



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

United States Southern Command  
9301 NW 33 Street  
Doral, FL 33172

May 6, 2015  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director  
Clerk of the Board Division

Alan Eisenberg, Commission Reporter  
(305) 375-2510



**CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD**  
**May 6, 2015**

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on May 6, 2015 at 6:02 p.m. at the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), 9301 NW 33 Street, Doral, FL 33172.

The following voting Board members were present: Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman; Mr. Anthony Rionda for Mr. Alex Acosta; Mr. Mario Alvarez; Dr. Anthony Atwood; Ms. Diana Gonzalez; Mr. Kevin Humes; Mr. Charles Johnson; Mr. Sergei Michael Kowalchik; Mr. Eduardo Lombard; Mr. Joseph Martory; and Mr. Keith Whitbeck.

The following voting Board members were absent: Mr. David Blake; Mr. Mark Blumstein; Ms. Rosa Brito; Town of Miami Lakes Councilman Timothy Daubert; Mr. Thomas Davis; Mr. Manuel Gonzalez; Mr. Phil Lyons; and Retired Lieutenant (Lt.) Colonel Jorge Sibila.

The following non-voting Board members were present: Major Brooke Cortez representing General Christian G. Funk and Lt. Colonel Dave Lionberger for Colonel Elwin Rozyskie; Officer Victor Milian, Miami-Dade Police Department Liaison; Ms. Leandra Padron for U.S. Senator Marco Rubio; Commander Jose Pena for Captain Benjamin Davis; Ms. Joanna Sandstrom; and Captain Peter Vach, representing Lt. Commander Valerie A. Boyd, U.S. Military Entrance Processing Station Miami.

The following non-voting Board members were absent: Ms. Glorianne Amor; Colonel Lisa Garcia; Mr. Ed Haynes; Ms. Leandra McCommas; City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz; Mr. Paul Russo; Gunnery Sergeant Jeremiah Scott; Lt. Colonel Son Vo; and Ms. Debbie Zimmerman.

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

In addition to the above, the following guests were present: Mr. Donald "Andy" Bird, U.S. Army Garrison-Miami (USAG) Manager, U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM); Mr. Arturo Cervantes, 4<sup>th</sup> ANGLICO; Mr. Marco Gorrin, President, Cuban American Veterans Association (CAVA); Mr. Manuel Gutierrez; Mr. Paul Kaminsky, Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office; Mr. Arthur McQueen, USAG; Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos Martinez; Mr. Francisco Penela, Past President, CAVA; Mr. Larry Rubino, 4<sup>th</sup> ANGLICO; and Ms. Carmen Vacaino, Veterans Court Liaison, Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

❖ **Welcome**

Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. and welcomed MAB members and guests to tonight's (5/6) meeting. He expressed his appreciation to Colonel Donald "Andy" Bird and the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) for hosting tonight's meeting. Chairman Diaz acknowledged Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos Martinez for attending tonight's meeting and all he does in this community to protect those in need.

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

Mr. Joseph Martory led the MAB in a moment of prayer followed by Mr. Eduardo Lombard in the Pledge of Allegiance.

❖ **Comments or presentations from the public**

Chairman Diaz opened the floor to public comments concerning the military, the MAB, or any other item, pursuant to State legislation and MAB by-laws.

Ms. Lea Padron noted that U.S. Senator Marco Rubio was very interested in the military and related events in this community.

Ms. Carmen Vacaino indicated that she represented the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the largest association of defense lawyers in the State and was recently selected as the Veterans Court Liaison to support its initiatives.

Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos Martinez stated he was fully supportive of the veterans' initiative.

Mr. Marco Gorrin, President, Cuban American Veterans Association (CAVA), reported that American Legion Post No. 346 would be recognizing Memorial Day by placing over 2,200 flags with the assistance of Boy Scout, Cub Scout and veteran volunteers at Woodlawn Cemetery on Sunday, May 24, 2015.

❖ **Board Member Roundtable**

The following introductions and updates were made by MAB members:

Lt. Colonel Dave Lionberger, representing the U.S. Air Force Base (Homestead) announced a partnership with Mission United to be held in June where 20 human resource professionals will gain a better understanding of the employment needs for reservists. He also announced that over 100 participants were taking part in the Red Flag-Alaska exercises.

Major Brooke Cortez, representing the 42<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, U.S. Air Force Base (Homestead).

