPAD.

Chairman Diaz thanked Mr. Cruz for the work he had done on behalf of the MAB.

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Military Affairs Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



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Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



**Military Affairs Board**  
**November 5, 2014**

Prepared by: Judy Marsh

**EXHIBITS LIST**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ITEM #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	11/05/2014		Meeting Agenda
2	11/05/2014		Info re: Young Marine Ball
3	11/05/2014		Info re: Toys for Tots
4	11/05/2014		Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014
5	11/05/2014		U.S. Army Garrison-Miami
6	11/05/2014		Soldier for Life Campaign
7	11/05/2014		Invoice from Bottega Express
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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR  
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD  
MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, November 5<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
6:00 PM

FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL BUILDING  
8000 NW 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Doral, FL 33122  
AGENDA

- ❖ **Welcome**
- ❖ **Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance**
- ❖ **Board Member Roundtable**
- ❖ **Old Business**
  - **Veterans Court**
  - **Veterans Parade**
  - **Toys for Tots 2014**
- ❖ **New Business**
  - **U.S. Military Entrance Processing (MEPS) Presentation**
  - **SOUTHCOM Garrison Presentation - *Donald Boyd***
  - **Toy Drive at Tropical Park**
- **Thanksgiving for Military Families**
- **MD Central Information Repository**

From: Eduardo A. Lombard <elombard47@aol.com>  
To: mariaangeles119 <mariaangeles119@aol.com>  
Subject: YM Drill - October 25, 2014 \*\*\*PLEASE PRINT\*\*\* THANKS  
Date: Tue, Oct 28, 2014 7:35 am

-----Original Message-----

From: PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines <youngmarinesmd@gmail.com>  
To: Marine Eduardo <elombard47@aol.com>  
Sent: Fri, Oct 24, 2014 6:40 pm  
Subject: YM Drill - October 25, 2014

[View this email in your browser](#)

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines Important Information



**PFC. Bruce W. Carter**  
**Young Marines**



From: PFCBWCYM  
To: YMs & YM / Recruit Parents / RALS  
Subj: NEXT YM DRILL - October 25, 2014

Good evening,



Our Young Marine Ball was a tremendous success. We would like to thank all of our Young Marines who helped coordinate and participate in the ceremony. We would like to extend a special thanks to our Registered Adult Leaders who contributed countless hours to ensure that the event went smoothly. A special thank you to Ms. Gordillo, Ms. Colon, Ms. Forbes, and Ms. Sauer for taking time to plan and deliver a wonderful event for our Young Marines.

The following is form YM GySgt Brittany Hannah:

Hello all,

Sorry for the last minute update. Due to unforeseen circumstances I was not able to send this out until now. That being said, we have a very busy weekend ahead of us. (See schedule below)

*Exhibit*  
*MAB-11-5-14*

**DRILL SCHEDULE:**

The information for this upcoming drill is as follows:

Schedule:

7:20 NCOs and RALs arrive  
8:00-8:05 Form up  
8:05-8:15 Morning Formation  
8:20-9:40 Yearbook Pictures and Christmas Cards  
9:40-9:55 Head calls  
10:00-10:50 guest speaker DDR  
10:50-11:05 change over  
11:05-11:50 clean up and team building and physical activity free time  
11:50 final formation  
12:00 dismissal

Tomorrow we will be taking pictures for our upcoming unit yearbook. You will need to come in your full uniform as described below:

Uniform of the day:

- \* Pvt-Lcpl: Camis w/ ribbons (white t-shirt)
- \*Cpls-SSgt: Charlie's w/ ribbons
- \*Gysgt-Sgt Maj: Alphas w/ribbons
- \*RALs: Black polo shirts

**\*\*Please bring your pt gear (tan unit tshirt and black pt shorts) and camelbaks in separate bag\*\***

**YMs should start bringing their binders with their awards. Please try to bring photocopies in lieu of original certificates and awards. Senior Young Marines have volunteered to help mentor our younger Young Marines to help prepare them for promotional boards and other higher level/national activities that would require this information in a presentable format.**



We will also be starting a project that we will periodically do which is making holiday cards for deployed soldiers. We will have plenty of supplies but please bring any additional card making supplies you may need.

