



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

Doral City Hall
8401 NW 53 Terrace
Doral, FL 33122

January 26, 2016
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

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Clerk of the Board Division

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CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MILITARY AFFAIRS BOARD
January 26, 2016

The Military Affairs Board (MAB) convened in a meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Doral City Hall, 8401 NW 53 Terrace, Doral, FL 33122.

The following voting Board members were present: Chairman Jose 'Pepe' Diaz; Dr. Anthony Atwood; Mr. David Blake; Mr. Mark Blumstein; Town of Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert; Mr. Eduardo Lombard; and Mr. Phil Lyons; Retired Lieutenant (Lt.) Colonel Jorge Sibila and Mr. Keith Whitbeck.

The following voting Board members were absent: Mr. Alex Acosta; Mr. Mario Alvarez; Mr. Thomas Davis; Mr. Manuel Gonzalez; Mr. Kevin Humes; Mr. Charles Johnson; Mr. Sergei Michael Kowalchik; Mr. Joseph Martory; and Ms. Donna Masson.

The following non-voting Board members were present: Ms. Glorianne Amor; Officer Victor Milian; and City of Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz.

The following non-voting Board members were absent: Captain Benjamin Davis; Colonel Lisa Garcia; Mr. Ed Haynes; Ms. Leandra McCommas; Ms. Leandra Padron; Colonel Elwin Rozyskie; Mr. Paul Russo; Ms. Joanna Sandstrom; Gunnery Sergeant Jeremiah Scott; Captain Peter Vach; Lt. Colonel Son Vo; and Ms. Debbie Zimmerman.

The following staff members were present: Mr. Gustavo Cruz, MAB Director; Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez; Mr. Bayardo Medrano, Commission Auditor's Office; and Deputy Clerk Alan Eisenberg.

In addition to the above, the following guests were present: Mr. Peter Deguno (phonetic); Mr. Alex Dominguez; Ms. Adrian Guglielmo and Ms. Marcia Fernandez-Morin, Support Task Force; and Mr. Adam Temple, City of Doral.

Welcome

Chairman Diaz called the MAB meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., welcoming members and guests. He expressed his appreciation to City of Doral (Doral) Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz and the City of Doral for hosting tonight's (1/26) MAB meeting.

Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz welcomed the MAB to the City Hall.

Chairman Diaz introduced Doral Mayor Luigi Boria, noting he was a friend of the military, noting the U.S. Southern Command was located within Doral's boundaries.

Mayor Boria acknowledged Chairman Diaz for his accomplishments on behalf of Doral and the MAB members for their efforts supporting our military.

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

Town of Miami Lakes (Miami Lakes) Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert led the MAB in a Moment of Prayer, followed by Dr. Anthony Atwood in the Pledge of Allegiance.

❖ **Board Member Roundtable**

Mr. Mark Blumstein, representing District 4, reported that he was happy to be back home after being deployed in Djibouti, Africa.

Miami Lakes Vice Mayor Timothy Daubert, representing District 13, announced the Jazz on the Green concert would be held at Park West on Saturday, January 30, 2016, at 7:00 pm. He revealed that he was recently nominated as Vice Chair of the South Florida Regional Planning Council.

Doral Vice Mayor Sandra Ruiz introduced Mr. Adam Temple, Doral's Director of Code Compliance, noting he was a veteran and their Military Affairs Advisory Board liaison.

Mr. Keith Whitbeck, representing District 3 and the Air Force Association, mentioned that support was needed for a monthly bingo/meal event for 104 veterans living in the convalescent home.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard, representing District 11, reported that military dinners continued to be held on the third Wednesday of each month at the West Baptist Hospital. He presented the monthly PFC. Bruce W. Carter Young Marines report to Mr. Cruz after pointing out that two young marines exceeded expectations set forth in the PFC performance scores.

❖ **Comments and/or input from the public**

Chairman Diaz opened the floor to public comments. There being no one wishing to address the Board, Chairman Diaz closed the floor to public comments.

❖ **Old Business**

➤ **Veteran Concert Update**

Mr. Whitbeck acknowledged Ms. Marcia Fernandez-Morin, Special Events and Conference Manager, Miami International Airport (MIA) for being a wonderful advocate for military personnel and their families at the airport.