Ms. Joanna Sandstrom, representing the State Attorney for Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Charles Johnson, representing the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce as their Military Affairs Committee (MAC) Chairman, indicated that the annual Memorial Day observance would be held at Woodlawn Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. on May 25, 2015, noting that Brigadier General Kurt L. Sontag, Commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command South would be the principal speaker. He noted the event would take place at a statue commemorating World War I on the war's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He announced that the Council General's from the United Kingdom and France would also be making presentations in addition to Retired Lt. Colonel Donald Slesnik, Honorary Council General of Australia and Professor Anthony Atwood. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the Chamber's Annual Trustees Luncheon honoring military personnel for being good soldiers and for good work in the community would be held in July, noting the General John Kelly, Commander, SOUTHCOM was the keynote speaker.

Mr. Joseph Martory, representing District 6, commented that a ceremony honoring World War II United States Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and Cuban Navy Veterans would be held on May 16, 2015 and distributed information on this event. He noted a list of State of Florida military license plates was available and asked Mr. Gustavo Cruz to distribute that information to the MAB members.

Mr. Martory expressed concern that it was difficult to conduct official MAB business due to the number of MAB members who regularly participated in its meetings. He questioned the Clerk of the Board about the number of members required for a quorum and whether the membership requirement could be reduced.

Mr. Alan Eisenberg, Deputy Clerk of the Board announced that 11 members were required for a quorum. He pointed out that the County Attorney's Office would need to be consulted on this issue; however, noted that a 50 percent plus one majority vote of members was required to conduct official business, pursuant to the County ordinance establishing this body.

Chairman Diaz acknowledged Mr. Martory for addressing this concern, noting that he would no longer be tolerant over the lack of participation on this board.

Mr. Mario Alvarez, representing County Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

Mr. Kevin Humes, representing District 1, announced a recent visit from investors from Asia interested in a manufacturing facility and hiring veterans. He also noted an initiative by Walmart to hire and subcontract with veterans.

Keith Whitbeck, representing District 3, announced that the Air Force Association was continuing its recruitment drive. He also announced the upcoming annual July 4<sup>th</sup>

celebration at the Port of Miami for up to 1,000 military and family members, noting that financial assistance was needed.

Mr. Anthony Rionda, representing District 12.

Dr. Anthony Atwood, representing District 9 and the South Florida Military Museum and Veterans Memorial (SFMMVM), reported the Battle of the Coral Sea occurred on this day in 1942. He announced that a successful Veterans Stand Down was held last weekend. Dr. Atwood reported that the recent Anzac Day observance at the SFMMVM which was attended by 100 people, including the U.S. Coast Guard Bagpipers, the Counsel Generals of Germany, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the Honorary Council General of Australia. He noted Eagle Scouts recently performed grounds maintenance, clearance of exotic species and setting up the memorial sidewalk and benches at the SFMMVM. Dr. Atwood stated that the SFMMVM took delivery of air conditioning equipment valued at \$112,000.

Mr. Sergei Kowalchik, representing District 7, noted a Memorial Day event to be held on May 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Village Green on Key Biscayne. He spoke about the Naval Academy Alumni Association's upcoming fundraiser which would be an all you can eat fresh Maryland crab fest at the Coconut Grove Sailing Club on May 30, 2015, noting the cost was \$70 per person and reservations were required by May 24<sup>th</sup>. He explained that proceeds of this event would support Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) education at Miami-Dade Public Schools.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard, representing District 11, announced that the Young Marines had a graduation ceremony on March 28, 2015 sponsored by the City of Doral.

Chairman Diaz added that the City of Doral also sponsored the Young Marines inside the City Hall and would be provided a facility.

Mr. Lombard noted a Tribute to Private First Class (PFC) Bruce W. Carter Young Marine program and the Veterans Administration Hospital at 11:30 a.m. on May 7, 2015. He informed MAB members about the Young Marine Retirement Ceremony for Senior Young Marines at 10:00 a.m. on May 30, 2015 at a location to be announced.

Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez reminded MAB members that voting members were required to complete their annual financial disclosures by June 1, 2015. He reported that MAB committee meetings needed to be conducted in-person, and not by telephone.

In the absence of Ms. Rosa Brito, Major Brooke Cortez reported that the South Dade Chamber of Commerce's Military Appreciation event was scheduled for May 30, 2015.

Chairman Diaz requested that MAB members provide Mr. Gustavo Cruz with all community events impacting the military for inclusion on the MAB website. He noted he would request

his District Communications Director to distribute a press release for upcoming Memorial Day events.

❖ **SOUTHCOM Presentation**

Mr. Donald “Andy” Bird, U.S. Army Garrison-Miami (USAG) Manager, U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), presented a SOUTHCOM & USAG-Miami Fact Sheet, noting units supported, services provided, demographics, on-going initiatives and telephone numbers. He proceeded to show a video about SOUTHCOM, its history and programs.

Chairman Diaz inquired about the success of recent initiatives.

