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|--------------|---|
| <b>Tab 1</b> | <b>SB 174</b> by <b>Burgess (CO-INTRODUCERS) Collins</b> ; Veterans' Long Term Care Facilities Admissions |
|--------------|---|

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**  
**MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, SPACE, AND**  
**DOMESTIC SECURITY**  
**Senator Wright, Chair**  
**Senator Torres, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023  
**TIME:** 8:30—10:30 a.m.  
**PLACE:** 301 Senate Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator Wright, Chair; Senator Torres, Vice Chair; Senators Baxley, Collins, and Pizzo

| TAB                             | BILL NO. and INTRODUCER   | BILL DESCRIPTION and<br>SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS  | COMMITTEE ACTION           |
|---------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 1                               | <b>SB 174</b><br>Burgess  | Veterans' Long Term Care Facilities Admissions;<br>Revising eligibility for residency in the Veteran's<br>Domiciliary Home of Florida to include specified<br>individuals; revising the definition of "resident";<br>revising the admission eligibility for veterans' nursing<br>homes to include specified individuals, etc.<br><br>MS 11/14/2023 Favorable<br>AHS<br>FP | Favorable<br>Yeas 4 Nays 0 |
| 2                               | Presentation by Luke Strickland, Chief of Staff, Division of Emergency Management         |   | Presented                  |
| 3                               | Presentation by Major General John Haas, Adjutant General, Department of Military Affairs |   | Presented                  |
| Other Related Meeting Documents |   |   |                            |

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

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BILL: SB 174

INTRODUCER: Senator Burgess

SUBJECT: Veterans' Long Term Care Facilities Admissions

DATE: November 13, 2023      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION           |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. | Brown   | Proctor        | MS        | <b>Favorable</b> |
| 2. |         |                | AHS       |                  |
| 3. |         |                | FP        |                  |

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**I. Summary:**

SB 174 expands the eligibility for residency at a veterans' home to include a spouse or surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran, or a parent of a child who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The bill revises priority order for admission to a veterans' home. The bill ranks in 5<sup>th</sup> place for admission a spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran and in 6<sup>th</sup> (last) place a parent of a child who died while in military service. These rankings preserve as a higher priority admission of a veteran over a nonveteran.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Law on Veterans Homes**

***Cost and Funding of Resident Care***

A resident of a state veterans' home must contribute to the cost of his or her care if the resident receives a pension, compensation, gratuity from the federal government, or income from any other source if the monthly amount exceeds \$160.<sup>1</sup>

The average cost of care at a state veterans' nursing home in Florida is \$394.15 a day.<sup>2</sup> The cost of care is funded through multiple sources, including from the resident. Cost charged to residents

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<sup>1</sup> Section 296.37(1), F.S. This contribution for care may be 100 percent of the cost if an otherwise eligible veteran is able to fund his or her own support (s. 296.37(2), F.S.).

<sup>2</sup> Fla. Dep't of Veterans' Affairs, 2023 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis, SB 174 (Nov. 7, 2023) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

ranges from an average \$98.63 a day for a resident on limited income, to the average cost of \$358.93 a day for a self-paying resident.<sup>3</sup> If a resident veteran is between 70 and 100 percent disabled, the resident pays nothing.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the resident's portion of payment, a federal subsidy in the form of reimbursement supplements the cost of care. Federal reimbursement is based on a per diem rate established by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Administration.<sup>5</sup> Current VA per diem for basic care is set at \$129.97 a day, while per diem for disabled veterans who are determined to be at least 70 percent disabled is set at \$474.45 per diem.<sup>6</sup> To qualify for reimbursement, federal law requires a facility to maintain a population of at least 75 percent veterans.<sup>7</sup> If facility construction or renovation is funded solely by the state, then the facility is only required to maintain a population of at least 50 percent veterans.<sup>8</sup>

Federal law authorizes a state veterans' home to house non-veteran residents who are spouses of veterans or parents whose children died while in military service.<sup>9</sup> These residents are required to pay the full cost.

