

Mike Prendergast Executive Director

State of Florida

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Office of the Executive Director

11351 Ulmerton Road, #311-K Largo, FL 33778-1630

Phone: (727) 518-3202 Fax: (727) 518-3403

www.FloridaVets.org

Rick Scott Governor Pam Bondi Attorney General Jeff Atwater Chief Financial Officer Adam Putnam Commissioner of Agriculture

April 26, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Honorable Rick Scott

Honorable Pam Bondi Honorable Jeff Atwater Honorable Adam Putnam

FROM:

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Mike Prendergast, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda – Cabinet Meeting of May 8, 2013

The next public meeting of the Governor and Cabinet to transact the business of the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be at 9:00 a.m. (EST), May 8, 2013 in Orlando. Florida.

The Agenda and all required back-up materials are attached for your review.

If you have any questions, please call my Cabinet Affairs Officer, Jim Brodie, at (850) 487-1533, ext. 7705.

CC:

Michael Sevi, Director of Cabinet Affairs

Executive Office of the Governor

Jerry McDaniel, Director

Governor's Office of Policy and Budget

Attachments

AGENDA

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Meeting materials for the following items are available on the web at: http://floridavets.org/?page id=974

MEMBERS

Governor Rick Scott
Attorney General Pam Bondi
Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater
Commissioner Adam Putnam

May 8, 2013 9:00 A.M. (EST) Nemours Children's Hospital Lake Nona, Medical City Orlando, Florida

Contact:

Jim Brodie, Director

Legislative and Cabinet Affairs

(850) 487-1533 x 7705

ITEM

SUBJECT

RECOMMENDATION

1. Respectfully request approval of the minutes of March 19, 2013

(ATTACHEMENT 1)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

2. Respectfully request approval of the "Homeless Veterans North Florida Stand-Down" Report

(ATTACHEMENT 2)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

3. Respectfully request approval of the Orlando VA Hospital Status Report

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

4. Respectfully request approval of the "Paychecks for Patriots" Veterans Job Fair Report

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

THE CABINET STATE OF FLORIDA

Representing:

DIVISION OF BOND FINANCE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST FUND

CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The above agencies came to be heard before THE FLORIDA CABINET, Honorable Governor Scott presiding, in the Cabinet Meeting Room, LL-03, The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida, on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, commencing at 10:22 a.m.

Reported by:
CAROLYN L. RANKINE
Registered Professional Reporter
Notary Public

ACCURATE STENOTYPE REPORTERS, INC. 2894 REMINGTON GREEN LANE TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32308 850.878.2221

APPEARANCES:

Representing the Florida Cabinet:

RICK SCOTT Governor

ADAM H. PUTNAM Commissioner of Agriculture

PAM BONDI Attorney General

JEFF ATWATER Chief Financial Officer

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DIVISION	OF	BOND	FINAN	CE	
(Presente	ed k	y DI	RECTOR	BEN	WATKINS)

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE IITF (Presented by SECRETARY HERSCHEL VINYARD)

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CITIZENS PROPERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION (Presented by CEO BARRY GILWAY)

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (Presented by MIKE PRENDERGAST)

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GOVERNOR SCOTT: Now, I would like to recognize Executive Director Mike Prendergast with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Good morning.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Good morning, Governor Scott; good morning General Bondi; CFO Atwater; and Commissioner Putnam. Before beginning my formal remarks, I have two late-breaking updates that I'd like to invite you all that I didn't have a chance to incorporate in my formal remarks.

First of all, I just received an email message from Mr. Dan Davis who I introduced to you several months ago at one of the Cabinet presentations. Once again, the agency has 100 percent occupancy in all six of its skilled state veterans nursing homes, all 120 beds in each of the homes are filled today. And we're real proud of that achievement and the hard work by our team that's out there making sure that our veterans get that world-class care.

Number two -- and it was an opportunity to listen to Jesse Panuccio's presentation to you all earlier. I did not get to hear the entire

presentation because I was upstairs in the Senate floor for the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day celebration hosted by Senate President Gaetz.