Mr. Bird reported a recent 12 percent loss in the Veterans Housing Allowance and efforts were underway to increase the housing allowance, noting quality of life issues relating to the high costs associated with living in South Florida. He noted federal funding was needed to acquire land to accommodate additional military housing. Mr. Bird indicated the Service Member For Life program was being resourced; that the Service Manager position was filled; and that representatives from the Pentagon would visit in a few weeks.

❖ **Old Business**

➤ **Committee Updates**

• **Veterans Court Committee**

Mr. Cruz reported issues relating to the Electronic Arrest Form not providing sufficient tracking data; however, noted this issue was resolved.

Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos Martinez said he wanted to ensure the Veterans Court would begin in September as planned; however, questioned whether this would happen considering the issues with the arrest forms.

Chairman Diaz stated that he believed the arrest form data was now being reported properly.

Ms. Joanna Sandstrom, State Attorney’s Office indicated that Associate Administrative Judge Marisa Tinkler Mendez agreed to lead the Veterans Court initiative. She noted human resource funding issues at the State Attorney’s Office that could delay the program’s start date. Ms. Sandstrom also noted eligibility and disposition criteria needed to be determined; however, this should not impact the start date.

Chairman Diaz said time was of an essence to implement the Veterans Court, noting he would personally contact Miami-Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle. He requested Mr. Anthony Rionda’s assistance to promote this position at Florida

International University's School of Law. Chairman Diaz indicated that the Chief Judge, the Public Defender's Office, the Miami-Dade Police and Corrections Departments were ready to proceed.

Public Defender Martinez further questioned whether the electronic arrest form was cleared for use and if front line officers were aware of the appropriate questions needing to be addressed and completed.

Officer Victor Milian pointed out that those questions were mandatory fields on the arrest forms and that officers could not proceed to finalize the form unless the appropriated date fields were completed. He noted an unknown category was available in order to proceed and the details would be obtained later.

Additional discussion pursued between Committee members about the arrest form. Chairman Diaz said he would verify that the actual form was being used rather than the preliminary beta version. Public Defender Martinez noted he would also verify the arrest form information against data received by his office. Ms. Sandstrom commented that Bond Hearing Judge Mindy Glazer was also inquiring about the arrest form. Chairman Diaz pointed out the importance of this information for the safety of first responders.

Public Defender Martinez inquired about efforts to provide specialized police officer training to recognize Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) behaviors.

Officer Milan reported that he was the lead instructor providing two hours PTSD training to police officers and that another one hour program was provided through the Veterans Administration Hospital. He advised the Public Defender that he also provided this training to his staff.

Chairman Diaz concluded that arrest form issues would be resolved this week. He reported on the importance of the mentoring component to ensure the Veterans Court success. He pointed out that sufficient assets were represented by the MAB and that additional resources existed throughout the community wanting to help the military. Chairman Diaz encouraged federal and education partners to become full MAB participants and engaged in program initiatives such as the Veterans Court.

- **Employment and Housing Committee**

Ms. Diana Gonzalez reported the Committee met and discussed issues relating to the base housing allowance; that the Committee recommended submitting a letter to the Congressional Delegation addressing changes to the base housing allowance which made it difficult for military personnel to secure housing both in terms of cost and at appropriate locations; and that a local delegation meet with the Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C., during the upcoming Association of Defense Communities Conference.

Chairman Diaz noted the letter was reviewed by Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez and distributed the letter to MAB members prior to a vote being taken for its approval. He reported that a complete report of County owned properties was available and requested the Committee to review the list and identify appropriate parcels that could be used for military housing. Chairman Diaz mentioned that State parcels of land that could also be considered were also an option.

Ms. Gonzalez pointed out that the most ideal location for military housing would be somewhere between Homestead and Doral. She noted the possibility that the Department of the Army might participate in these efforts once a property was identified.

Discussion pursued between MAB members about housing requirements and the determination of site locations.

It was moved by Mr. Sergei Kowalchik that \$1,500 be allocated for travel and lodging expenses for a local MAB delegation to meet with the Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C. This motion was seconded by Mr. Eduardo Lombard, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0.

Following the vote, Assistant County Attorney Gonzalez pointed out that estimates from three hotels would be needed.

Ms. Gonzalez pointed out that she was aware that coach airfare was required; that attendees would receive standard per diem expense reimbursement; and noted the importance of securing rooms at the conference hotel at the group rate.

It was subsequently moved by Mr. Mario Alvarez that a letter addressing changes to the base housing allowance be submitted to the Congressional Delegation as presented. This motion was seconded by Mr. Joseph Martory, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0.

- **Fundraising and Special Events**

Mr. Cruz revealed that the MAB was working in conjunction with the City of Miami Beach for the upcoming Veterans Day Parade to be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, beginning at 12:30 p.m. He noted he was obtaining a report from local military units of assets that would be available for this event and would report this information at next month's meeting. Mr. Cruz reported that the parade would begin on 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Avenue and travel south to 11<sup>th</sup> Street and would conclude with a ceremony at Flamingo Park.

