



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

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

December 3, 2014  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvlin, 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**  
**December 3, 2014**

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on December 3, 2014, at 6:17 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; Dr. Anthony Atwood; Mr. David Blake; Ms. Rosa Brito; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Ms. Donna Mason for Ms. Diana Gonzalez; Mr. Kevin Humes; Mr. Eduardo Lombard; Mr. Joseph Martory; Retired Lt. Colonel Jorge Sibila; and Mr. Keith Vail Whitbeck.

The Following voting Board members were absent: Mr. Alex Acosta; Mr. Mario Alvarez; Mr. Mark Blumstein; Mr. Thomas Davis; Mr. Manuel Gonzalez; Mr. Charles Johnson; Mr. Michael Sergei Kowalchik; and Mr. Phil Lyons.

The Following non-voting Board members were present: Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr; Captain Benjamin Davis; 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; Ms. Debbie Zimmerman; Nury Soler; Leandra McCommas; and Ms. Joanna Sandstrom.

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

The following guest was present: Mr. Brown.

❖ **Welcome**

Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m. and welcomed MAB members and guests to tonight's (12/3) 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.

❖ **Comments or Presentations from the Public**

Mr. Kevin Humes introduced Dr. Brown, whom he noted was developing a Veterans Industry initiative. He noted Dr. Brown had several companies and was interested in hiring veterans. Mr. Humes thanked Dr. Brown for his service.

Chairman Diaz thanked Mr. Brown for his assistance to veterans.

Mr. Brown expressed appreciation to the MAB for allowing him to give back to his community. He noted he had retired as a first Sergeant from the MEPS and had been an entrepreneur for 15 years.

❖ **Board Member Roundtable**

The following introductions and updates were made by MAB members:

Army Captain Petr Vach, Miami Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), representing Lt. Commander Valerie Boyd, noted MEPS representatives would be attending a local work group for Emergency Management Services on December 10, 2014, in order to become part of the Miami-Dade County system.

Mr. David Blake, representing County Commission District 2, introduced himself.

Mr. Kevin Humes, representing County Commission District 1, thanked Ms. Brito for her support with the Homestead Project. He commented on the Veterans Village; Veterans industries; Veterans opportunities; and a proposal for alternative gas. Mr. Humes also commented on his collaboration with the American Legion and the Veterans Service Organization. He noted many potential job and training opportunities existed; and institutions of higher learning were the springboard to these efforts. Mr. Humes said Mr. Cruz had arranged for him to speak before the Soldiers for Life program.

Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr, United States Marine Corps Reserves, said the collection for Toys for Tots would be held until December 17, 2014. He noted Gunnery Sergeant Jeremiah Scott, the Toys for Tots Coordinator, was unable to attend tonight's (12/3) meeting but would attend the MAB's January 2015 meeting.

Marine Eduardo Lombard, representing County Commission District 11, said the Young Marines attended the November 11, 2014, Doral Veterans Day Parade. He noted Gunnery Sergeant Lou Slagle also attended the Parade with other staff and Senior Young Marines. Mr. Lombard said the Young Marines also participated in the Operation Christmas Child Community Service event at the Hollywood Christian Church, to fill shoe boxes with toys, school supplies, etc. for distribution.

Mr. Lombard presented a card to Mr. Gustavo Cruz, on behalf of Chairman Diaz and the MAB members, thanking him for his assistance, and wishing him happy birthday on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cruz thanked the members for the card.

Mr. Joe Martory, representing County Commission District 6, noted the Veterans of Foreign Wars would be holding a ceremony commemorating Pearl Harbor Day on

Sunday, December 7, 2014, at the Key Largo Government Center. He invited the MAB members to attend.

