

Tom Neubauer  
President

Glen McDonald  
Vice President

Guy York, Ph.D.  
Secretary/Treasurer

L.N. Dantzer  
President Emeritus



## August 2021 Defense Community Update

The BDA was formed during 1993 in response to a growing emphasis on the downsizing of U.S. defense infrastructure. The organization is comprised of an all-volunteer, 30-member board, which has registered more than 25,000 volunteer hours with Enterprise Florida. Board members represent key economic development interests and organizations in Bay County, Florida. BDA remains focused on every aspect of Tyndall AFB, Naval Support Activity Panama City and US Coast Guard Station PC, works to help improve efficiencies and ensure the long-term stability of their missions.

**Tyndall AFB Rebuild Status:** The #1 topic of interest across the community continues to be about the Tyndall Air Force base rebuild, expectations and timeline. The most recent update was provided by the 325th Fighter Wing vice commander Colonel Christopher "Roller" Peters at July 9, 2021 Chamber of Commerce First Friday event. Rebuild funding continues as programmed and the PMO (Project Management Office) of AFCEC (Air Force Civil Engineer Center) / AFIMSC (Air Force Installation Management Support Center) has created general timelines for various phases of the five to seven-year rebuild process. The notional estimate of the expected personnel, including contractors, military members, defense civilians and families expected to be assigned to Tyndall AFB through 2027. This estimate takes into account only scheduled mission bed downs. There are many moving parts to the rebuild and the process is being tracked on the AFIMSC Tyndall Program Management Office site: <https://www.afimsc.af.mil/TyndallPMO/>

**NDAA Language potential impacts on F-35:** There has been considerable controversy in the news regarding Air Force efforts to reduce the aging A-10 fleet by 42 aircraft and the manpower implications affecting maintenance support for F-35 aircraft across the Air Force, including jets to be based at Tyndall AFB. While the issue is affected by political interference with the USAF aircraft force structure plan, the Air Force has provided, upon request, talking points for civic leaders supporting affected installations. The [August 2021 talking points](#) help explain the potential implications of derailing an important aircraft restructure plan. General Mark Kelly, commander of U.S. Air Force Air Combat Command weighed in on the issue in his article "[The Imperative to field a cutting-edge Air Force](#)" which highlights the same concerns.



**What is the status of RPA (Remotely Piloted Aircraft) Base Y?** In early 2018 Tyndall AFB was selected as the preferred location for an RPA MQ-9 wing, referred to as "RPA Base Y". The wing would include both an MCE (Mission control element) and LRE (Launch and Recovery Element) and bring approximately 1600+ personnel



Tom Neubauer  
President

Glen McDonald  
Vice President

Guy York, Ph.D.  
Secretary/Treasurer

L.N. Dantzer  
President Emeritus

### Members

MGen. Larry Arnold  
USAF (Ret.)

Bob Brooke  
USN SES (Ret.)

BGen. James Browne  
USAF (Ret.)

LtGen Terry Gabreski  
USAF (Ret.)

Joey Ginn

William Harrison

Capt. Chris Moore  
USN (Ret.)

Capt. Jessica Pfefferkorn  
USN (Ret.)

Delbert "Ace" Summey, Ph.D.  
USN SES (Ret.)

Jim Thomsen  
USN SES (Ret.)

David Tubridy  
USN SSTM (Ret.)

Elizabeth Walters

Leon Walters  
USN SES (Ret.)

### Affiliate Members

Robert Carroll  
Bay County Board of Commissioners

Christopher Moore  
Chairman, Bay County Chamber

Randy Hanna, Ph.D.  
Florida State University Panama City

Becca Hardin  
Executive Director, Bay County EDA

John Holdnak, Ph.D.  
Gulf Coast State College

MSgt Craig Williams (USAF ret)  
Office of Rep Neal Dunn

Kristopher McLane  
President/CEO, PC Beach Chamber

Andrew Rowell  
Chairman, Military Affairs Committee

Carol Roberts  
President, Bay County Chamber

Kim Bodine  
Chairman, Bay County EDA

Jeff DiBenedictis  
Chairman, PC Beach Chamber

### Legacy Members

Jerry Smithwick

LtGen John Campbell  
USAF (Ret.)