### ***Eligibility for Admission***

To be considered for admission to a veterans' home in Florida, a veteran must have been discharged from the military with either an honorable or an upgrade to an honorable discharge.<sup>10</sup>

The state provides for veterans' homes as both Veterans' Domiciliary Homes<sup>11</sup> and Veterans' Nursing Homes.<sup>12</sup> Both veterans of wartime service and of peacetime service are eligible for admission. The order of admission to a veterans' home is ranked by priority.

### **Domiciliary Homes**

Domiciliary care means shelter, sustenance, and incidental medical care for a person who is ambulatory and can otherwise provide self-care, but not a person in need of hospitalization or nursing home care services.<sup>13</sup> A domiciliary home is an assisted living facility.

To be eligible for admission, a veteran must:

- Be a resident of the state at the time of application;
- Not be mentally ill, habitually inebriated, or addicted to drugs;

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> 38 CFR 51.210 (2023).

<sup>6</sup> Fla. Dep't of Veterans' Affairs, *supra* note 2.

<sup>7</sup> 38 CFR 51.210(d) (2023).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Sections 296.02(9) and 1.01(14), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> A Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida is a home for veterans established by the state (ss. 296.02 (10), and 296.03, F.S.).

<sup>12</sup> Chapter 296, Laws of Fla.

<sup>13</sup> Section 296.02(4), F.S.



- Not owe money to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) for services rendered during a previous stay at a FDVA facility;
- Have applied for all financial assistance reasonably available through governmental sources; and
- Have been approved as eligible for care and treatment by the VA.<sup>14</sup>

Residents are admitted in order of priority as follows:

- A veteran with wartime service who has a service-connected disability.
- A veteran with wartime service who has a non-service-connected disability.
- A veteran with wartime service and no disability.
- A veteran with peacetime service.<sup>15</sup>

An applicant must file with the administrator all necessary information for admission purposes, including a certificate of eligibility and a certified copy of discharge.<sup>16</sup>

### Nursing Homes

In addition to assisted-living facilities, Florida law provides for veterans' nursing homes.<sup>17</sup> Each nursing home is overseen by an administrator who is selected by the Executive Director (director) of the FDVA.<sup>18</sup>

To be eligible for admission a veteran must:

- Be in need of nursing care;
- Be a resident of the state at the time of application;
- Not owe money to the FDVA for services rendered during a previous stay at a FDVA facility;
- Have applied for all financial assistance reasonably available through governmental sources; and
- Have been approved as eligible for care and treatment by the VA.<sup>19</sup>

Residents are admitted in the following order of priority for an eligible veteran:

- Who is a resident of the state.
- Who has a service-connected disability as determined by the VA, or who was discharged or released from service for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty and the disability is the condition for the nursing home need.
- Who has a non-service-connected disability and is unable to defray the cost of nursing home care.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Section 296.06(2), F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 296.08, F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 296.08(2), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 296.32, F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Section 296.34, F.S.

<sup>19</sup> Section 296.36(1), F.S.

<sup>20</sup> Section 296.36(3), F.S.

### Veterans Facilities in Florida

Currently, 9 state veterans' homes operate in the state, 8 skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility. Nursing homes are located in Daytona Beach (Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home), Orlando (Alwyn C. Cashe State Veterans' Nursing Home), Land O'Lakes (Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home), Pembroke Pines (Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Veterans' Nursing Home), Panama City (Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home), Port Charlotte (Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans' Nursing Home), Port St. Lucie (Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home) and St. Augustine (Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home), Florida. The assisted living facility is in Lake City (Robert H. Jenkins, Jr. Veterans' Domiciliary Home), and to be admitted, veterans must be able to eat and dress. Two new homes are in the works, which will be located in Collier and Marion counties.<sup>21</sup>