Chairman Diaz expressed his appreciation to Ms. Fernandez-Morin, for her support of military issues.

Chairman Diaz mentioned that Ms. Adrian Guglielmo organized the New York City Veterans Parade; that she was involved in military fundraising efforts; and that she followed through on her promises.

Chairman Diaz stated that the upcoming military concert was initiated by Ms. Fernandez-Morin and Ms. Guglielmo.

Chairman Diaz indicated that the Veteran Concert would be held on September 25, 2016 at the American Airlines Arena (AAA); that it would be of national significance; and that it was for our veterans and existing military. He announced that its emphasis would be to support the Hispanic military; inasmuch as they represented the majority population serving in today's military.

Ms. Guglielmo described her experience in organizing national veterans programs and in securing corporate sponsorships. She described a recent meeting with Mr. Richard Piepler, Home Box Office's Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Michael Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where it was revealed that our Hispanic American veterans were never celebrated. Ms. Guglielmo said that Hispanic Americans were at the forefront of the military.

Ms. Guglielmo introduced the plans for the Veterans Concert, noting it would be a daylong community event at the City of Miami's Museum Park, held in cooperation with the U.S. Southern Command with all military units actively participating. She said there would be entertainment, healthcare information, and educational activities. The event would end with a fireworks display, noted Ms. Guglielmo. Additionally, she noted Mr. Emilio Estefan would produce a star-studded event that would be nationally televised, covering the history of Hispanic American veterans. Ms. Guglielmo said it would include short stories about Hispanic American veterans from World War II through today. She noted tickets would be sold to the concert and there would be major corporate sponsorship involvement attracting national interest in the event.

Ms. Guglielmo indicated that it would be an event of Super Bowl magnitude, one greater than Live Aid; filmed in Spanish and English and televised nationally. She expressed the need for everyone's help, noting a PowerPoint presentation would be distributed to MAB members for comments and feedback. Ms. Guglielmo said that she and Chairman Diaz would coordinate the program. She noted sponsors already engaged public relations, media and marketing professionals. Ms. Guglielmo stated that the White House and the upper military would both be involved.

Chairman Diaz said this would be the biggest signature event produced on behalf of the military and we would own it. He noted the MAB was the entity responsible to bring all military issues

together in this community and would lead this effort. Chairman Diaz stated that Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez was taking the necessary legal steps to make this event happen because it involved government, the private sector, agencies and municipalities together under one umbrella. He said that although all details will go through Ms. Guglielmo and him, the financial issues would come thru the MAB and would be subject to audit.

Chairman Diaz indicated that others would come forward and try to control the event, but we will not let this happen. He reiterated that this event would be at the national, global level, depending on the selected network. Chairman Diaz said Miami-Dade County was the hottest place to be today and everyone wanted to be here. He pointed out that the event would not be exclusive; involving all 34 cities along with their military boards, as well as federal representatives.

Chairman Diaz noted the rich military history of Miami-Dade County would be highlighted and asked Dr. Anthony Atwood for his assistance. He pointed out that the military was one of the County's leading economic generators. Chairman Diaz said that a MAB and County resolution would be needed for this event. He indicated that Mr. Emilio Estefan would be producing the show and that a nationally recognized local marketing firm was leading those efforts.

Ms. Guglielmo pointed out that it was anticipated that \$20 to \$60 million would be collected, noting this money was being collected for charity. She said that there would be four national charities and four local charities selected.

Chairman Diaz stated that veteran organizations dealing with the military would be vetted as part of the process.

Dr. Atwood explained that the Hispanic military experience went far beyond World War II providing a brief historical overview.

Ms. Guglielmo commented that Verizon offered to provide stories about Hispanic American veteran's to their customers, noting that the MAB would have the opportunity to vote on those stories before they were filmed.

Mr. Gustavo Cruz noted he would distribute an email to MAB members for them to recommend local and national charities.

Chairman Diaz stated that all MAB members were part of this program and encouraged their involvement. He mentioned that Mr. Tony Orlando gave over \$40 million quietly to the military and would be involved. Chairman Diaz noted performers including Santana, Marc Anthony, Shakira, Pitbull and more would be part of this concert celebration.