Gerry Clemons

MSgt Craig Deatherage

Ted Spangenberg

to our community. The EIS process included an analysis of the Base Y impacts in detail, however the MQ-9 wing was not part of the emergency supplemental and was therefore not included in the ROD (Record of Decision.) Bay Defense Alliance members met with the Air Force leadership while in the Pentagon on November 16, 2020 to discuss the future of the Base Y initiative. Essentially, the Air Force began looking at the next generation of unmanned systems capable of supporting both current combat and ISR (intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance) missions as well as new capabilities, such as adversary air support. According to media reports as of August 2021, new platforms being considered are referred to notionally as MQ-X. For all the same reasons Tyndall was selected as the preferred location for MQ-9, including direct access to 5<sup>th</sup> generation aircraft and airspace, there is a reasonable probability Tyndall would be an ideal location to host the next generation RPA as well. The plan is articulated by Lt Gen David Nahom (AF/A-5/8), who told a Senate subcommittee that the Air Force [proposes to retire some ISR aircraft in order to invest in new capabilities](#), while keeping some of its RQ-4s and all of its MQ-9s. Of a proposed decrease in the number of MQ-9 combat patrols from 60 to 56, Lt Gen Nahom said, “We are not reducing the size of the squadrons, or manpower out of those squadrons. What we’re asking is to reduce some of the combat lines in the manner we’ve been flying them in the Middle East.” As they are flown now, “we [currently] operate it in a very manpower-intensive way.” This proposed change would allow the Air Force [“to use \[the aircraft\] differently in competition, and in some...places around the world with less contested environments.”](#) While the MQ-9 and RQ-4 Block 30 are still relevant to current missions, they are not prepared to survive in a near-peer competition. Lt Gen Nahom said, “The three things that are most important [are] an ISR platform that can survive in the threat, persist in the threat, and then be connected ... We have to look to the future...” Eventually, the Air Force intends to field a “family of systems” to replace legacy ISR capabilities. The Bay Defense Alliance will continue to track the selection process and any follow-on basing initiatives anticipated in the near future.

**Future of the F-22 Formal Training Unit:** Following hurricane Michael, the F-22 FTU (Formal Training Unit) has been fully operational, however the aircraft remain at Eglin AFB while pilots continue academics and simulator training at Tyndall. While the situation is not ideal, the 325<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing has successfully continued the important mission of producing Raptor pilots. With the end-game for the F-22 FTU pointed to Joint Base Langley Eustis in Virginia, one of the more difficult aspects Air Combat Command has been dealing with is articulating a solid transition timeline to those effected, especially the maintainers and their families. On June 25, 2021, the Air Force published the 24 March 2021 Record of Decision to relocate the FTU and associated T-38s to Langley. The Air Force is awaiting the completion of a tactical air study launched by the USAF Chief of Staff early in 2021, before solidifying a timeline for planned force structure moves.



**USCG Team Initiative:** During the July 17, 2021 Bay Defense Alliance meeting, the board formalized the creation of a U.S. Coast Guard team led by our newest board member Joey Ginn. Mr. Ginn accepted an appointment to the board following a board vote on April 21, 2021. Mr. Ginn, a former chairman of the Board of the Bay County Chamber, 2004 Military Affairs Committee Chairman and 2020 recipient of the Lauren Merriam award, grew up in a US Coast Guard family. Joey wasted no time setting up a meeting and station tour with the Officer in Charge of Coast Guard Station Panama City, (Boatswain’s Mate



Master Chief Petty Officer) BCBM A. Mark Kannan and his executive officer (Chief Boatswain's Mate) BMC Thomas Simonds. The same week Ginn and Neubauer met with senior Coast Guard leaders at USCG headquarters in Washington DC. Both the Panama City station and USCG leadership are now aware of the community support for the Coast Guard and have been briefed on the recovery of our community following hurricane Michael. Ginn noted, the Coast Guard presence in Bay County should be highlighted to the public, as USCG Panama City Station has four active tenant commands supporting various missions. Accordingly, Chief Kannan has accepted an invitation from the Bay County Chamber to be the program at the November 5, 2021 Chamber First Friday event to talk about the USCG presence in our community. The Coast Guard also has a number of ship building program experts, including engineers and Naval Architects stationed in Bay County as a result of the Offshore Patrol Cutter recapitalization program. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tm4kLGSNoI>