But one highlight that I would like to point out as of this Monday, 7,291 veterans, thanks to the hard work of our Department of Economic Opportunity, our Regional Workforce Boards, Workforce Florida have entered Florida's employment in the private sector, and we are real proud of our partners out there who are helping take care of our veterans and get them into the businesses all across the Sunshine State.

The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs has two agenda items for your consideration today. Item 1 consists of the minutes of the December 11 Cabinet meeting. We respectfully request approval of those minutes.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve?

CFO ATWATER: So move.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or

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1 objections?

(No response.)

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion carries.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST:

Thank you, Governor. Item 2 consists of the agency's quarterly report for the period ending December 31st, 2012. A printed copy of this report was forwarded to your Cabinet offices back in January.

In summary, the report details both our statutory program areas, which are the Veterans' Benefits and Assistance Division and the Veterans' Homes Program Division that I just mentioned previously.

In the Benefits and Assistance Division, which is led by Alene Tarter, the lead veterans claims examiners, which were authorized by the Cabinet last year and in the last legislative budget cycle and signed into law by the Governor back in the spring of last year, we've hired all those claims examiners and put them into the field serving in Tampa, Miami, West Palm Beach, The Villages, Broward County, and Panama City. They're helping to extend our

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outreach and services to Florida veterans who are applying for federal benefits that they have earned while wearing the uniform.

Another significant highlight to point out to you is the superior achievements by this Division's state agency that does approval of all the colleges, universities, and technical schools across the Sunshine State. This Bureau is led by Ms. Betsy Whitcomb.

During the most recently completed federal fiscal year, FDVA state-approved agency bureau obtained the highest rating possible by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Joint Peer Review Group. They're regarded as the best in the nation and delivered outstanding results throughout the implementation of the new procedural model that the federal VA fielded in the very latter part of the previous federal fiscal year. They're doing outstanding work each and every day to take care of our veterans who leveraged the post 9/11 GI bill and the old Montgomery GI bill for their educational benefit following their separation from the service.

In the Veterans' Homes Program, a

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\$2 million HVAC renovation project is underway in a Daytona Beach home. Completion for that project is scheduled for June of this year.

Also a \$2.8 million recertification

project to harden the facility against natural

disasters such as hurricanes that we've just

talked about recently, is underway at the

Land O' Lakes home in Pasco County. The

expected completion date of that project is

August 1st.

In both instances, the federal VA paid
65 percent of the project's costs, and the
state's share is 35 percent. The state's share
is paid by our Operations and Maintenance Trust
Fund, which means that no general revenue
appropriation dollars are used to pay for these
projects.

As I mentioned earlier, the census at our state's skilled nursing homes remains historically high. We've averaged better than 99 percent in the previous 90 days, and once again today we've hit a hundred percent occupancy in all six of our homes.

As you may recall, the statewide average for nursing homes across the state average is

about 85 percent on a daily basis, so we're well eclipsing the private sector average for provision of that type of care for our veterans.

Of primary importance, the quality of care in our homes remains exceptionally high, thanks to Dan Davis leadership and the leadership of all the team members in his Division who expertly lead our agency through those challenges of not only complying with our state requirements through the Agency for Health Care Administration, but also the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs requirements. And both of those entities come out and inspect our homes on an annual basis. So we get inspected at least 12 times per year in each one of our homes.

Our homes average less than 4.6 deficiencies for items of note per facility, when the average across the state is greater than 9.4. In the federal VA surveys of inspections, our homes average just one-half of one deficiency per inspection. When you compare that to the nationwide average to the 50 states and territories, they normally would

see an average of 2.8 deficiencies for each veterans home that they inspect. So we're doing outstanding work out there in implementing the proper training and the accountability models that are needed to make sure that our veterans receive world-class care.

I've placed before all members of the Cabinet and you, Governor, a copy of the recently released video for a new women's veterans' public service announcement. We just aired that on the Senate floor today, and that's been posted on the agency YouTube Channel, and we look forward to the media out there to give us an opportunity to play that as a public service announcement all throughout the state.

This is the second in our series of outreach initiatives to ensure that our veterans, including the Vietnam era veterans, which number one out of every four you meet on the streets; or more than 140,000 women veterans; and the more than 230,000 veterans who have already served in Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom understand that the Florida

Department of Veterans Affairs is their world-class point of entry to get the earned benefits that they so richly have paid for by their service to this great nation.