Ms. Guglielmo mentioned that Mr. Estefan secured the Miami Philharmonic Symphony; a 32 piece orchestra for the event.

Chairman Diaz pointed out the AAA was secured because of its proximity to the adjacent park. He stressed the need for all municipalities to become involved, noting resolutions would be prepared for this purpose. Chairman Diaz said that a fundraising event would be held at the Freedom Tower to promote national, regional, state and local sponsorships. The magnitude as to the scope of the show would largely be dependent upon the network buying its rights, said Chairman Diaz. He noted this was an opportunity to generate money to do things in this community for our veterans. Chairman Diaz said that he would probably call a Special MAB meeting next week to consider the resolution. He noted Mayor Gimenez already expressed his commitment on behalf of Miami-Dade County.

➤ **Veteran's Court Update**

Officer Victor Milian reported that he met with Administrative Judge Nushin Sayfie. He explained that a grant application was submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Veteran Affairs, for Veteran's Court start-up funding. Officer Milian noted that although the application was originally ranked number two, it was subsequently awarded because the winning jurisdiction was unable to complete program requirements. He said that an operational committee was being formed to obtain the commitment of all stakeholders, with Associate Administrative Judge Marisa Tinkler Mendez as the lead judge.

Officer Milian pointed out that a mandatory training was scheduled at the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building (Courthouse) from February 29 - March 2, 2016, noting it was open to anyone in the community interested in attending. He noted efforts to develop plans to implement the Veteran's Court would begin after this training session. Officer Milian explained that the participation of MAB members and other interested individual was an important component of the program. He said that the training would provide an overview of successful Veteran's Court programs and lessons learned, in order to capitalize on their successes and minimize on their failures.

Officer Milian discussed updates to the County's Arrest Forms (A-Form) to identify veterans as well as efforts to transfer arrest data daily between the Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He indicated that Mr. Paul Russo, Director of the Miami VA Healthcare System, was supportive, provided that the systems could support each other.

In response to Chairman Diaz' request for clarification, Officer Milian confirmed that everything was on-track and that the Veteran's Court would move forward after the completion of the scheduled training.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Gustavo Cruz to schedule a meeting with Judges Mendez and Sayfie in order to clarify the MAB's role in establishing the Veteran's Court and disappointment over being excluded from a recent email notification.

Chairman Diaz expressed support for the sharing of information between agencies. He suggested informing the County's 26,000 employees about the mentoring program for possible participation. Chairman Diaz noted he believed that veterans should provide the mentoring.

Officer Milian said that program participants would undergo a thorough vetting process with fingerprints and a background check.

Retired Lieutenant (Lt.) Colonel Jorge Sibila commented on the plight of homeless veterans in our community, noting they were often fearful of addressing problems because of the stigma associated with them. He said that the MAB was extremely passionate about the Veterans Court in an effort to help veterans, noting his frustration that it was taking so long to come to fruition. Lt. Colonel Sibila stressed his desire to move beyond the political obstacles and make the Veterans Court a reality.

Mr. Eduardo Lombard concurred with Lt. Colonel Sibila's comments based upon his experience as a social service professional.

Chairman Diaz indicated that the Veteran's Court was largely dependent upon the State Attorney, the Public Defender and the Court Systems and not controlled by County government. He said that despite the delays, we now had a paperless A-Form with veteran information, full County support, and a court system with the support of two judges. Chairman Diaz stressed the need for the mentoring program. He said the MAB should be very proud over their accomplishments.

Addressing the homeless concerns identified, Chairman Diaz reported that Mr. Ronald Book, Chairman, Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust, and the City of Miami have been diligently addressing the homeless issues; however, there were still approximately 39 veterans currently without a home. He noted the homeless problem was complicated because individuals were continually being bussed into our community from other locations. Chairman Diaz said that the December 2015 deadline to end veteran homelessness was extended because of chronic situations. He noted the problem also turned into a political situation between several entities.

Mr. Lombard suggested that Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe County's worked together to address the homelessness issue.