**Thank you to our newest BDA legacy member Captain Fred Shutt, (USN Ret):** In

2011, the BDA Board created a special category of non-voting membership to recognize the exemplary work of members who served on the board for at least 10 years. These non-voting members continue to be informed of ongoing community defense support activities and may choose to participate in meetings. BDA president emeritus Larry Dantzler is actually the first BDA legacy member. Additional honorees include founding Vice President Jerry Smthwick; Lt. General John Campbell, (USAF ret); Gerry Clemons, Ted Spangenberg, CMSgt Craig Deatherage (USAF ret) and most recently, Captain Fred Shutt, USN (ret); Each of these individuals has contributed countless volunteer hours and personal expertise, which has helped strengthen our bases and their missions. Captain Shutt joined the Bay Defense Alliance after retiring from the Navy in July 2004 as Commanding Officer, Naval Surface Warfare Center and served on the board for more than 18 years.








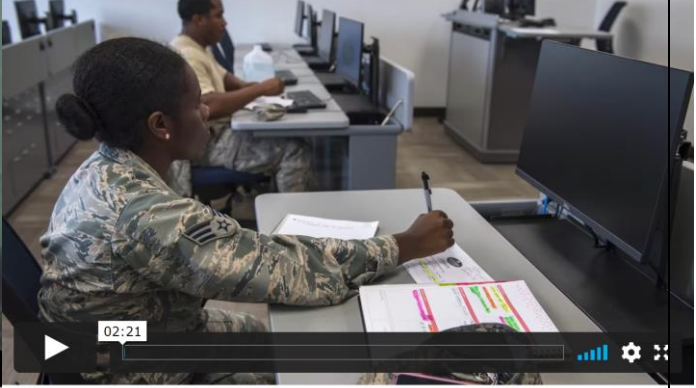
**New recruiting video debuts:** In "Helmet," the Air Force's [newest recruiting video](#), General Brown states, "When I'm flying, I put my helmet on, my visor down, my mask up. You don't know who I am—whether I'm African American, Asian American, Hispanic, White, male or female. You just know I'm an American Airman, kicking your butt." First aired on 17 July during the NBA finals, the ad has already become one of the most-viewed recruiting videos for the Air and Space Force this year. On the development of the ad, Gen Brown said, "I was a captain when I was asked to do an interview about diversity, and I shared this idea." He added, "I want our adversaries to know, that no matter our respective backgrounds, our Airmen are unstoppable."



**Bay County Housing and Recovery Updates:** Following hurricane Michael in October 2018 and the nearly \$5 billion commitment of congress to fund the Air Force decision to rebuild Tyndall AFB as the "base of the future", the BDA committed to provide Air Force leadership with timely reports on the recovery of housing, our school system, the medical community, infrastructure resiliency and key quality of life indicators. Leaders at our medical centers, school system and board of county commissioners have been instrumental in providing vital data for the formal reports presented in November 2020, April and July 2021. The most recent updates have also been provided to Navy and US Coast Guard

leadership. The Coast Guard is focused on affordable housing, not only for its personnel, but for the need to continue to attract and retain workforce in support of the offshore patrol cutter recapitalization program.

**Florida Installations and Ranges Informational Videos:** In 2020 the Florida Defense Support Task Force engaged Kennetic Productions to complete videos to describe the missions of Florida Installations, Ranges and key topics like encroachment and education. Twenty-Three videos are in development and can be viewed online: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4tzf6xwmUB2W6KI2Lrsw1Z7HntxJJPkP>

 <p>01:36</p>	 <p>02:55</p>
<p><b>EFI FDSTF Tyndall Air Force Base V2</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/JFMx8k4Cz_wx">https://youtu.be/JFMx8k4Cz_wx</a></p>	<p><b>EFI FDSTF Joint Gulf Range Complex</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/raRv1b-0ziE">https://youtu.be/raRv1b-0ziE</a></p>
 <p>01:45</p>	 <p>02:12</p>
<p><b>EFI FDSTF NSA Panama City</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/fywsZN-JQ54">https://youtu.be/fywsZN-JQ54</a></p>	<p><b>EFI FDSTF Professional License Reciprocity</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/-zMQ8KqRDDQ">https://youtu.be/-zMQ8KqRDDQ</a></p>
 <p>03:02</p> <p>ENTERPRISE FLORIDA DEFENSE DEFENSE SUPPORT</p>	 <p>02:21</p>
<p><b>EFI Military Future in Florida</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/DMPeZq_2sLg">https://youtu.be/DMPeZq_2sLg</a></p>	<p><b>EFI Florida Education and the Military.mp4</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/hPmR4mCPM10">https://youtu.be/hPmR4mCPM10</a></p>

**Navy Secretary Visit: ASN/EI&E** (Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations, Energy and Environment) Secretary Todd Schafer visited Naval Support Activity Panama City, toured the installation and spent the evening with Chamber of Commerce, Bay Defense Alliance and Military Affairs leadership. BDA had a follow-up meeting in the pentagon on 21 July 2021 with Secretary Schafer and Deputy Assistant Secretary James Balocki to further discuss ways the Bay Defense could best support current and future missions.