Chairman Diaz pointed out that Miami Beach approached the MAB and requested its participation.

➤ **Tribute to the Military 5K**

Chairman Diaz commented on the importance of this event; however, noted that it was not as well attended as last year. He pointed out that the MAB should try to obtain additional sponsors since it was truly a military supporting the military event and that he would try to support the event through his District office.

Mr. Cruz noted that the County provided in-kind services through the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department.

➤ **Philanthrofest 2015**

Mr. Cruz indicated that the MAB was represented at this event along with the 50<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group from the Florida National Guard.

➤ **Spring Festival 2015**

Mr. Cruz noted the MAB was also represented at this event. He expressed his appreciation to the U.S. Coast Guard and the Florida National Guard's 50<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group for their participation.

➤ **Homeless Stand Down 2015**

Mr. Cruz reported that 255 registered veterans attended and that 241 cases were heard by the Veterans Court.

Ms. Sandstrom added that there were 45 veterans served out of the 241 cases. She noted that 11 veterans met the criteria to seal and expunge case records; that 5 veterans received child support services; and that 3 veterans had drivers licenses reinstated due to child support issues.

Chairman Diaz stated that hopefully the Veterans Stand Down to address housing needs would not be necessary in the future. He reported that the Homeless Trust was mandated by the federal government to place the majority of all veterans in housing by the end of 2015 and that the severe chronic cases received a one year extension. Chairman Diaz pointed out that there will always be the need for a Stand Down to help veterans with other issues besides homelessness, noting that the event could perhaps be held quarterly.

❖ **New Business**

➤ **Fleet Week 2015**

Mr. Cruz reported that Fleet Week was underway at Port Everglades and that he would be representing the MAB at an event on the USS Wasp flight deck this Friday. He noted that Fleet Week admission was free; however, admission required advance registration.

Chairman Diaz announced that he would be attending an event sponsored by General John Kelly and encouraged MAB members to participate in military related events.

➤ **Aviation Workshop for Vets on May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. Cruz advised of a free aviation related industry employment event for veterans hosted by Miami International Airport from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

➤ **Miami Marlins Complimentary Tickets**

Mr. Cruz distributed a flier announcing free tickets for service members and first responders wanting to attend Miami Marlins Baseball games.

➤ **Honor Ceremony for WWII Vets on May 16<sup>th</sup>**

Not presented.

➤ **Memorial Day Services 2015**

Refer to events announced during the Board Member Roundtable portion of the meeting.

➤ **Honor Flight from MIA on May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. Cruz announced the upcoming Honor Flight leaving Miami International Airport on Saturday, May 30, 2015 for World War II veterans who were being flown to Washington, D.C. to visit the Veterans Memorial. He noted the flight left Miami at 6:30 a.m. on the first flight of the newly reestablished Eastern Airlines and returning at 7:45 p.m. the same day.

Chairman Diaz reported that veterans were teamed with a buddy from the Miami-Dade Fire Department. He requested that MAB members attend the welcome home ceremony.

Mr. Kowalchik suggested that a copy of the commemorative cd of the event be obtained.

➤ **MAB Delegation Visit to Washington D.C.**

See report under Old Business, Committee Reports, Employment and Housing Committee.

➤ **World War I Display at SPCC**

Mr. Cruz announced that he would be working with Professor Atwood on a World War I 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary display to be placed in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center lobby during the month of June.

Chairman Diaz commended Dr. Atwood for last year's military display.

➤ **Cuban American Veteran Association Presentation**

Mr. Marco Gorrin, President, Cuban American Veterans Association (CAVA) introduced the CAVA Legacy Project to recognize the Cuban-American Veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces. He noted that fundraising was needed to construct a monument to be placed at the South Florida Military Museum and Veterans Memorial.

Professor Anthony Atwood pointed out that the Cuban support for the United States predated the American Civil War and that 1,000 Cuban troops fought against the British during the American Revolution.

Chairman Diaz said he would put Mr. Gorrin in contact with owners of granite, tile, and marble companies in the Doral area to inquire about possible stone donations which would reduce the project costs.

In response to Mr. Joseph Martory's question about the project cost, Mr. Gorrin reported that the cost was approximately \$50,000 and that \$12,000 was already raised.

➤ **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Ms. Diana Gonzalez that the minutes from the February 4, 2015 Military Affairs Board meeting be approved. This motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Johnson, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a vote of 11-0.