Chairman Diaz advised Mr. Lombard to bring this suggestion to the attention of Ms. Victoria Mallette, Homeless Trust Executive Director.

Mr. Cruz explained that there was shortage of available housing. He further explained that veterans received housing vouchers in the amount of \$978 from the Homeless Trust; however, local rental rates exceeded the amount of those vouchers and landlords did not want to rent for less.

Mr. Mark Blumstein reported that while being deployed in Djibouti, Africa, he found that modified shipping containers were used for living quarters. He suggested a containerized village be considered to house homeless veterans and others, noting he understood the conversion cost was approximately \$2,000.

Chairman Diaz stated that this was a good suggestion because it would take people off the streets immediately. Chairman Diaz pointed out issues remained with the chronic homeless that did not want to be told where to go, how to go, or when to go; noting they became very violent. He added that it was not against the law to be homeless.

Councilman Daubert and Lt. Colonel Sibila asked to be notified of the meeting with Judges Mendez and Sayfie as they wanted to attend.

Chairman Diaz responded that he would convene a Sunshine meeting to accommodate the request to take part in the meeting.

➤ **Veteran's Housing Update**

Mr. Cruz advised that assistance was needed to ensure that the Job Corp Housing property in Homestead reverted back to the County from the U.S. Department of Labor to help address local housing needs. He said there were approximately 100 housing units and time was of the essence before the property deteriorated. Mr. Cruz pointed out that assistance would be appreciated from Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart and Senator Marco Rubio.

Ms. Glorianne Amor indicated that she would bring this matter to Congressman Diaz-Balart's attention.

Chairman Diaz asked Assistant County Attorney Miguel Gonzalez to prepare an appropriate resolution on this issue.

Chairman Diaz reported a potential developer was looking to build adequate, affordable townhouse housing in the Kendall/mid-Miami-Dade County area for command level military. He noted they were currently reviewing Federal General Service Administration (GSA) land options and certain County owned property was also under consideration.

Mr. Phil Lyons reported that his business partner was last year's president for Habitat for Humanity, noting that organization was not successful in identifying veterans to qualify for housing opportunities.

Chairman Diaz responded that information on the Habitat for Humanity's program needed to be distributed to all local entities serving veterans.

➤ **3 Kings Parade**

Mr. Cruz reported the 3 Kings Parade was the largest ever with over 25,000 people attending. He mentioned participation by the Marine Corps Reserve and the 50th Army National Guard at the parade.

Officer Milian advised that there would be less local support next year from the National Guard because the First Battalion was preparing to deploy to Djibouti, Africa, in March 2016 and would return in April 2017. He said the 50th Army National Guard was projected to move further north out of Homestead.

➤ **SOUTHCOM Change of Command**

Mr. Cruz reported that Admiral Kurt Tidd was the new Commander of the U.S. Southern Command. He noted that Admiral Tidd's strength was in diplomacy and he was assigned this post to address Latin American issues. Mr. Cruz commented that he believed Admiral Tidd would be very involved in the local community.

➤ **Knights of Columbus Chili Cook-Off benefiting Wounded Warrior Project**

Mr. Cruz mentioned the success of this event, noting plans to make it an annual event. He said that the Wounded Warrior Project hosted an annual cycling event in this community.

❖ **New Business**

➤ **Support for the future Miami Military Museum in Tallahassee**

Dr. Anthony Atwood pointed out that he attended the U.S. Southern Command Change of Command and briefed Admiral Tidd about the Miami Military Museum, noting the Admiral responded with "can't wait". He recalled a similar conversation with former Commander, General John Kelley, who also offered a similar "can't wait" sentiment.

Dr. Atwood reported on a Boy Scout project where they built a 400 foot paved "Path of Service"; however, he noted they were advised that he could not guarantee anyone was ever going to walk this path.

Dr. Atwood said the project was in jeopardy, noting Governor Rick Scott vetoed its funding last year. He noted the project would be in the trial budget of both houses this year; however, expressed concern should it once again be vetoed". Dr. Atwood expressed his concern that the delays in obtaining all of the necessary funding for the project may ultimately prevent the museum from coming into fruition.