Finally, before I close, on behalf of our state, nearly 450,000 Vietnam veterans, we want to thank you again for kicking off with this Cabinet meeting for the Welcome Home Veterans Day -- Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day proclamation. It meant a lot to them to receive that recognition. And this March 30th marks a significant event for all of our veterans across the state, and we really do appreciate it.

Subject to your questions, we respectfully request approval of our quarterly report for the last quarter.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve?

ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So move.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

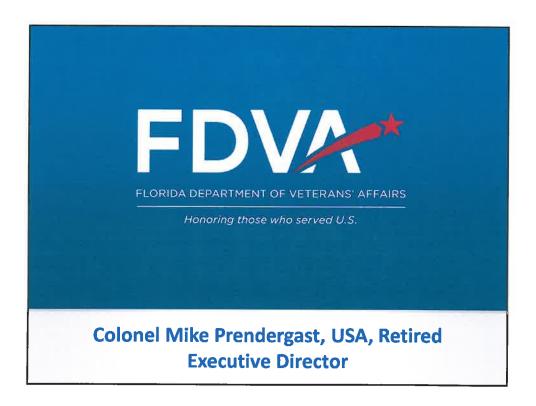
CFO ATWATER: Second.

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Any comments or

objections?

(No response.)

GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion carries. Thank you very much. Thank you for your hard work EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you: ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Thank you so much. (Cabinet meeting concluded at 11:28 a.m.)



Agenda

- Item 1 Cabinet Meeting Minutes
 - March 19, 2013
- Item 2 Homeless Veterans' Stand Down
 - April 5-7, 2013 at North Florida Fairgrounds
- Item 3 Orlando VA Medical Center Update
- Item 4 Paychecks for Patriots Hiring Initiative
 - May 10, 2013 Veteran Job Fair in 10 Florida cities



Agenda Item 1

Cabinet Meeting Minutes March 19, 2013



Agenda Item 2

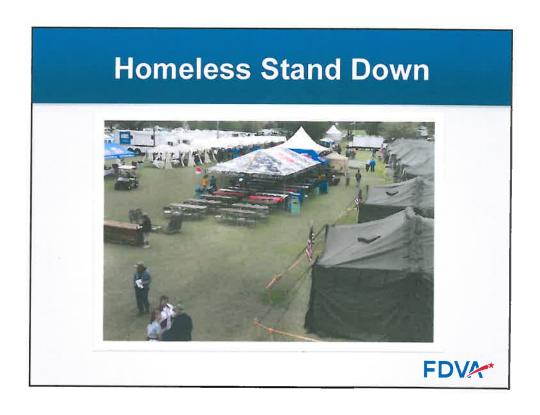
Homeless Veterans Stand Down

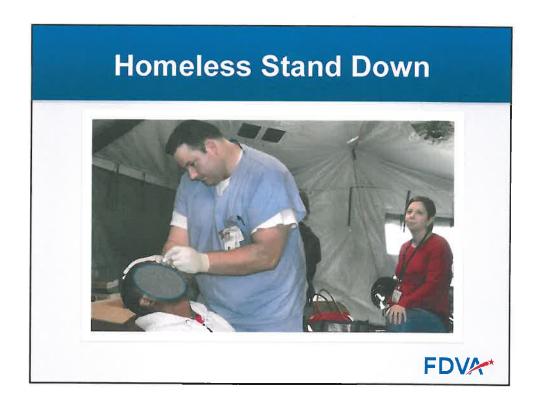
April 5-7, 2013, North Florida Fairgrounds
Sponsored by the Florida Veterans Foundation