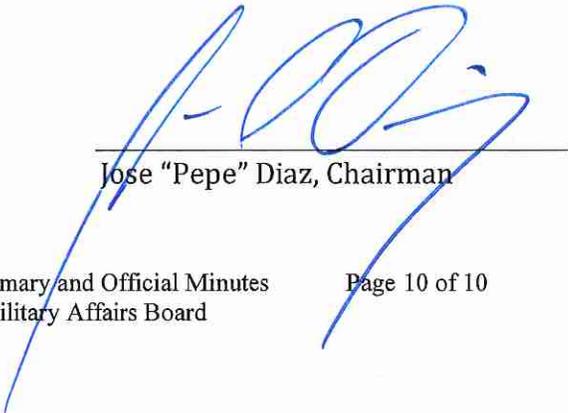
❖ **Next Meeting Date is Scheduled for June 3, 2015 at the Miami VA**

Mr. Cruz noted the June 3, 2015 meeting would be held at the Miami VA at 6:00 p.m.

❖ **Discussion Items for the Next Agenda**

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Sergei Kowalchik that the Military Affairs Board meeting be adjourned at 7:52 p.m. This motion was seconded by Mr. Eduardo Lombard.

  
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Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



# Military Affairs Board

May 5, 2015

Prepared by: Alan Eisenberg

## EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	5/05/15		Meeting Agenda
2	5/05/15		USSOUTHCOM & USAG-Miami Fact Sheet
3	5/05/15		Draft Letter to the Congressional Delegation addressing changes to the base housing allowance
4	5/05/15		South Florida Stand Down Report
5	5/05/15		Marlins Heroes Mondays
6	5/05/15		Ceremony to Honor WWII USCG, U.S. Navy and Cuban Navy Veterans
7	5/05/15		Memorial Day Service
8	5/05/15		C.A.V.A Legacy Project
9	5/05/15		Guest Sign In Sheet
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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR  
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD  
MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, May 6th, 2015  
6:00 PM

UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND  
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON  
9301 N.W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Doral, FL 33172  
AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ Comments or presentations from the public
- ❖ Board Member Roundtable
- ❖ SOUTHCOM presentation
- ❖ Old Business
  - Committee Updates
  - Tribute to the Military 5K ( Comm. Diaz)
  - Philanthrofest 2015 ( G. Cruz)
  - Spring festival 2015 (Comm. Diaz)
  - Homeless Stand Down 2015 (G. Cruz)

❖ **New Business**

- **Fleet Week 2015 (G. Cruz)**
- **Aviation Workshop for Vets on May 7<sup>th</sup> (G. Cruz)**
- **Miami Marlins complimentary tickets (G. Cruz)**
- **Honor ceremony for WWII vets on May 16<sup>th</sup> (G. Cruz)**
- **Memorial Day Services 2015 (Comm. Diaz)**
- **Honor Flight from MIA on May 30<sup>th</sup> (Comm. Diaz)**
- **MAB delegation visit to Washington D.C. (G. Cruz)**
- **World War I display at SPCC (G. Cruz)**

❖ **Next meeting date is scheduled for June 3rd, 2015 at the Miami VA.**

❖ **Discussion items for the next agenda**

❖ **Adjournment**



# USSOUTHCOM & USAG-Miami Fact Sheet



## Services Provided by the Installation

- ❖ Human Resources (DHR)
- ❖ Family and Moral, Welfare and Recreation (FMWR)
- ❖ Operations, Plans Training and Security (DPTS)
- ❖ Emergency Services (DES)
- ❖ Public Works (DPW)
- ❖ Legal Services (ILO)
- ❖ Public Affairs (PAO)
- ❖ Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)
- ❖ Internal Review (IR)
- ❖ Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)



## Units We Support



U.S. Southern Command



Marine Forces South



Special Operations  
Command South



Army Health Clinic  
MEDCOM



525<sup>th</sup> Signal  
Company



678<sup>th</sup> AQ  
Support  
Detachment  
410<sup>th</sup> CSB



Logistics  
Readiness  
Center Miami



Defense  
Intelligence  
Agency

654KSF on 55 Acres of land in the City of Doral



## Land & Facilities We Support

HQ USSOC SOUTH, Homestead & Homestead ARB, FL



89 Acres



~220 Acres

## ON-GOING INITIATIVES :

- SOUTHCOM Long Term Military Housing
- Shape Success on Basic Allowance Housing
- Facilitate Adjustments to Cost of Living Allowance, Travel Lodging Expense and Deposit Waivers
- Implement Service Member for Life Program
- Redesign Child Development Center Parking & Traffic Flow - Safety Enhancement (PH 1 -NLT 30 JUN & PH-2 End of FY 15)
- Finalize all USAG Interagency Governmental/Support Agreements and Memorandum of Agreements/Understanding
- Finalize Operational Readiness for Severe/Destructive Weather OPLAN ICW SOUTHCOM HQ (NLT 1 JUN 15)
- Conduct Active Shooter Full Scale Exercise (18-19 JUN 15)