Dr. Atwood read an e-mail from the surety of one of the contractors working on the museum project in which the surety sought an update on the progress towards completion

of the museum. He said that \$4.5 million invested would be lost if the project failed; that a completion date was needed; and an additional 1 percent monthly bond premium would be charged.

Dr. Atwood reported that he was travelling to Tallahassee during the week of February 7th, 2016 to attend the Miami-Dade County Days to advocate for project funding. He requested everyone's assistance to ensure that Governor Scott did not veto this project again. Dr. Atwood indicated that the project was already a Miami-Dade County legislative priority by resolution.

Chairman Diaz expressed his support, noting that he would get the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Beacon Council, the County Commission and the County's legislative lobbyists involved. He stated that he would convene a Sunshine meeting with Commissioner Moss to discuss this situation.

Dr. Atwood pointed out that the State legislature was required to submit its budget by June 30; however, the Senate was recalled twice and did not submit its final proposed budget on June 19, 2015; giving the Governor only eleven days for consideration last year .

In response to Dr. Atwood reporting that State Senator Anitere Flores and Representative Frank Artiles were the appropriate committee chairpersons considering this project, Chairman Diaz said he would meet with them and other legislators well as with Governor Scott to emphasize the museums importance and consequences associated with failure to complete the project.

➤ **Support Our Law Enforcement Rally & Ride 2016**

Chairman Diaz described the upcoming law enforcement rally and motorcycle ride supporting all law enforcement personnel and families on Sunday, February 21, 2016 at Tropical Park.

Chairman Diaz asked Mr. Eduardo Lombard to help arrange for the PFC. Bruce W. Carter Young Marines to assist in traffic control and other tasks at this event. He noted they would receive community service credit.

➤ **Association of Defense Communities Conference 2016**

Mr. Cruz reported he would be attending the Association of Defense Communities Conference in Charleston SC, along with Ms. Donna Mason from Military Miami-Dade of the Beacon Council. He indicated that the purpose was to seek additional housing funding, noting the Pentagon's Appropriation Committee would be attending,

➤ **United States Naval Academy Gospel Choir Performance**

Mr. David Blake noted the U.S. Naval Academy Gospel Choir concert would be held on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at The Fountain of New Life Church, 4601 NW 167 Street, Miami Gardens with free admission and parking. He asked MAB members to like the event on Facebook at United States Navy Gospel Choir and for their assistance in distributing event information.

➤ **FIU Military Career and Resource Fair**

Mr. Cruz spoke about the upcoming Career and Resources Fair for veterans and active military on Friday, January 29, 2016 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. at the Florida International University Football Stadium. He said that event fliers were available for anyone interested.

❖ **Approval of Minutes (December 2015)**

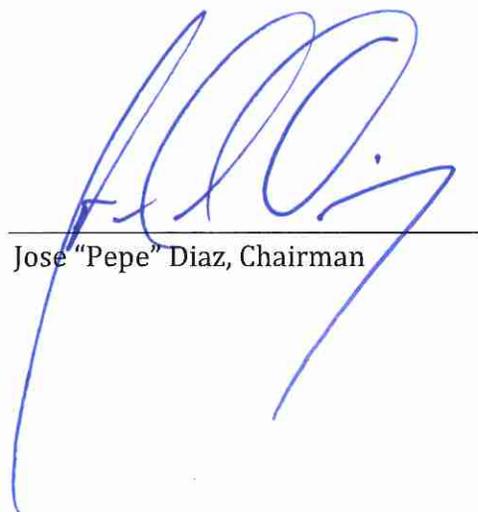
There was not a quorum present; therefore the approval of the December 2, 2015 meeting minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

❖ **Next Meeting Date is Scheduled for February 23, 2016**

Mr. Cruz announced that the meeting would be held at the Fire Fighters Memorial Building.