Dr. Anthony Atwood, representing County Commission District 9, advised that BarkBasel would be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014, on Galiano Street in Coral Gables, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. He noted art work would be auctioned and the proceeds would be used to provide funding for therapy canines to assist veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Dr. Atwood advised that Colonel Gregory S. Julian would be speaking at the Military Museum's tenth outreach at the West Dade Regional Library on Tuesday, December 16, from 6:00 p.m. to 8 P.m. He noted Colonel Julian would be discussing the U.S. Southern Command at this event, which would be free and open to the public.

Mr. Keith Vail Whitbeck, representing County Commission District 3, asked that anyone who wanted to become a member of the Air Force Association to contact him.

Councilman Tim Daubert, Town of Miami Lakes, representing County Commission District 13, said that a Bike Rodeo would be held in Miami Lakes on Saturday at the Miami Lakes Town Hall; and a book reading would be held on Sunday at the Main Street Theatre.

Ms. Donna Mason, representing Ms. Diana Gonzalez, Miami-Dade Defense Alliance (MDDA), said the MDDA's grant for this year was about to be closed and the MDDA was awaiting the contract for its short-term grant for next year.

Chairman Diaz expressed appreciation to Ms. Mason for her efforts on behalf of military personnel.

Ms. Rosa Brito, South Dade Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber would provide a final report to the MAB in January 2015 on the P4 initiative with the Air Force.

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

Colonel Jorge Sibila, representing County Commission District 5, introduced himself.

Mr. Jose Pena, representing Captain Benjamin Davis, United States Coast Guard District 7, noted Captain Davis was unable to attend tonight's (12/3) meeting as he was attending the Commission ceremony of a new Coast Guard cutter.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Pena to meet with him to discuss an issue regarding a buoy that was outside the channel.

Colonel Greg Julian, United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), introduced Colonel Lacy Garcia who would be his replacement. Colonel Julian noted Colonel

Garcia was being briefed about some of SOUTHCOM's long-range projects, including the Homeless Veterans Stand Down which would be held in the first week of May.

Colonel Garcia, representing SOUTHCOM, noted she looked forward to working with the MAB members.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz commented on a ceremony that he attended today (12/3) on behalf of the MAB for the Miami-Dade Police Department's (MDPD) Aviation Unit. He noted members of the MDPD received a Seven Seals Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). Mr. Cruz said the award recognizes the assistance provided by the Police Department to service members returning from overseas.

Mr. Cruz advised that Florida International University (FIU) would be hosting a Veterans Outreach Event on December 12, 2014, at FIU's Stadium Club, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He noted this event was being sponsored by Senator Marco Rubio, State Representative Michael Bileca; and County Commissioner Esteban Bovo Jr., and Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz. Mr. Cruz said that he would provide the MAB members with information regarding this event.

Mr. Cruz said that Mr. Mario Alvarez could not attend tonight's meeting as he was in training and would be deployed. He noted he received an email from Lt. Colonel Tom Davis, who was now a communications officer in Kabul, Afghanistan. Mr. Cruz mentioned that Colonel Davis had advised him of regular air strikes on the Military Base. He concurred with Councilman Daubert's suggestion to send a care package to Colonel Davis, who was due back in mid-April, 2015.

Mr. Cruz noted City of Doral's Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz was unable to attend tonight's (12/3) meeting as she was attending the City's Council meeting.

#### ❖ **Old Business**

##### ➤ **Veterans Parade (Diaz/Ruiz Comments)**

Chairman Diaz said that several MAB members and veterans had attended the Veterans Parade and ceremony. He noted it was a simple but emotional event; however, it was not the event that the MAB needed to have. Chairman Diaz said that he would meet with Mr. Cruz to begin placing due dates on the calendar. He noted one of the MAB's efforts was to provide a good Veterans Parade for the citizens with the Military, and to showcase past, present and future warriors, including young marines, cadets, and ROTC members. Chairman Diaz indicated that next weekend the Vietnam War Memorial documentary would be competing for an Emmy. He noted the MAB must develop logistics for next year's Veterans Parade.

Colonel Julian commented on the police diversion during the Doral Veterans Parade.

