

# Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA)

## Board Meeting Summary

5 Feb 13

### I. Introduction of Members & Guest(s)

Maj Gen Karl Horst, Chief of Staff, USCENTCOM reported on:

- Helos - Relocation of 159<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment (MedEvac) to MacDill that results in 15 new Helos to be added to the existing 8 for a total of 23 Black Hawk Helos in the Tampa Bay area. The relocation includes an existing earmark of \$54 million to move this “F” Company that includes a transfer of an estimated 350 employees to occur in 2015. However, due to sequestration it could be pushed back to 2016 or later.
  - **Action Item:** Board discussed need to lobby to support relocation of Helos in 2015.
- THE USSOCOM Joint Special Ops University currently located at the old MacDill Credit Union just outside of the MacDill AFB Dale Mabry Gate will be housed inside the MacDill AFB gates. The existing property/structure will become available for lease.
- Sequestration – The US defense cut is estimated at \$487 billion in mandatory cuts and could be upwards of \$987 billion with the inclusion of discretionary cuts. The USAF is deploying current fiscal constraints such as; a hiring freeze; reduction in pay expenses; no travel unless pre-approved; 18% reduction in flying hours; potential civilian 2-day a week furloughs; all maintenance is being deferred (similar approached being deployed by Navy, Army and Marines); and an anticipated 30% reduction in family services. This funding approach would divert the budget back to the FY2010 funding levels. The potential cut of 20% across the board would impact military staff to the point of never being able to recover from such non-civilian staff reductions.
  - **Action Item:** A marketing plan (campaign) will be developed by the Board to address immediate horizon impacts -Helos (relocation and accompany earmark) and sequestration. The marketing campaign will likely be a “living document” to accommodate various short and long-term initiatives, such as but not exclusive to: educating diverse interests on future KC 46 and KC 135 relocation opportunities to MacDill, clarify attributes influencing ranking criteria used to evaluate the relocation of aircraft and equipment, distinguishing the diversity among the commands/missions at MacDill AFB, and implementing the recommendations from the Military Transformation Strategy.

### II. Previous Meeting – Recap

Chip Diehl reported that the partner priorities remain important. Topic updates provided

- **Continue proactive advocacy for base emerging mission expansions;** support reuse of St. Pete Clearwater Airport for Helos related to MacDill receipt of 159 Aviation Regiment; Mr. Meidel

reported the **Pinellas Economic Development Department actively** is pursuing establishment of a Pinellas County Center of Excellence within St. Pete College for health care orthotics, and is actively **supporting defense contractors located in Pinellas County.**

**Ms. Law reported that there would be an opportunity through the TBDA marketing plan to further address future relocation opportunities of KC46 or KC135 to MacDill AFB.** Mr. Homan provided a summary on the Military Transformation Strategy Report that was completed in December 2012. The report targeted the following three areas:

- **Marketing Tampa and Hillsborough County as a military community- create a dedicated marketing plan; and**
- **Leveraging military relationships – tap into retired military officers to create a Tampa Military Alliance to support and advise business accelerators and assist EDC in business recruitment, and recruit Chief of Staff at SUCENTCOM and USSOCOM and Wing Commander to be participating partners in top tier CEO leadership for the Tampa Community;**
- **Expansions of defense-related workforce, training and entrepreneurial opportunities – by establishing a Cyber Institute and Business Accelerator, Rehabilitative Health Institute and Business Accelerator to support existing defense-related businesses and focus business recruitment efforts in target growth areas.**

**The report recommends TBDA be the leaders to coordinate and facilitate implementation of the report.**

### **III. New Business Updates:**

Chairman Schueler reported the following:

- **FDSTF Mtg – Tallahassee – 17 Feb 2013.**
- **TBDA Startup Grant awarded 2/4/13 - \$130,000 (19 applicants).**
- **Op MacDill – Monroe Middle School – refocus efforts to improve school ranking currently at “D”. Utilizing grant funds for programs that will improve the school ranking and create an improved learning environment for the students. There remains an outstanding match need of \$83,500. A suggestion was made to research a military student funding program called MCAC (? *Correct name*) to determine if it could serve the students in the school. Additionally, a review how HCSD utilizes Military Student Aide funds allocated per student would also be helpful in evaluating funding sources to allocate to program improvement for the students.**
- **Florida Legislative Session – Priorities/Initiatives:**
  - **Florida Rock – 25-Acre Parcel: To be purchased by the State. No legislative action at this time.**
  - **Widening Dale Mabry: FDOT determined based on traffic volume and patterns it is not warranted. No legislative action at this time.**
  - **Cyber/Modeling & Simulation – ‘Benefits’ Language: Seek high technology tax credit for businesses locating or relocating in the area.**
  - **Military Vet – In-State Resident Requirement: Seek waiver of the one-year residency standard to pay in state tuition**
- **MacDill Image & Branding Campaign – State & Nationwide: Future action of the TBDA Board.**
- **TBDA Startup & Launch – Plan: Future action of the TBDA Board.**

- **BOD Procedures -Committee Assignments & Issue Teams: To be finalized by TBDA Executive Board.**

#### **IV. Next 8-Month Outlook**

- Lightning Military Appreciation Night – 12 Feb 2013.
- CORONA – 19-20 Feb 2013.
- Orlando Model & Simulation Visit – 19 Feb 2013 – Anticipate 150 participating firms.
- Lt. Gov Carroll Visit – 27-28 Feb 2013: Lt. Gov Carroll to attend a social event on 2/27/13 in the community (Mr. Schueler and Ms. Law to attend); TBDA Board meeting in the morning of 2/28/13; and a Veterans Affairs lunch at USF from 11:30a.m. -1:00 p.m. (being scheduled by Mr. Diehl).
- Air Show 6-7 Apr 2013 (if not cancelled due to sequestration).

#### **V. Administration**

- Invoices: Mr. McClain requested all invoices be submitted to him.
- **Bank selection was finalized: Sun Trust Bank will be our bank.**
- Membership: Mr. McClain to provide a final list of TBDA members.

#### **VI. Next Meeting: 3/12/13 or 3/19/13**

Attendees: John Schueler; Rich McClain; General Arthur Lichte; Brigadier General Chip Diehl; Barry Alpert; Major General Karl Horst; Mike Meidel; Rick Homans; Walter McCracken; Rhea Law, Julie Fitzpatrick; and Darcy Foster.