As of October 2023, the occupancy rate for fully operational state veterans' nursing homes is at 94 percent.<sup>22</sup> Only the Alwyn C. Cashe facility is not fully operational.<sup>23</sup> The FDVA is in the process of appealing a decision by the VA that the home does not pass certification, and correcting deficiencies identified by the Agency for Health Care Administration.<sup>24</sup> As such, the home currently has 23 private-pay, non-veteran residents.<sup>25</sup>

Currently, 11 people statewide are on the waiting list for residential admission.<sup>26</sup> Veterans who are at least 70 percent disabled advance to the top of the list.<sup>27</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 174 expands the eligibility for residency at a veterans' home to include a:

- Spouse of a qualifying veteran;
- Surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran; and
- Parent of a child who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The bill revises the definition of "applicant" to mean the spouse or surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran, or a parent of a child who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The bill revises the definition of "resident" to mean an eligible applicant to a state veterans' home.

The bill revises priority order for admission to a veterans' home. The bill ranks in 5<sup>th</sup> place the admission of a spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran and in 6<sup>th</sup> (last) place a parent of a child

<sup>21</sup> Fla. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, *Agency Update*, PowerPoint (Oct. 10, 2023) (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

<sup>22</sup> Fla. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, *The Florida Cabinet, Weekly EOG Agency Report, Week Ending Nov. 4, 2023* (on file with the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security).

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

<sup>26</sup> Fla. Dep't of Veterans' Affairs, *supra* note 2.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. These rankings preserve as a higher priority admission of a veteran over a nonveteran.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

A qualifying nonveteran resident will have to pay full cost to reside in a state veterans' home. However, the resident would otherwise have to pay at another home, or for a private residence. For the spouse of a resident veteran, cost savings may be realized through the spouses sharing a room or assisted living arrangement.

C. Government Sector Impact:

A fiscal impact is not expected since a qualifying nonveteran resident will be charged the full cost of care and housing.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 296.02, 296.03, 296.08, 296.32, 296.33, and 296.36.

**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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By Senator Burgess

23-00312A-24

2024174\_\_

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to veterans' long term care facilities admissions; amending s. 296.02, F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 296.03, F.S.; revising eligibility for residency in the Veteran's Domiciliary Home of Florida to include specified individuals; amending s. 296.08, F.S.; adding such individuals to the priority of admittance schedule; amending s. 296.32, F.S.; revising the legislative purpose of part II of ch. 296, F.S., to conform to changes made by the act; amending s. 296.33, F.S.; revising the definition of "resident"; amending s. 296.36, F.S.; revising the admission eligibility for veterans' nursing homes to include specified individuals; revising the priority of admissions to include such individuals; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (1), (4), (8), and (10) of section 296.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

296.02 Definitions.—For the purposes of this part, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Applicant" means a veteran with wartime service or peacetime service, as defined in this section, the spouse or surviving spouse of such veteran, or a parent of a child who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, who is not in need of hospitalization or nursing home care.

(4) "Domiciliary care" means shelter, sustenance, and

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**CODING:** Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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incidental medical care provided on an ambulatory self-care basis to assist eligible applicants ~~veterans~~ who are disabled by age or disease, but who are not in need of hospitalization or nursing home care services.

(8) "Resident" means any eligible applicant ~~veteran~~ admitted to residency in the home.

(10) "Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida," hereinafter referred to as the "home," means a home established by the state for veterans who served in wartime service or in peacetime service, as defined in this section, the spouses or surviving spouses of such veterans, or the parents of a child who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Section 2. Section 296.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

296.03 Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida.—The Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida is for veterans who served in wartime service or peacetime service, as defined in s. 296.02, the spouses or surviving spouses of such veterans, or the parents of a child who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, and is maintained for the use of those individuals ~~veterans~~ who are not in need of hospitalization or nursing home care and who can attend to their personal needs, dress themselves, and attend a general dining facility, or who are in need of extended congregate care.