**Tyndall AFB Joint Land Use Study (CUP) Complete:** The CUP (Compatible Use Plan) previously referred to as the JLUS (Joint Land Use Study) has been completed. The report was compiled by Stantec, posted to the CUP website April 22, 2021 and adopted by county ordinance on May 18, 2021 <https://www.tyndalljlus.com>. Special thanks to the volunteers who served on the Policy and Working Group Committees.



### Recent Meeting Dates

April 1, 2021 – MAC Celebration of Tyndall Record of Decision  
 April 6, 2021 – Florida Space Force FDSTF Strategi Planning Event  
 April 8, 2021 – Wash DC Visit, Secretary of Air Force and SAF/IE - update  
 April 23, 2021 – State of Tyndall Executive Update 0830 Tyndall Oasis  
 May 19, 2021 – Florida Defense Alliance Meeting, Tallahassee  
 May 20, 2021 – FDSTF (Florida Defense Support Task Force Meeting,) Tallahassee  
 June 03, 2021 – Tyndall Team Leadership meeting, TAFB  
 April 22, 2021 – Nuclear Deterrence and Missile Defense Forum  
 April 23, 2021 – Florida Test and Training Ranges Discussion  
 April 29, 2021 – Florida Ranges Discussion Roosevelt Group  
 May 03, 2021 – Space Power Forum: CC Combat Force Space Component  
 May 05, 2021 – NSWC-PCD and BDA Navy Team  
 May 06, 2021 – US Space Command Update & Opportunities - Space Florida  
 May 18, 2021 – Aerospace Nation - Chief Scientist of the U.S. Air Force  
 May 19, 2021 – Florida Defense Alliance Bi-Annual Meeting  
 May 20, 2021 – FDSTF Meeting (Tallahassee) #94  
 May 26, 2021 – ASFCLP defense forum  
 June 01, 2021 – Air Force Brief, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, SECAF /Financial Management and Comptroller  
 Jun 02, 2021 – Assistant Secretary of Navy-PC Visit (Energy Installations and Environment Acting)  
 Jun 03, 2021 – Tyndall Team Luncheon TAFB  
 Jun 04, 2021 – Tyndall AFB MSG Change of Command  
 Jun 08, 2021 – Military Affairs Committee - Edgewater  
 Jun 21, 2021 – NC3, Part I, Modernizing the U.S. Strategic Nuclear Deterrent  
 Jun 21, 2021 – Modernizing our Deterrent, Director, Sandia National Labs, Director at Los Alamos National Lab  
 Jun 29, 2021 –Vice Commander USAF Global Strike  
 Jul 01, 2021 – Space Power Forum - Director of Staff, Headquarters, US Space Force  
 Jul 12, 2021 – 332 AEW Change of Command (BG Kunkel)  
 Jul 14, 2021 – BDA Full Board Meeting – GCSC  
 Jul 14, 2021 – Aerospace Nation, General Nahome AF A5/A8  
 July 15, 2021- Florida Defense Support Task Force- NAS-JAX  
 July 16, 2021- ACC CV Gen Weggeman Retirement  
 July 19, 2021 – USCG Meeting and Station Tour  
 July 21, 2021 – Meeting ADC, Washington, Meeting SAF/IE  
 July 21, 2021 – Meeting US Coast Guard DC HQ, Bay County Update  
 July 22, 2021 – Pentagon Meetings, CMSgt USAF, ASN/IE, Etals  
 July 23, 2021 – AFSCPL Call with General Nahom and Gen Finerty  
 July 27, 2021 – Meetings with Air Combat Command, Hill AFB F-35  
 July 27, 2021 – Meetings ACC/CC Hill AFB Depot/GBSD  
 Aug 3, 2021 - Space Power Forum – Senator Mike Rounds  
 Aug 5, 2021 - Missile Defense Forum – Gordon Chang/Rick Fishee