## Demographics

### Population Within 40mi

SOUTHCOM: 2185 + Family Members  
 Other Active: 1952 + 9083 Family Members  
 Reserve Components: 2178 + 3714 Family Members  
 Retirees: 9082 + 20812 Family Members  
 Total Population: 49078

### Miami-Dade & Broward County School Districts

2 of the Largest school districts in the nation  
 381 Children in 145 schools in Miami-Dade  
 497 Children in 113 schools in Broward

### Survivor Outreach Services

Army.....667  
 National Guard...98  
 Marines.....67  
 Army Reserve.....55  
 Navy.....50  
 Air Force.....19  
 Total.....956

### City of Doral

USSOUTHCOM/USAG  
 654KSF/55 Acres  
 Homestead ARB  
 SOCSOUTH  
 238KSF/89 Acres

### USAG-Miami Manpower

GM - 8  
 DES - 47  
 DHR - 16  
 DPTS - 5  
 DPW - 8  
 EEO - 1  
 FMWR - 47  
 ILO - 1  
 IR - 1  
 OHS - 1  
 PAO - 1  
**Total: 136**



# USSOUTHCOM & USAG-Miami Fact Sheet



## USAG-Miami Telephone Numbers

**Garrison Manager - 305-437-3560 or 1700**

**Deputy Garrison Manager - 305-437-2631**

**Executive Officer - 305-437-3560**

**Director of Human Resources - 305-437-2732**

**Director of Family and Moral, Welfare and Recreation - 305-437-2720**

**Director of Operations, Plans Training and Security - 305-437-3152/3151**

**Director of Emergency Services - 305-437-2175/2190/2347**

**Director of Public Works - 305 - 437-1363**

**Legal Services - 305 - 437- 1952**

**Public Affairs - 305-437-2685**

**Equal Employment Opportunity - 305 - 437-1826**

**Internal Review - 305-437- 2682**

**Occupational Health and Safety - 305-437-1143**

**Fitness Center - 305-437-0123**

**ID/DEERS - 305-437- 2718**

April 27, 2015

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

As Military Liaison for the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and Chair of the County's Military Affairs Board, I'd like to take this opportunity to address recent changes in the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for military personnel in our community.

As you may be aware, effective January of this year, military personnel in Miami-Dade County who occupy the ranks of E-7 (Sergeant First Class), O-3 (Captain), and O-5 (Lt. Colonel), are experiencing BAH reductions in the range of 5 to 12.5%. These reductions are creating a burden for affected military personnel as they come at a time when housing costs are rising in Miami-Dade and the availability of affordably-priced housing, including rental units, is limited, especially in the vicinity of our largest installations, United States Southern Command, Special Operations Command South and Homestead Air Reserve Base. We have also heard from our Coast Guard personnel who have been impacted by a reduction in BAH.

Our community is working to assist our military community by working with local realtors to locate affordably priced housing and with Homeowners Associations to expedite approval of military personnel seeking condominiums for rent. However, these efforts alone may not be sufficient.

The Housing Committee of our Military Affairs Board has been charged to address this issue in partnership with our installations. Collectively, we are currently exploring the feasibility of developing, through a public/private partnership, housing dedicated to military personnel. As we proceed through the review, it may be necessary to seek your input and support as we present our plans to the Department of Defense.

Miami-Dade County's military industry is extremely important to me personally and to the economic viability of our County. I thank you for your ongoing support for this critical industry and for the opportunity to present this issue to you.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz

## **Cruz, Gustavo (Advocacy)**

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**From:** Colmenares, Antonio <AColmenares@miamigov.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 04, 2015 11:12 PM  
**To:** acolmena@mdc.edu  
**Subject:** PRELIMINARY NUMBERS FOR SOFLO STAND DOWN  
**Attachments:** IMG\_2307.JPG; IMG\_2527.JPG; IMG\_0963.JPG

Colleagues here are some preliminary numbers. We should have the final numbers by May 22nd at the recognition luncheon. Also I've attached some pictures. Will share more at the luncheon.

Thank you all for the quick response.