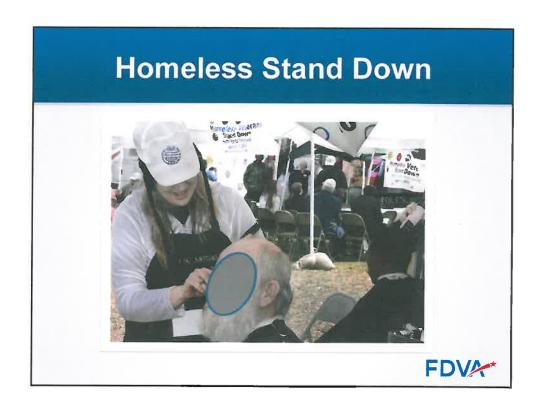
- 282 Homeless Veterans & 21 Children served
 - Haircuts, Housing, Employment Services provided
- 91 Veterans received medical/dental treatment
- 2nd Circuit Judge adjudicated 44 cases for 14 veterans
- 31 Disability Claims processed & sent to VA

www.FloridaVeteransFoundation.org

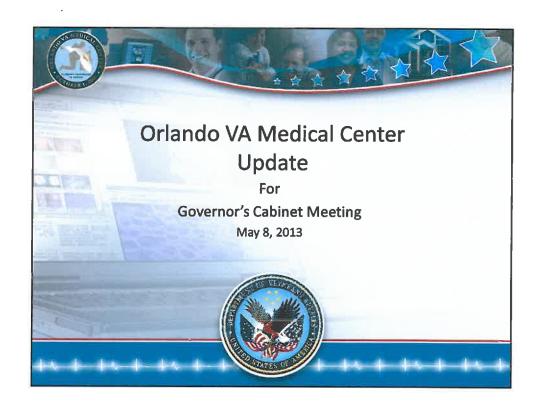








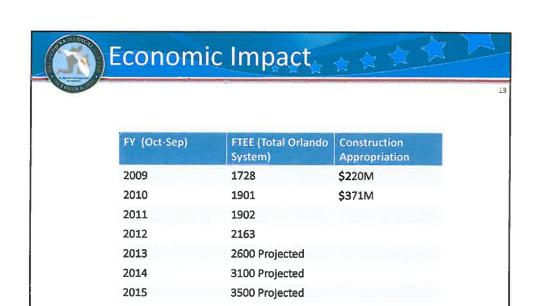






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Phase	Status	Start	Contractual Completion
IA: Site grading, drainage, utility extensions and connections	Construction Completed	8/20/2009	4/30/2012
IB: Central Energy Plant	Construction Completed	3/31/2010	11/15/2011
LC: Hospital/Clinic oundations and superstructure	Construction Complete (pending construction deficiency corrections)	12/3/2009	11/27/2010
2: Community Living Center, Domiciliary and Chapel	Construction Complete	12/2/2009	5/24/2011
: Warehouse and Parking tructure	Construction Complete	12/3/2009	5/26/2011
l: Main Hospital & Clinic Build Out	Construction approximately 75% complete	10/13/2010	8/8/2013*

Clinical Activation Phase	Estimated Date
1: Relocation of existing clinical inventory from existing care sites.	Building turnover + 90 days
2: Expand existing clinical inventory	Building turnover + 120 days to 270 days
3: New clinical inventory	Building turnover + 180 days to 360 days



CLERMONT · DAYTONA · KISSIMMEE · LAKE BALDWIN



Tarm Marie Terranean Commission (Inc.)

Agenda Item 4

"Paychecks for Patriots" Friday, May 10, 2013

- Same-day veteran job fairs in 10 Florida cities
 - Fort Walton Beach, Lake City, Gainesville, Orange City, Leesburg, Orlando, New Port Richey, Sebring, Fort Lauderdale & Miami
- State partnership with Dollar General, others
 - Department of Veterans' Affairs
 - Department of Economic Opportunity
 - Florida National Guard
 - Workforce Florida & Regional Workforce Boards
 - Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve



WHAT IS A STAND DOWN?

The term *Stand Down* was used in the military, during times of war, to remove exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety. Today, Stand Down refers to a grassroots, community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 67,000 homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets.

WELCOME TO STAND DOWN

During the three-day event, the North Florida Fairgrounds will take on a military atmosphere as tents and cots are set up for homeless veterans, who will live and sleep on the property through the weekend.

HELP IS HERE

Veterans and their families who are living on the streets or who do not have permanent housing will get free access to:

- Hot meals for three days
- Showers, clothes and haircuts
- Court Services and Legal Counseling
- Medical and Mental Health Services
- Dental cleaning and examinations
- Housing vouchers
- State Photo Identification Cards
- Job and Employment Counseling
- Comfort & First Aid kits
- AA and NA Meetings
- Women & Children Services
- And much more

DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yes. Stand Down has been successful in matching the right services to those Veterans who are struggling to get their life back together.