Tomorrow we will be doing a big portion of this quarter's required Drug Demand Reduction class. We will be having a guest speaker so please bring your



guidebooks, pen and paper.

We will be scheduling a meeting in the near future re: fundraising. Please collect your ideas and have them prepared for when we announce the date / time.

Unfortunately, we **DO NOT** have a scheduled recruit training in the foreseeable future. We need committed registered adult leaders and YMs who can volunteer their time during off-drill weekends to ensure the success in training our future Young Marines. Please let YM GySgt Brittany Hannah or if you are a RAL, Mr. Hannah know if you are interested in this endeavor.

I look forward to a great weekend drill tomorrow Young Marines! If you have any questions feel free to email me at [magicbrillo2@yahoo.com](mailto:magicbrillo2@yahoo.com)

YM GySgt Brittany Hannah  
P.F.C. Bruce W. Carter MOH Young Marines

**PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines**

**Tel. 786-GO-BWCYM**

**Email: [youngmarinesmd@gmail.com](mailto:youngmarinesmd@gmail.com)**



Facebook



Website

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**Our mailing address is:**

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines  
4011 SW 99 Avenue  
Miami, FL33174

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[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)



From: Eduardo A. Lombard <elombard47@aol.com>  
To: mariaangeles119 <mariaangeles119@aol.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Toys For Tots: Donate Toys/Earn Community Service Hours \*\*\*PLEASE PRINT\*\*\* 2  
Date: Mon, Nov 3, 2014 10:39 pm

-----Original Message-----

From: PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines <youngmarinesmd@gmail.com>  
To: Marine Eduardo <elombard47@aol.com>  
Sent: Mon, Nov 3, 2014 10:06 pm  
Subject: Toys For Tots: Donate Toys/Earn Community Service Hours

[View this email in your browser](#)

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines Important Information



**From: PFCBWCYM**  
**To: YMs & YM / Recruit Parents / RALS**  
**Subj: Toys For Tots: Donate Toys/Earn Community Service Hours**

To All Parents and Young Marines,



Beginning this Saturday November 8th, you will have another opportunity to earn more community service hours. The primary mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots is to collect new, unwrapped toys during November and December each year. These toys will be distributed as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community.

If you would like to participate this year for each toy you submit you will earn 2 community service hours. All toys must be NEW, UNWRAPPED and have a starting value of minimum \$5.00.

This is an awesome opportunity to earn hours toward your community service ribbon and the annual Presidential Certificate and pin.

If you are in High School bring in your community service log sheet and we will give you the same hours..... DOUBLE DIP!!! how cool is that.

*Eschibit*  
*MAB-11-5-14*

Please submit all toys to Gunny upon arrival at drill.

If you have any questions please contact us.

RAL Gunny Slagle 305.401.0149

[jlggunny@hotmail.com](mailto:jlggunny@hotmail.com)

RAL Krystal Gonzalez 305. 499.0476

[gonzalez.krystal.82@gmail.com](mailto:gonzalez.krystal.82@gmail.com)

RAL Zenith Gordillo 305.606.4011

[zgordillo@bellsouth.net](mailto:zgordillo@bellsouth.net)

Zenith Gordillo

[zgordillo@bellsouth.net](mailto:zgordillo@bellsouth.net)

305.606.4011 Cell

"Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart.

Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens. ."

**PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines**

**Tel. 786-GO-BWCYM**

**Email: [youngmarinesmd@gmail.com](mailto:youngmarinesmd@gmail.com)**



Facebook



Website

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You are receiving this email because you opted in at our website or thru our registration upon registering your child in the program.

**Our mailing address is:**

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines  
4011 SW 99 Avenue  
Miami, FL33174

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**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**Fact Sheet**Office of Public Affairs  
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
www.va.gov**Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014**  
**Title I: Choice Program and Health Care Collaboration**

On August 7, 2014, President Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146) ("VACAA"). Technical revisions to VACAA were made on September 26, 2014, when the President signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175). The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) goal continues to be to provide timely, high-quality health care for Veterans.

Section 101 of VACAA requires VA to establish a temporary program ("the Choice Program") to improve Veterans' access to health care by allowing eligible Veterans to use eligible health care providers outside of the VA system (non-VA care). Sections 102 and 103 of VACAA are also discussed below.