Number of veterans registered for the Stand Down: **255**

- Females: **13**
- Family Members: **26**
- Service Dog: **1**

Number of veterans that received housing: **All 255 Veterans that attended were offered and received some form of lodging. Still tabulating the numbers by programs. No veteran was returned to the streets.**

- SSVF
- HUD Vash
- Other

Number of Veterans that attended the Veterans Court: **45**

- Total Cases by type heard: **241**
  - Traffic/Parking Infractions: **153**
  - Misdemeanor: **62**
  - Felony: **26**
- Fines, fees, court costs waived: **\$32,540.00**

Number of Veterans receiving Expungement Services: **31 applications received, 11 met the criteria and were processed. FVF will pay \$875.00 to get them processed in Tallahassee**

Number of Veterans that received Child Support Services: **5 received legal services, 3 had their licenses reinstated that day by the DMV**

Number of Veterans that received Medical Services: **Still tabulating numbers**

Number of Veterans that received Dental Services: **Still tabulating numbers**

Number of Veterans that received Eye Care: **42**

Number of Volunteers: **773 volunteers**

R//Tony

LtCol Tony Colmenares USMC (Ret)  
Director, Veterans Services  
Mayor's Office  
City of Miami  
Ph: (305) 984-7849  
Email: [acolmenares@miamigov.com](mailto:acolmenares@miamigov.com)

# MARLINS SOUTH FLORIDA HEROES MONDAYS

**OUTBACK**  
STEAKHOUSE®

## Complimentary tickets for our South Florida Heroes!

**FREE tickets** (in Bullpen Reserved or Home Run Porch based upon availability) for all active and retired military servicemen, servicewomen and personnel, veterans, police, firefighters, EMTs and all first responders, as well as their spouses and children on select Monday games in 2015.

- Valid identification must be shown at the Marlins Park East Ticket Office (on Orange Bowl Way) at the designated window on the day of game only, beginning two hours prior to scheduled first pitch.
- Join us as we celebrate our South Florida Heroes throughout the season with pregame ceremonies, Color Guards, live messages on Marlins Vision from soldiers stationed overseas, and much more!

South Florida Heroes dates this season at Marlins Park:



vs.



**APRIL 27 • 7:10PM**



May 18 • 7:10PM



August 3 • 7:10PM



June 1 • 7:10PM



August 24 • 7:10PM



September 7 • 1:10PM

Excludes June 15 game vs. Yankees

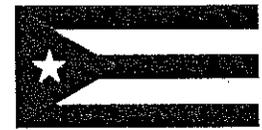
1.877.MARLINS



marlins.com



# Ceremony to Honor Our WWII USCG, U.S. Navy and Cuban Navy Veterans



May 16, 2015 at 12:00 Noon.

## INVITATION

The Association for Research and Dissemination of the Naval History of Cuba would like to invite you to the Commemoration Event Honoring U.S. Naval and Cuban Veterans of the Anti-Submarine Struggle in South Florida and Caribbean Waters during World War II.

This event will take place in Miami, Florida on May 16, 2015, date of the 72nd anniversary of confrontation in Cuban waters between the submarine hunter CS-13, commanded by Lieutenant Mario Ramirez Delgado, and the U-176, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Reiner Dierksen, which resulted in the sinking of the U-176.

This event will honor WWII Naval Veterans who served in the Cuban Navy, as well as the American Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. It is a fitting tribute for a number of reasons. The CS-13 began its life as a US Coast Guard cutter, and was provided to the allied Cuban Navy here in Miami. The event will fall on the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the U-176, a unique moment in Cuban naval history. Finally, the waters of Biscayne Bay were the training grounds of the sub-chasers in the region, including the crew of the CS-13, as the **Submarine Chaser Training Center** was here in Miami during the War.

The Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 16 at 12:00 Noon at the Manuel Artime Community Center and Theater, 900 S.W. First Street, Miami, Florida, in conjunction with the City of Miami. The City of Miami is especially significant due to its great number of US Coast Guard Bases and Installations during the war. Also participating will be the U.S. Coast Guard, the Cuban American Veteran Association (CAVA), and the Military Museum of South Florida.

Diplomas of Recognition will be delivered to Cuban veterans and relatives of deceased veterans, and to organizations and individuals who have excelled in the study, research and diffusion of the Cuban Naval History.

RSVP by May 10, 2015. Please RSVP on-line at: [info@historianaval.org](mailto:info@historianaval.org).

For additional information visit <http://www.historianaval.org/Foro/forohistorianaval.htm>

Valet Parking available

We would like to extend our gratitude to the following organizations for their support of this endeavor: **Tomás Regalado, Mayor, City of Miami, City of Miami Board of Commissioners, United States Coast Guard (USCG), Cuban American Veterans Association (CAVA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10212, American Legion Post 346, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 620, The Global Offshore Sailing Team, Military Museum of South Florida, The International Maritime Museum Hamburg, The Naval Museum of Madrid, DGSM (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Schiffahrts- und Marinegeschichte - German Association of Maritime & Naval History - Twitter: @DGSMBayern), The Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club, England, the Italian Navy (Marina Militare), and Revista Universo Marino.**

# REMEMBERING OUR HEROES



## Join Our Military and Veterans at a Special Memorial Day Service

The Chamber's Military Affairs Committee honors Veterans with a Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony. Those wishing to honor our fallen heroes are invited to a Wreath Laying Ceremony featuring presentations by the singing Miamians, a parade of color guards, and special remarks by **BG General Kurt L. Sontag**, US Army, Commanding General, Special Operations Command South.