Even for those veterans who return to life on the streets, Stand Down is an opportunity for them to take safe harbor from "combat on the streets" for one weekend a year. Certainly, our Veterans deserve at least that.

THE ROOTS OF STAND DOWN

"Stand Down" began in San Diego in 1988. Twenty-five years later, that organization has celebrated many successes and now there are more than 200 Stand Downs throughout the country. The San Diego Stand Down was featured in 2010 on "60 Minutes."



STAND UP FOR STAND DOWN

Stand Down is a time for the community to connect with our homeless veterans and to begin to break down the barriers that are keeping these heroes on the streets.

The "hand up, not a handout" philosophy of Stand Down requires the work of countless volunteers, businesses and local, state and national organizations.

You can help by going to our website at http://NorthFloridaStandDown.org and sign up to:

Sponsor one of the many military tents

➤ Volunteer your services: barbers and stylists, set-up and tear-down assistance, food servers, veteran escort and tent leaders are just a few of the needs at Stand Down

Volunteer items: food, clothing back packs, blankets, towels, and comfort items, are all required to make this a successful event

Make Tax Exempt Donations

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➤ Volunteer items: food, clothing, back packs, blankets, towels, and comfort items, are all required to make this a successful event

➤ Make Tax Exempt Donations



FLORIDA VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC.

The Capitol, Suite 2105D 400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

April 26, 2013

NORTH FLORIDA HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN APRIL 5-7, 2013, NORTH FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS

John Haynes Chairman

Robert E. Creger Vice Chairman

Sharon Richie-Melvan Secretary

Washington J. Sanchez, Jr. Director/Treasurer/COO

Regional Directors
Thomas G. Bowman
Jerry Neff

Board of Directors

Susan Carabello

Gary Clark

Michael Coker

Antonio Colmenares

Bill Vagianos

Col. Mike Prendergast ex-officio

• Attendance Veterans (Total 282)

- o 26 Females
- o 256 Males
- o Additional attendance were 21 Children
- Services
 - o 110 veterans received haircuts
 - 3 veterans received housing Tallahassee Veterans Village
 - o 13 companion dogs received veterinarian care
 - o 2 obtained employment
 - o 1 veteran admitted to the local hospital
 - o 1 veteran required emergency prescriptions
 - o 6 registered to vote
 - o Star Metro transported 108 veterans and 5 dogs
 - o ECHO processed 25 birth certificates

• Court

o Judge Ron Flury heard 14 Veterans resolving 44 cases in the Saturday morning Stand Down Court, April 6, 2013

Legal

- o 100 Veterans received legal advice (mostly child support)
- o 16 lawyers worked with 20 FSU law students and 7 paralegals
- 90 Cases from 32 Veterans were prepared to be heard by the Court
- o 10 Veterans' drivers licenses cleared for local charges
- Attorneys and Agencies continue to assist dozens of additional cases identified during the Stand Down, including Clemency proceedings.
- VA Claims (Total 31 Cases)
 - o 31 (compensation, disability, etc.)
- VA Medical (Total Cases 91)
 - o 60 Veterans received dental care
 - o 22 Medical
 - o 9 HIV Tests

850 Volunteers with over 100 Federal/State/County/City Agencies, businesses, and organizations providing services.









DATE

Example Address: Bob Ravener Chief People Officer Dollar General Corporation 100 Mission Ridge Goodlettsville, TN 37027

Dear Mr. Ravener,

On behalf of the Florida's military and veteran community, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the network of Regional Workforce Boards, and with support from Governor Rick Scott, we cordially invite you to participate in a unique hiring effort for our state's military community on May 10, 2013.

We, in state government, continue to be focused on addressing the employment needs of our service members and veterans across the state. Our May 10th event, called <u>Paychecks for Patriots</u>, is an effort to bring employers with current position openings in Florida to the table with great military and veteran candidates.