**Background**

In order to improve VA's ability to deliver high-quality health care to Veterans, section 101 of the VACAA requires VA to expand the options for eligible Veterans to elect to use non-VA health care for a period of up to three years, based either on the distance a Veteran lives from a VA facility, or if he or she is experiencing wait-times beyond the 30 day standard. This is referred to as the Choice Program. Veterans who meet certain eligibility requirements will be able to elect to receive care from eligible non-VA entities and providers through the Program. VA must enter into agreements with eligible non-VA health care entities and providers for them to participate in the Program. Prior to VACAA being passed, VA had mechanisms in place to purchase non-VA care, which are still available to VA. VACAA will enhance VA's non-VA care options.

**Choice Fund and Choice Program**

VACAA includes a \$10 billion fund from which VA must pay for non-VA care furnished as part of the Choice Program. VA will provide a Choice Card to all Veterans who were enrolled in the VA health care system as of August 1, 2014, and to recently discharged combat Veterans. Eligibility criteria are discussed in greater detail below.

*www.va.gov/pa/choiceact*

*Eschibit*

*MAB-11-5-14*

## **Implementation**

- VA submitted a report to Congress the week of October 6 redefining the wait-time goals of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The report establishes the wait-time goal as being within 30 days from the date requested by the Veteran for the appointment, as long as that date is clinically appropriate.
- VA hosted an Industry Day at the VA's Denver, Colorado Acquisitions and Logistics Center to seek input from the private sector on how best to provide administrative support in the process of issuing Veteran Choice Cards. VA recognizes that partnership with the private sector to implement this new law will be important.
- As of October 2014, VA has streamlined how we pay for hospital care, medical services, and other health care furnished through non-VA providers. This marks a significant change in the way VA conducts business as required by VACAA.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q: How long will it take to implement the Choice Program?**

**A:** In order to ensure Veterans receive high-quality and timely health care, VA is working to implement VACAA, including the Choice Program, as quickly as possible. VA will be staging implementation of the Choice Program, with the first round being implemented on November 5, 2014.

### **Q: How will Veterans get their Choice Card?**

**A:** VA will mail the Choice Card to Veterans enrolled in VA health care as of August 1, 2014, and to recently discharged combat Veterans who enroll within the 5 year window of eligibility. Not all Veterans who receive the Card will be able to participate in the Choice Program – they must meet the criteria established under the new law. VA will implement this program in stages.

### **Q: When will Veterans get their Choice Card?**

**A:** The Choice Card will be issued in three phases. The first group of Choice Cards along with a letter explaining eligibility for this program will be sent by November 5, 2014, to Veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility. The next group of Choice Cards and letters will be sent by November 17 to those Veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician. The final group of Choice Cards and letters will be sent between December and January to the remainder of all Veterans enrolled for VA health care who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.

**Q: Is the criteria 40 miles or 30 days?**

**A:** Eligibility for the Choice Program is based on the Veteran's place of residence or the inability to schedule an appointment within the "wait-time goals" of VHA, which have been established as 30 days from the date preferred by the Veteran, or the date medically determined by his/her physician. A Veteran could be eligible under one or both of these criteria. Please note that Veterans who are eligible based on their place of residence may elect non-VA care for any service that is clinically necessary. Veterans who are eligible based on "wait-time" may select non-VA care only for an appointment for the service that cannot be scheduled within the "wait-time goals" of VHA.

**Q: Does the 40 mile rule refer to whether the specialty need (for example, Orthopedic Surgery) is available within 40 miles, or 40 miles from any VA facility, whether or not the specialty, in this example Orthopedics, is available there.**

**A:** The law is clear that eligibility must be based on the distance from the Veteran's residence to *any* VA medical facility, even if that facility does not offer the specific medical service the Veteran requires for that particular visit.

**Q: What are the criteria used to determine the 40 mile radius? Is it similar to the Dashboard used to calculate mileage reimbursement?**

**A:** VA will calculate the distance between a Veteran's residence and the nearest VA medical facility using a straight-line distance, rather than the driving distance. VA is developing an interactive tool that will be available on va.gov beginning in early November for Veterans to determine their potential eligibility for the Choice Program based on their place of residence. Veterans will enter their address information into the tool, and the tool will calculate their distance to the nearest site of VA care, and provide that mileage and information on their eligibility for the Choice Program to the Veteran online.