Those participating include Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10212 Commander **Oswaldo (Ozzy) Perez**, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 620 President **Luis E. Lalama**, The Cuban American Veterans Association President **Marco Gorrin**, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10212 Auxiliary President **Miriam C. Mollada**, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 346 President **Ima R. Montes**, American Legion Post 346 Commander **Jorge L. Montes**, and Chaplain **FR. Luis Fernandez**, Major USAF (Ret.)

Light refreshments, courtesy of Woodlawn Park Cemetery, will be served following the ceremony.

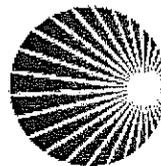
Monday  
May  
**25**

11:00 a.m. Program

**Woodlawn Park Cemetery**  
3260 SW 8th Street  
Coral Gables, FL 33135

*Complimentary Event*

For information contact:  
**Danielle Bourgi**  
305-577-5464  
dbourgi@miamichamber.com



greater  
miami  
chamber  
of commerce.

72-hour cancellation notice required

For more information contact: **Danielle Bourgi**  
305-577-5464 | [dbourgi@miamichamber.com](mailto:dbourgi@miamichamber.com)



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**C.A.V.A. LEGACY PROJECT**

Dear Friends,

We are hereby pleased to announce a new project to be dedicated to the recognition of the Cuban-American veterans who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The project consists of the construction of a monument which will show the official logos of each branch of the armed forces (Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard). Herein, we include information about the project, so that you can appreciate the magnitude of the same.

The monument will be placed on the grounds of "The South Florida Military Museum and Veterans Memorial" adjacent to the Miami Metro Zoo and the "Rail Road Museum".

We thus give faith and testimony of those who participated in the various wars and military campaigns that are part of the North American history. The participation of Cuban-Americans dates back to the war of independence in North America where approximately a 1,000 Cuban troops, then as a Spanish colony, were assigned by the Spanish Government to fight against British troops in the southern part of the country known as "Florida Pan Handle" and New Orleans. Since then, the participation of Cuban-Americans includes the following: The Civil War; World War I; World War II; Korea; Viet Nam; The Cold War; Grenada; Beirut; Panama; Gulf War; Iraq and Afghanistan.

To make this project a reality, we need the economic support of all members, as well as friends, family, and business owners. That is why we ask you humbly for your donation no matter how small, so history collects this recognition of those who defended freedom and just causes of this great nation in many cases without being American citizens.

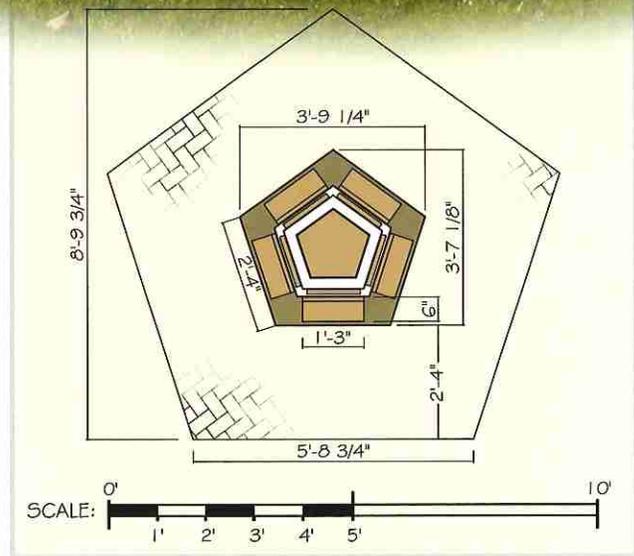
Please write your check payable to C.A.V.A. and send it to the address below:  
P.O. Box 140305 Coral Gables, FL 33114 - 0305

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Thank you and God bless you.

President

# VETERAN'S FEATURE

## LAKEWORTH, FLORIDA



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PROJECT:	VETERAN'S FEATURE
LOCATION:	LAKEWORTH MONUMENT LAKEWORTH, FLORIDA
DESIGN:	0367
SCALE:	SEE PLAN



**COLDSPRING™**

DESIGNED BY:	BECKY HOWE	DATE:	10-18-13
17482 GRANITE WEST ROAD, COLD SPRING, MN 56320			
PHONE: (800) 328-5040 / FAX: (320) 685-5008			
WWW.COLDSPRINGUSA.COM			

GUEST SIGN-IN

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