Section 3. Paragraphs (e) and (f) are added to subsection (1) of section 296.08, Florida Statutes, to read:

296.08 Priority of admittance.—

(1) In determining the eligibility of applicants to the home, the administrator shall give admittance priority in

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59 accordance with the following schedule:

60 (e) Those spouses or surviving spouses of veterans.

61 (f) Those parents of children who died while serving in the  
62 Armed Forces of the United States.

63 Section 4. Section 296.32, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
64 read:

65 296.32 Purpose.—The purpose of this part is to provide for  
66 the establishment of basic standards for the operation of  
67 veterans' nursing homes for eligible veterans, the spouses or  
68 surviving spouses of such veterans, or the parents of a child  
69 who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States,  
70 who are in need of such services.

71 Section 5. Subsection (5) of section 296.33, Florida  
72 Statutes, is amended to read:

73 296.33 Definitions.—As used in this part, the term:

74 (5) "Resident" means any eligible veteran, the spouse or  
75 surviving spouse of such veteran, or a parent of a child who  
76 died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, who  
77 is admitted to the home.

78 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 296.36, Florida  
79 Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (d) and (e) are added to  
80 subsection (3) of that section, to read:

81 296.36 Eligibility and priority of admittance.—

82 (1) To be eligible for admittance to the home, the person  
83 must be a veteran as provided in s. 1.01(14) or have eligible  
84 peacetime service as defined in s. 296.02, or be the spouse or  
85 surviving spouse of a veteran, or the parents of a child who  
86 died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and  
87 must:

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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88 (a) Be in need of nursing home care.

89 (b) Be a resident of the state at the time of application  
90 for admission to the home.

91 (c) Not owe money to the department for services rendered  
92 during any previous stay at a department facility.

93 (d) Have applied for all financial assistance reasonably  
94 available through governmental sources.

95 (e) Have been approved as eligible for care and treatment  
96 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

97 (3) Admittance priority must be given to eligible veterans  
98 in the following order of priority:

99 (d) A spouse or a surviving spouse of such veteran as  
100 described in this subsection.

101 (e) A parent of a child who died while serving in the Armed  
102 Forces of the United States.

103 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.



## 2023 AGENCY LEGISLATIVE BILL ANALYSIS

**AGENCY: Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs**

### BILL INFORMATION

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>BILL NUMBER:</b>    | <u>SB174</u>  |
| <b>BILL TITLE:</b>     | <u>Veterans' Long Term Care Facilities Admissions</u> |
| <b>BILL SPONSOR:</b>   | <u>Senator Danny Burgess</u>                          |
| <b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> | <u>July 1, 2024</u>                                   |

### COMMITTEES OF REFERENCE

- 1) Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security
- 2) Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
- 3) Fiscal Policy
- 4) Click or tap here to enter text.
- 5) Click or tap here to enter text.

### CURRENT COMMITTEE

Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security

### SIMILAR BILLS

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>BILL NUMBER:</b> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| <b>SPONSOR:</b>     | Click or tap here to enter text. |

### PREVIOUS LEGISLATION

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>BILL NUMBER:</b> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| <b>SPONSOR:</b>     | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| <b>YEAR:</b>        | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| <b>LAST ACTION:</b> | Click or tap here to enter text. |

### IDENTICAL BILLS

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>BILL NUMBER:</b> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| <b>SPONSOR:</b>     | Click or tap here to enter text. |

### Is this bill part of an agency package?

No

### BILL ANALYSIS INFORMATION

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>DATE OF ANALYSIS:</b>      | 10/20/2023                       |
| <b>LEAD AGENCY ANALYST:</b>   | Brandon Edmonston                |
| <b>ADDITIONAL ANALYST(S):</b> | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| <b>LEGAL ANALYST:</b>         | Andrew Benard                    |

**FISCAL ANALYST:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

## POLICY ANALYSIS

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This bill revises eligibility regarding admission to the Florida State Veterans' Nursing Home System, Domiciliary Home System and long term care facilities. SB 174 revises Chapter 296 of Florida Statute to allow admission of spouses, surviving spouses, or parents of children who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces into the Veterans Nursing Homes of the State of Florida as is permitted in federal law pursuant to CFR 51.210. Changes definitions of numerous terms taken into consideration during the admissions process and in result broadens the applicant and admittee pool. Veterans still take priority over spouses and Gold Star Parents, due to priority of admissions.