**Q. How will eligibility be determined for those Veterans who receive a "Choice Card," and are there limitations on what service they qualify for outside of the VA system?**

**A:** Once a Veteran receives a Choice Card, they will be eligible to use the Program if they meet the specific eligibility criteria discussed above and call to receive approval for use. Veterans who are eligible based upon their place of residence will be eligible to use the Choice Program for any services that are clinically necessary. Veterans who are eligible because of the "wait-time" criterion will only be able to receive a non-VA appointment for the episode of care related to the service that cannot be scheduled within 30 days from his/her preferred date or the date medically determined by his/her physician.

## GARRISON-MIAMI DO?

U.S. Army Garrison-Miami uses Government Purchase Cards to buy supplies locally.

The Garrison also arranges for local contracts and blanket purchase agreements covering services and products with a small business emphasis. These support both the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) mission and Garrison programs.

Examples include: printing of newsletters; tents, tables and generators in support of Commissary Bulk sales; jump houses, DJs, banners and performers for picnics and social events; hotels and dining areas for conferences and meetings; and custodial services.

All normal purchases and deliveries of supplies and military equipment by SOUTHCOM, tenant units from throughout the government and Special Operations Command-South go through the Logistics Readiness Center-Miami Central Receiving & Distribution Point (CRDP), which also performs basic supply support during deployment and emergencies as directed by the Command.

**Supply and Services:** (305)437-2700

**Family & MWR Events:** (305)437-2726

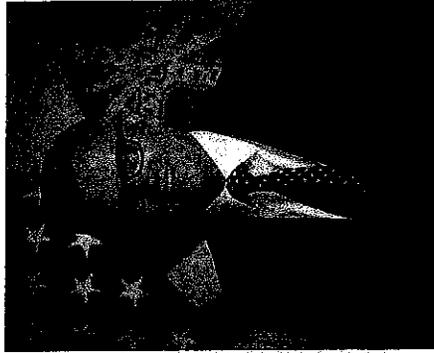
**Commercial Sponsorship:** (305)437-

3149

United States Army Garrison-Miami provides quality installation support services, infrastructure and force protection to US Southern Command, supporting tenant units, their service members, families and civilians; to enable the Combatant Command to accomplish its mission.

## VISION

A highly trained and flexible workforce with the skills, resources and facilities to provide consistent and reliable customer service in support of those we serve!



**Donald "Andy" Bird**

Garrison Manager

## CONTACT US:

United States Army Garrison - Miami

Attention: Public Affairs Office

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Doral, FL 33172

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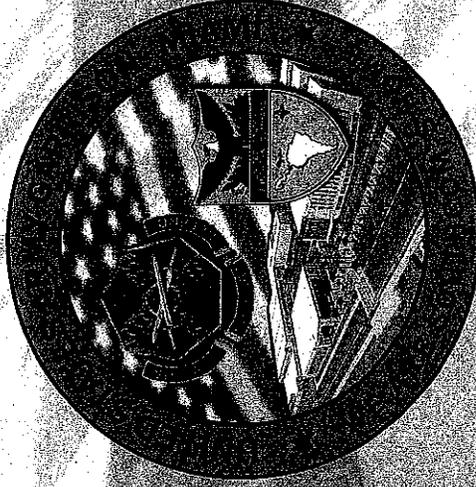
(305) 437-2685

<http://www2.southcom.mil/usag-miami/sites/local/>

*Exhibit  
MAB - 11-5-14*

all about ...