We are reaching out to companies with reputations of excellence that we believe have an interest in helping our military community find employment within their organizations. Our <u>Paychecks for Patriots</u> event seeks to partner with these employers in a one-day series of hiring fairs throughout the state. A list of the cities where we will have these 10 fairs is attached. There is no cost for your company to participate and we hope that you will consider any and all locations that make sense for your employment needs. If you are comfortable, we would also like to use participating companies' logos on our press materials.

Our hosts for these fairs are the tremendous network of Regional Workforce Boards that serve Florida so well. On the attached list, please find a contact person for each location who can partner with you on your registration for this event. This will be confirmed on a first come-first serve basis until we have reached capacity in each of the facilities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important effort. To participate, please contact your local Veteran's representative, (insert name/email/phone here), to reserve your free table(s) for this unprecedented hiring partnership.

Respectfully,

MAJGEN Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr. The Adjutant General

FL National Guard

COL (ret) Michael Prendergast

Executive Director

FL Department of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Jesse Panuccio
Executive Director

FL Department of Economic Opportunity







RWB 2 One-Stop Career Center at 409 NE Racetrack Rd. NE, Ft. Walton Beach / 10 Employers

RWB 7 Lake City American Legion #57 / 25 Employers

<u>RWB 9</u> Freedom Community Center at 7400 SW 41st Pl. Gainesville / 35 Employers

<u>RWB 11</u> One-Stop Career Center at 846 Saxon Blvd. Orange City / 12 Employers

<u>RWB 12</u> National Guard Armory in Leesburg (Lake/Sumter) / Capacity: 50 Employers

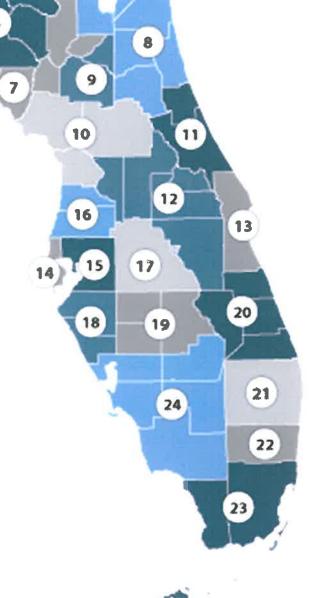
AND National Guard (Ferncreek) Armory in Orlando (Orange/Osceola/Seminole) / Capacity: 40 Employers

RWB 16 One-Stop Career Center at 4440 Grand Blvd. New Port Richey / 15 Employers

RWB 19 One-Stop Career Center at 5901 U.S. 27 South, Sebring / 25 Employers (10a-12 Vets Only / 12-2p Open to Public)

RWB 22 Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel, 1825 Griffin Rd. Dania Beach / 50 Employers

RWB 23 Florida International University, 11200 SW 8th St., Miami /





RICK SCOTT GOVERNOR

April 18, 2013

David Hickerson VP of Government and Community Relations US Foods 9399 West Higgins Road, Suite 500 Rosemont, Illinois 60018

Dear Mr. Hickerson:

On behalf of Florida's military and veteran communities, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), and the network of Regional Workforce Boards, we cordially invite you to participate in a unique hiring effort for our state's military community called <u>Paychecks for Patriots</u> on <u>May 10, 2013</u>.

Paychecks for Patriots is an effort to bring serious employers with current position openings in Florida to the table with great military and veteran candidates for a one-day series of hiring fairs throughout the state that will convene on May 10, 2013.

Our goal is to have companies with the reputations of excellence reach out to our Florida military community to find employment within their organizations. There is no cost for your company to participate and we hope that you will consider any and all locations that make sense for your employment needs.

Our hosts for these fairs are the tremendous network of Regional Workforce Boards that serve Florida so well, and I encourage you to reach out to your local Regional Workforce Board not just for this event, but for all of your workforce needs.

While I continue to be focused on addressing the employment needs of our service members and veterans across the state; it is also important to remember that veterans have served our country and selflessly provided us our freedom. Every Florida citizen owes them a debt of gratitude, and we owe every veteran an opportunity to pursue the American dream. I ask you to support this event and thank you for your commitment to maintaining a workforce in Florida that welcomes veterans, accommodates their needs, and provides veterans the opportunity to work in Florida.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this important effort, your support of our Florida military community, and continuing to be a strong part of Florida's economy.

Rick Scott

Governor