### 2. SUBSTANTIVE BILL ANALYSIS

#### 1. PRESENT SITUATION:

Currently, Florida Law only allows for veterans to be admitted into the State Veteran Nursing Home system. Upon admission to a nursing home, Veterans would have to be separated from their spouses, given they are married, as Florida Statute currently reads, and Gold Star Parents are not admissible.

#### 2. EFFECT OF THE BILL:

Revision of this language in Chapter 296 of Florida Statute allows for Veterans' and their spouses to remain together if they chose to enter long term care. Pursuant to CFR 51.70(m) married couples also reserve the right to share a room with his or her spouse. In addition, it also allows Gold Star Parents to be admitted if they chose to enter a long-term care facility operated by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. Direct effect results in increased admissions due to a broader applicant pool.

#### 3. DOES THE BILL DIRECT OR ALLOW THE AGENCY/BOARD/COMMISSION/DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP, ADOPT, OR ELIMINATE RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, OR PROCEDURES? Y N

|  |   |
|--|---|
| If yes, explain:   | Directs the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to make additions to eligibility and applicant pool to admit specified individuals into nursing homes by priority. |
| Is the change consistent with the agency's core mission? | Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Rule(s) impacted (provide references to F.A.C., etc.):   | Click or tap here to enter text.  |

#### 4. WHAT IS THE POSITION OF AFFECTED CITIZENS OR STAKEHOLDER GROUPS?

|                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Proponents and summary of position: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Opponents and summary of position:  | Click or tap here to enter text. |

#### 5. ARE THERE ANY REPORTS OR STUDIES REQUIRED BY THIS BILL?

Y  N 

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| If yes, provide a description: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Date Due:                      | Click or tap here to enter text. |



|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                         |                                  |
| Bill Section Number(s): | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**6. ARE THERE ANY NEW GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS OR CHANGES TO EXISTING BOARDS, TASK FORCES, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS, ETC. REQUIRED BY THIS BILL?** Y  N

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Board:                  | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Board Purpose:          | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Who Appoints:           | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Changes:                | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Bill Section Number(s): | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**FISCAL ANALYSIS**

**1. DOES THE BILL HAVE A FISCAL IMPACT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT?** Y  N

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Revenues:   | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Expenditures:   | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Does the legislation increase local taxes or fees? If yes, explain.   | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| If yes, does the legislation provide for a local referendum or local governing body public vote prior to implementation of the tax or fee increase? |                                  |