# U.S. ARMY GARRISON- MIAMI

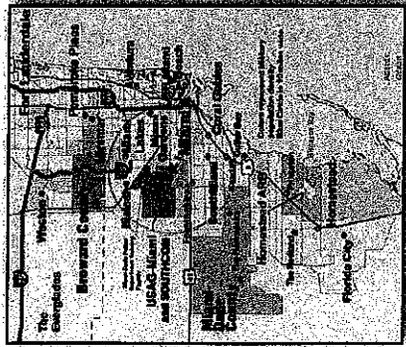


*Atlantic Region  
Installation Management Command*

ASO/EANOV2014

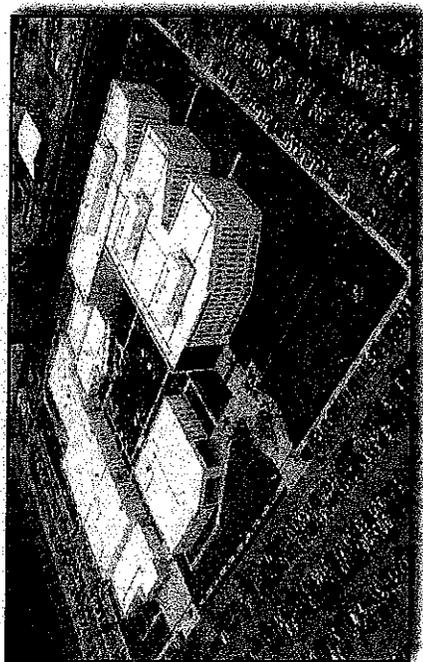
# SERVICES TO THE TROOPS

- ❖ **School Liaison/Educational Services:** We partner with local universities, charter and public schools to help children and service members.
- ❖ **Passports and Visas/ID Cards:** Supporting the mission by securing country clearances/verifying status.
- ❖ **Housing and Transportation:** Arriving or Departing, the Garrison coordinates with the Logistics Readiness Center to help.
- ❖ **Transition Assistance Program:** Helping prepare those nearing retirement or separation for civilian life.
- ❖ **Child, Youth and School Services:** Quality programs support mission readiness and parent needs.
- ❖ **Visual Information:** Official photos, Graphics and design support to the SOUTHCOM staff.
- ❖ **Recreation Services:** Sports and Fitness, Special Events and Better Opportunity for Single Servicemembers
- ❖ **Leisure Travel Services:** Local attractions and events, often at a discount.
- ❖ **Army Community Service:** Relocation Readiness, Survivor Outreach Services, Sexual Assault Prevention, Financial Readiness, Exceptional Family Member Program, Family Advocacy, and Military Family Team Building, all designed to keep Soldiers, Civilians, Retirees, Survivors and Families healthy and resilient.
- ❖ **The Whole Garrison is committed to improving the quality of life of every service member, family member and civilian employee assigned or attached to the United States Southern Command.**



Where do military families live? All over.

# OUR HOME IN DORAL, FLORIDA



## Features of the Headquarters Complex and Garrison

*Front view of the U.S. Southern Command's headquarters facility, which is near other federal, state and county facilities in the area.*



*The Conference Center of the Americas is a state-of-the-art facility capable of hosting diverse events simultaneously, with nine conference rooms plus a main 230-seat auditorium.*



*Family and MWR works with corporate sponsors to host events benefitting the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen of SC, and their families.*



*The Fitness Center has two basketball and racketball courts, saunas, exercise rooms, weight rooms, aerobic rooms, specialty classes, lockers and tournament support.*



# FACTS AND FIGURES

- ❖ **Ribbon cutting date:** Dec. 17, 2010
- ❖ **Cost:** \$402 million (construction start: 2008)
- ❖ **Workspace:** 630,425-square-feet, operational space for more than 2,800 people.
- ❖ **Force Protection:** Single compound enhances anti-terrorism and force protection capabilities.
- ❖ **Weather Protection:** Structure capable of enduring Category Five hurricane strength
- ❖ **Advanced communications:** State-of-the-art communications capabilities and collaboration tools support international and interagency coordination.
- ❖ **A 45,000 square-foot Conference Center of the Americas** hosts a myriad of engagement activities with partner nations and U.S. government agencies.
- ❖ **Support from state and local partners:** The project was completed in partnership with Florida, Miami Dade County and the City of Doral, on property leased from the State of Florida through Dec. 31, 2055. The County/City assisted with access roads, essential utilities and the timely completion of permits required for the project's completion.
- ❖ **Economic Impact:** A State of Florida commissioned study estimated that SOUTHCOM contributed to a DoD economic impact of approximately \$5 billion dollars in Miami-Dade County alone. (Source: Military Economic Impact in Florida Factbook 2014).
- ❖ **Miami** was selected as the home for SOUTHCOM from among 100 sites because of the City's linkages to the 31 countries and 10 territories in the Caribbean, Central and South America that make up the Command's area of responsibility.

# PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Volunteers contribute approximately 30,000 volunteer hours to community projects and events annually.

Our children attend local schools. SOUTHCOM military and civilian personnel buy and rent homes, shop at local businesses, and eat at local restaurants. Our color guard participation at sporting events and parades, and we receive many requests to give speeches at meetings and events sponsored by local organizations.

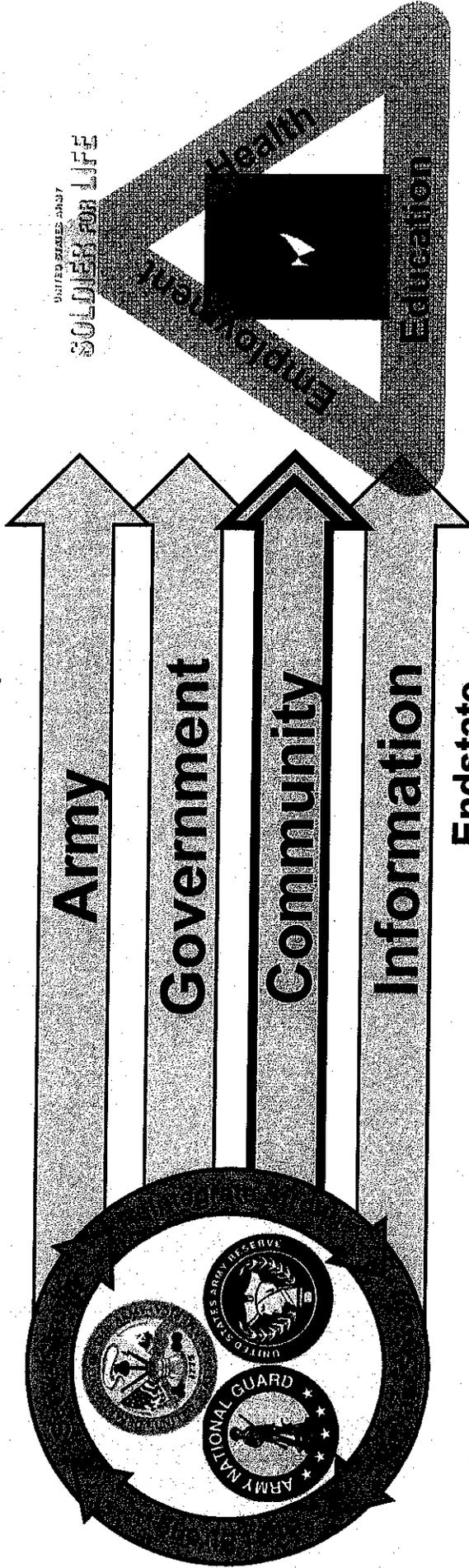
SOUTHCOM has teams in local soccer and softball leagues; and is seeking greater partnerships for facility use with M-D Fire Rescue and Police.



# Soldier for Life Campaign

## Mission

*Soldier for Life connects Army, governmental, and community efforts to build relationships that facilitate successful reintegration of our Soldiers, Retired Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families in order to keep them Army Strong and instill their values, ethos, and leadership within communities.*



## Endstate

*Soldiers, Veterans, and Families leave military service "career ready" and find an established network of enablers connecting them with the employment, education, and healthcare required to successfully reintegrate into civilian society.*

**Army Imperative: Sustain the Premier All-Volunteer Army**

*Exhibit  
MAB-11-5-14*

BottegaExpress  
 111 NW 1 st  
 Miami, Fl. 33185

**Invoice**

Date	Invoice #
11/3/2014	118

Bill to
Miami-Dade County Military Advisory Board Event date: 11/5/2014

P.O. No.	Terms	Project
	Due on Receipt	

Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
1	Mini Bagels	\$ 49.99	\$ 49.99
1	Latin Pastries	\$ 24.99	\$ 24.99
15	Orange uice	\$ 1.79	\$ 26.85
Please provide tax exempt certificate			
		<b>Total</b>	\$101.83

*Exhibit*  
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