➤ **Toys for Tots 2014 (Gy Sgt. Fonseca Comments)**

Gunnery Sergeant Eddy Fonseca, Jr., said that events were being held daily for the Toys for Tots collection and this would conclude on December 17, 2014. He noted the toy pick-up would begin next week. Gunnery Sergeant Fonseca, Jr. commented that people were delivering toys to the Hialeah warehouse.

➤ **Toy Drive at Tropical Park (Commissioner Diaz Comments)**

Chairman Diaz said that approximately 4,000 people attended the toy drive at Tropical Park and over 700 toys were collected. He noted Radio Lollipop received the same amount of toys as Miami Children's Hospital; and money was also collected. Chairman Diaz said the Miami Marlins would provide its stadium for this annual event, which would also include a motorcycle run from Tropical Park to the stadium.

Chairman Diaz said this would become a signature, family-oriented event and he would be looking at future dates. He noted that a car show, motorcycle show, and a concert were held at the toy drive, and the MAB had met its promises regarding this event.

➤ **Miami MEPS Thanksgiving (Diaz/Ruiz Comments)**

Mr. Gustavo Cruz said service members from the Miami Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) attended the Thanksgiving event coordinated by Chairman Diaz and City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz. He noted this event provided an opportunity to express appreciation to the service members for their professionalism.

Captain Petr Vach thanked Mr. Cruz, Chairman Diaz and Vice Mayor Ruiz for attending the MEPS Thanksgiving event. He said that approximately 15,000 applicants were processed through the MEPS facility, and he expressed his appreciation to the young men and women who had joined the military. Captain Vach thanked the MAB for its support with gift cards.

Mr. Cruz commented on the MEPS' processing operations which he noted encompassed eleven counties, and expressed appreciation to the employees.

❖ **New Business**

➤ **Homeless Veteran Presentation by Vicki Mallette**

Mr. Cruz commented that Ms. Vicki Mallette worked for Miami-Dade Homeless Trust, and the Trust had received a large grant from the federal government to address veteran housing in Miami-Dade County. He noted the Trust was seeking the MAB's assistance on how and where best the grant could be utilized.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Cruz to post pictures from the Toy Drive at Tropical Park on the MAB's Website.

In response to Mr. Keith Whitbeck's inquiry, Mr. Cruz said the grant was from the federal Housing and Urban Development Department, and Ms. Mallette had indicated that it was for a significantly large amount.

Chairman Diaz said the MAB would be working closely with Ms. Mallette to resolve the homeless veteran issue in Miami-Dade County. He indicated that he would create a task force within the MAB to address issues pertaining to homeless veterans.

Chairman Diaz asked that suggestions relating to the grant be forwarded to Mr. Cruz.

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 5, 2014 Military Affairs Board were not presented.

Chairman Diaz presented a plaque of appreciation to Dr. Anthony Atwood for his participation in the exhibit displayed at County Hall commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

Mr. Cruz expressed appreciation to Dr. Atwood for his assistance with the exhibit.

Dr. Atwood thanked Chairman Diaz and Mr. Cruz for the plaque of appreciation.

Chairman Diaz commented on the Veterans Court. He noted the launching of the Veterans Court was held at the State Attorney's Office, and the MAB would monitor the progress of this initiative. Chairman Diaz said the parties promised to move forward and would be travelling to Buffalo, New York, in the beginning of 2015.

❖ **Next Meeting Date is Scheduled for January 7th, 2014 at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building**

Chairman Diaz noted the next MAB meeting was scheduled for January 7, 2015.

❖ **Discussion Items for the Next Agenda**

Chairman Diaz asked the MAB members to contact Mr. Gustavo Cruz with any issues to be discussed at the January 7, 2015 meeting.

Mr. Humes noted many businesses honored veterans by providing discounts and food to them; however, some veterans did not have anyone to share a meal with. He suggested that if the MAB members encountered such a situation, that they interact with and acknowledge the service of that veteran.