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Military Affairs Board meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Chairman



Military Affairs Board

January 26, 2016

Prepared by: Alan Eisenberg

EXHIBITS LIST

NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	1/26/16		Meeting Agenda
2	1/26/16		4 th Annual Veterans and Military Career and Resource Fair
7	1/26/16		Guest Sign-In Sheet
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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
MILITARY AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, JANUARY 26TH, 2016
6:30 PM

Doral City Hall
8401 NW 53rd Terrance, Doral, FL 33122
AGENDA

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Moment of Silence / Pledge of Allegiance
- ❖ Board Member Roundtable
- ❖ Old Business
 - Veteran's Court Update (G. Cruz)
 - Veteran's Housing Update (G. Cruz)
 - Veteran Concert Update (Commissioner Diaz)
 - 3 Kings Parade (G. Cruz)
 - SOUTHCOM Change of Command (G. Cruz)
 - Knights of Columbus Chili Cook-Off benefiting Wounded Warrior Project (G. Cruz)
- ❖ New Business
 - Support for the future Miami Military Museum in Tallahassee (Atwood)

- Support Our Law Enforcement Rally & Ride 2016 (Comm. Diaz)
- Association of Defense Communities Conference 2016 (G. Cruz)
- United States Naval Academy Gospel Choir Performance (D. Blake)
- FIU Military Career and Resource Fair (G. Cruz)

- ❖ Approval of Minutes (December 2015)
- ❖ Next meeting date is scheduled for February 23rd, 2016
- ❖ Discussion items for the next agenda
- ❖ Adjournment



4th Annual Veterans and Military Career and Resource Fair

Friday, February 19th (10am-2pm)
FIU Football Stadium (Club Level)



Sponsored by Miami Vet Center and FIU Department of Veterans and Military Affairs

Entry Level

Apple
Mc Donald's
Starbucks
IKEA
Enterprise
UPS
Office Depot/Office Max
Amazon

Power Equipment

Kelly Tractor
Pantropic Power
Seaboard Marine

Hotels

Marriott/Ritz Carlton
Hyatt Regency Miami
Marriott South Beach
Marenas Beach Resort

Aeronautics

KLX Aerospace Solutions
AAR Aircraft Services
Centurion Cargo
Lockheed Martin

Security and Police Agencies

Miami Dade Police
Coral Gables Police
Miami Beach Police
G4S Security
50 State Security

Veterans Programs

Vet Ocean Adventure
FDVA
Women Vet Program
Wounded Warrior Project
Advocate Program
ESGR
Operation Sacred Trust
VECI
Vet Success (Voc Rehab)
Volunteers of America

Banks

Amtrust Bank
Regions Bank
Total Bank
Ocean Bank

Medical

OneBlood
Vitas Health Care
OIF/OEF Transition Clinic
Community Health of South Florida

Federal Departments

TSA
DCF
Everglades Nat. Park
Department of Revenue
Customs and Border Patrol
Customs and Border Protection
US Dept. of Justice
(Prisons Bureau)
US Dept. of Justice
(Drug Enforcement)
Human Resources
Miami Dade HR
City of Miami HR
Miami VA HR
WPB VA HR
University of Miami HR

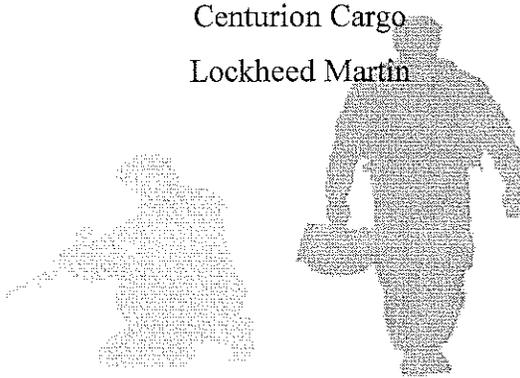
Communications

More Direct (IT Jobs)
Waveguide Comm.

Legal

Miami Dade State Atty. Office
Legal Services of Greater Miami

POC:
Jorge Martinez
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GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>CONTACT #</u>
ADRIAN Guglielmo	Support Task Force	ADRIAN support task 917-968-1357 for. com
Marcia Fernández-Morin	" " "	786.295.7696
Alex Dominguez	" " "	186-847-8364
Gloria Amor	Cong. Merid Diaz-Balart	305-215-1179
Adam Temple	City of Doral	305-370-2613
Bayardo Medina	Alcornoque de la County	305-375-3612