

# Tampa Bay Defense Alliance (TBDA)

## Board Meeting Summary

23 July 13

### I. Greeting / Introduction of New Attendees

- Chip Diehl introduced small business; Cases2Go, Dave & Courtney Root
  - 30 years in business, 12 employees, 2,100 sq/ft production facility in Tampa
  - Painful to have to cut employees due to sequestration, average tenure is 7 years
  - 80% of business was military, has begun to look at commercial industries that may be a fit outside of military (medical and weapons)
  - Best thing we can do is to continue to share our stories
- Col Doug Schwartz commented on:
  - Everyone is affected by furlough, effectively they are missing one person each week. Will continue to erode and is concerned as to what 2014 will look like
- Rhea Law:
  - It's important that we put a face on the problem and effectively convey the pain and effect on both the military community as well as private

### II. Organizational Updates

- Rick Homans updated on EDC development:
  - Has received a letter of intent for new jobs in car business, will bring good business to area
  - Has an enormous pipeline of new projects coming into the community (1,000 jobs project, 1,200 jobs project, 500 jobs project, etc.), stronger than it has been in last 10-15 years
  - Major obstacle is availability of real estate to house projects (ex 100,000 sq/ft facilities)
  - Has worked hand in hand with Pinellas to present a seamless value prop of Tampa Bay (both sides of the bay)
- Mike Meidel
  - Similar pipeline of projects, tens/hundreds of jobs
  - Also has real estate availability obstacles (ex. less than 15 20+ acre properties)
- FDSTF Visit:
  - i. Gen Newton presented on:
    1. Feedback was positive, [they] were pleased to see the progress, they see the collaborative approach to getting things done & it makes a huge difference
    2. Suggestion: don't be a nuisance, but make yourself know. Spend some time, 30-45 minutes, present your case then move on
  - ii. Chip Diehl:
    1. 8 of the task force members hadn't seen MacDill and were impressed
    2. KC46, need to build for the future, correct the perceptions of the base

3. Florida Rock continued to encourage, we have the authority but just need money
  4. Coalition is a treasure and we should continue to
- Grants
    - i. DRG is due on 16 August - \$850,000
      1. This year we agreed that we are going to put in one grant as Tampa Bay
      2. Estimated request for \$165,000
    - ii. DIG is due on 23 August – \$800,000 (estimated to be \$200,000 projects)
      1. Mike Meidel: received grant last year to put in a ramp at PIE ST Pete/Clearwater airport, this year will propose to develop a pedestrian gate into facility (asking ~\$150,000 for project)
    - iii. FDSTF grant due on 29 August, will be at least 30-40 applications this year
      1. We could use imagination on other projects to present
        - a. Programs to help transition veterans to the private sector
      2. What would it take to make over MacDill's image over the next 2-3 years, estimating ~\$200,000 – 300,000
  - Meeting with FDSTF is scheduled for September 19, the same week as session starts
    - i. There are bills coming up to be aware of now, so legislators are ready in September
  - Commissioner Al Higginbotham reported on:
    - i. IFA coming to Tampa
      1. Movie/entertainment industry is four times larger than USA
      2. Will be as larger/larger than Super Bowl
      3. Great opportunity to showcase our community
    - ii. Competitor also wants to host their event in Tampa
    - iii. Chip Diehl: India also has very large military

### III. Administration

- Rich McClain reported on:
  - i. Website is up and running, reminder to add events to calendars
    1. Contract is up, recommend extending it another 3 months
      - a. Approved by board
  - ii. Quarterly Grant Report, currently have an approximate balance of \$160,000
  - iii. Working on DRG, have passed to EDC & Partnership for review
  - iv. Looking at accounting firm; Oscher Consulting
    1. \$250/month they will handle accounting and grant management, (Does not include audit)
    2. Approved by board
  - v. Still looking at membership and who should be invited to join
    1. May bring board membership up to 12
    2. Considering NDIA, AFCEA, FFC to join
  - vi. Coins were made to represent our “One Team” philosophy and how our 8 counties are represented together

### IV. Meeting Attendees:

General Newton, Col Doug Schwartz, Richard Waino, Tim Jones, Walter McCracken, Rick Homans, Darcy Foster, Suzy O'Mally, Rich McClain, Bill Boesch, Rhea Law, Brigadier General Chip Diehl, Commissioner Al Higginbotham, David Root, Courtney Root, Mike Meidel

**V. Next Meeting:**

3 September 2013