Colonel Sibila inquired whether the MAB could occasionally convene downtown, and Chairman Diaz noted he was agreeable to this suggestion provided advanced notice was given.

In response to Mr. Humes' question regarding potential committee reinstatement, Chairman Diaz said that would be done at the beginning of next year. He noted the MAB had met its goals but must continue to address the Veterans Court; Veterans

Parade; homeless issue; and any issues the MAB believed were important. Chairman Diaz thanked Colonel Julian, SOUTHCOM, and military personnel for their service.

Responding to Chairman Diaz' inquiry, Colonel Julian said that tomorrow (12/4) was his last day and his official retirement was effective January 31, 2015.

Chairman Diaz commented on the importance of having knowledge-based committees.

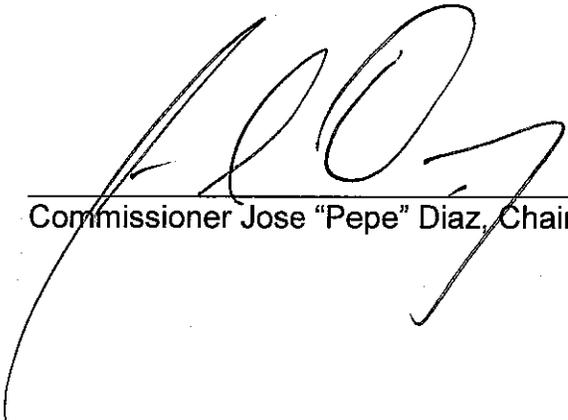
Chairman Diaz expressed concern regarding a newspaper article which stated that Miami-Dade County was the worst place for veterans to retire. He noted 72,000 veterans were in Miami-Dade County and 280,000 veterans were in the tri-County area. Chairman Diaz said these were issues which needed to be addressed by the MAB.

Chairman Diaz commented on the Base Realignment and Closure process and noted it did not appear as if the process would become a reality for some time. He emphasized the importance of subject matter and asked the MAB members for their ideas and participation.

Chairman Diaz extended holiday wishes to everyone.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Military Affairs Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



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Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



**Military Affairs Board  
December 3, 2014**

Prepared by: Judy Marsh

**EXHIBITS LIST**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ITEM #</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1	12/03/2014		Meeting Agenda
2	12/03/2014		Info re: Doral Veterans Day Parade
3	12/03/2014		Info re: Operation Christmas Child Community Service Event
4	12/03/2014		Info re: Military Museum's Tenth Conference
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**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR  
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD  
MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, December 3rd, 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**
- ❖ **Comments or presentations from the public**
- ❖ **Board Member Roundtable**
- ❖ **Old Business**
  - **Veterans Parade (Diaz/Ruiz Comments)**
  - **Toys for Tots 2014 (GySgt Fonseca Comments)**
  - **Toy Drive at Tropical Park (Commissioner Diaz Comments)**
  - **Miami MEPS Thanksgiving (Diaz/Ruiz Comments)**
- ❖ **New Business**
  - **Homeless Veteran presentation by Vicki Mallette**

❖ **Approval of Minutes**

❖ **Next meeting date is scheduled for January 7th, 2014 at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building**

❖ **Discussion items for the next agenda**

❖ **Adjournment**

From: Eduardo A. Lombard <elombard47@aol.com>  
To: mariaangeles119 <mariaangeles119@aol.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Doral Veterans Day Parade \*\*\*PLEASE PRINT\*\*\*\*\* THANKS  
Date: Wed, Dec 3, 2014 9:41 am

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

From: PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines <youngmarinesmd@gmail.com>  
To: Marine Eduardo <elombard47@aol.com>  
Sent: Mon, Nov 10, 2014 8:26 pm  
Subject: Doral Veterans Day Parade

*Represent MR JUAN Zapata  
DISTRICT II*

*Myself EDUARDO A LOMBARD*

[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: Doral Veterans Day Parade - REVISION *November 11, 2014*

①

**Good Evening,**

Tomorrow will be the Doral Veterans Day Parade.

GySgt Lou Slagle will be there with other staff and Senior Young Marines.

Organizers from the city of Doral are requesting that participants meet at 8:00 a.m. We do realize that this is significantly earlier than the start of the event, however, there will be numerous street closures in the area and the participants of the parade have to be arranged in order.

The parade starts at the corner of NW 33 Street and NW 87 Avenue (Tony Roma's Parking Lot). We welcome family and friends to participate or watch.

The uniform of the day for our Young Marines will be their camouflage uniforms (with white shirts, ribbons, and covers) and camel baks (with water). Please ensure that our Young Marines are hydrated and well rested.

More information about the parade is at this link:

[http://www.cityofdoral.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=114&Itemid=292](http://www.cityofdoral.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=114&Itemid=292)

Mr. Dan Hannah  
786.372.2010  
[miamidan32@yahoo.com](mailto:miamidan32@yahoo.com)

**PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines**  
**Tel. 786-GO-BWCYM**  
**Email: [youngmarinesmd@gmail.com](mailto:youngmarinesmd@gmail.com)**



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Miami, FL33174

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**From:** Eduardo A. Lombard <elombard47@aol.com>  
**To:** mariaangeles119 <mariaangeles119@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Operation Christmas Child Community Service Event \*\*\*PLEASE PRINT\*\*\*\* THANKS  
**Date:** Wed, Dec 3, 2014 9:40 am

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

**From:** PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines <youngmarinesmd@gmail.com>  
**To:** Marine Eduardo <elombard47@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thu, Nov 20, 2014 2:04 pm  
**Subject:** Operation Christmas Child Community Service Event

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines Important Information

[View this email in your browser](#)



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



**From:** PFCBWCYM  
**To:** YMs & YM / Recruit Parents / RALS  
**Subj:** Operation Christmas Child Community Service Event

2

**Good Afternoon,**

**The following is sent on behalf of RAL Zenith Gordillo:**

A reminder that the Operation Christmas Child Community Service Event is Sunday, November 23, 2014 from 1pm - 4pm.

Attire is camoflaugue uniform, light tan shirt, and boots. No cover or camel back is needed.

I will supply snacks and drinks.

The following is the reprint of the information posted on the calendar.

**When:** Sunday, Nov 23, 2014

*see page 2 for details*

Where: Hollywood Christian Church located at 1708 North 60 Ave.  
Hollywood, FL 33021

Description: Young Marines have been invited back to the OperationChristmas Child Collection Center. They will help fill shoe boxes w/ toys, school supplies, etc and load the boxes. The filled shoe boxes will be shipped to orphaned children around the world as part of the Samaritan purse ministry. This community service project will start at 1-4 pm. Four hours will be given for this project.

We look forward to your participation!

For questions or concerns, please contact RAL Zenith Gordillo at [zgordillo@bellsouth.net](mailto:zgordillo@bellsouth.net).

**PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines**

**Tel. 786-GO-BWCM**

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



Facebook



Website

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**Our mailing address is:**

PFC Bruce W Carter Young Marines  
411 SW 99 Street  
Miami, FL33174

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# Miami-Dade Public Library System

The Military Museum  
of South Florida presents

## An Evening with U.S. Southern Command and Its Role in Our Community

### TENTH CONFERENCE

**Panelists:**

Col. Gregory S. Julian, U.S.A.  
Anthony D. Atwood, Ph.D.

**Coordinators:**

Felipe J. Villaraus Gallo  
Joe Martory

**Master of Ceremony:**

Lic. Antonio D. Esquivel

**Tuesday, December 16  
6 - 7:30 p.m.**

West Dade Regional Library  
9445 Coral Way • 305.553.1134

*Exhibit*

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COUNTY**

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