**2. DOES THE BILL HAVE A FISCAL IMPACT TO STATE GOVERNMENT?** Y  N

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Revenues:  | Click or tap here to enter text.   |
| Expenditures:  | Click or tap here to enter text.   |
| Does the legislation contain a State Government appropriation? | Click or tap here to enter text.   |
| If yes, was this appropriated last year?                       | <p>THERE IS NO FISCAL IMPACT ON THIS BILL.</p> <p>FS 296.37 Residents; contribution to support.—</p> <p>(1) Every resident of the home who receives a pension, compensation, or gratuity from the United States Government, or</p> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>income from any other source of more than \$160 per month, shall contribute to his or her maintenance and support while a resident of the home in accordance with a schedule of payment determined by the administrator and approved by the director. The total amount of such contributions shall be to the fullest extent possible but may not exceed the actual cost of operating and maintaining the home.</p> <p>(2) The administrator may, if there is room, admit to residency in the home a veteran who has sufficient means for his or her own support, but is otherwise eligible to become a resident of the home, on payment of the full cost of his or her support, which cost and method of collection shall be fixed from time to time by the administrator.</p> <p>The rates below apply to each category of our residents. Spouses and Gold Star parents will be required to pay the private resident rate. The USDVA will not pay a per diem rate for those residents.</p> <p>Average daily cost of care of our six open state veterans' nursing homes - \$394.15 per day<br/>                 Average daily patient liability with limited income - \$98.63 per day<br/>                 Average daily patient liability for a private resident who pays 100% - \$358.93.<br/>                 Daily Basic VA Per Diem received - \$129.97 in addition to the resident's patient liability.<br/>                 Average daily 70-100 % VA Per Diem received - \$474.45 resident pays nothing.</p> <p>Currently our waiting list is 11 people across the state. 70-100% go to top of list. All others are ranked according to application received, but veterans will always be before Spouses and Gold Star Parents who would be the lowest priority for our homes.</p> |
|--|---|

**3. DOES THE BILL HAVE A FISCAL IMPACT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR?** Y  N

|               |                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Revenues:     | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Expenditures: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Other:        | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**4. DOES THE BILL INCREASE OR DECREASE TAXES, FEES, OR FINES?** Y  N

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| If yes, explain impact. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Bill Section Number:    | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**TECHNOLOGY IMPACT**

1. DOES THE BILL IMPACT THE AGENCY’S TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (I.E. IT SUPPORT, LICENSING SOFTWARE, DATA STORAGE, ETC.)? Y  N

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| If yes, describe the anticipated impact to the agency including any fiscal impact. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|--|----------------------------------|

**FEDERAL IMPACT**

1. DOES THE BILL HAVE A FEDERAL IMPACT (I.E. FEDERAL COMPLIANCE, FEDERAL FUNDING, FEDERAL AGENCY INVOLVEMENT, ETC.)? Y  N

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| If yes, describe the anticipated impact including any fiscal impact. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|--|----------------------------------|

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**LEGAL - GENERAL COUNSEL’S OFFICE REVIEW**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Issues/concerns/comments: | <p>SB 174 expands SVNH and SVDH admission eligibility to the spouse or surviving spouse of a veteran, or the parents of a child who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.</p> <p>The proposed changes raise potential legal issues with respect to funding from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. First is the potential loss of per diem funding for each bed occupied by a non-veteran, as provided in 38 USCS § 1741 <i>Criteria for payment to State Homes</i>, and 38 CFR 51.50 <i>Eligible veterans — nursing home care</i>.</p> <p>The second legal issue concerning Federal funding involves the provisions for recapture or “clawback” of certain funds either utilized in the construction of State Homes<sup>1</sup> or in hiring and retention of nurses.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>However, such legal concerns may be moot as the proposed legislation leaves intact admission eligibility requirements in Florida Statute § 296.36(1)(e), providing that a resident has been approved as eligible for care and treatment by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.</p> |
|---------------------------|--|

<sup>1</sup> See 38 USCS § 8136 Recapture of Construction Grants and 38 CFR 59.110 Recapture provisions.

<sup>2</sup> See 38 USCS § 1744 Hiring and retention of nurses: payments to assist States and 38 CFR 53.32 Recapture provisions.





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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*Honoring those who served U.S.*

## **Agency Update**

**October 10, 2023**

***Major General James S. Hartsell, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)***

***Executive Director***



# State Veterans' Homes





**THE FLORIDA CABINET**  
**WEEKLY EOG AGENCY REPORT**  
**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
**WEEK ENDING November 4, 2023**

**Successes, Engagements and Activities for Week Ending November 4, 2023**

- **State Veterans' Homes Program**

The State Veterans' Nursing Homes (SVNHs) resident daily occupancy rate is 94% for our fully operational SVNHs, as of November 1, 2023.

**Homes update:**

- We continue to fill vacant beds in our State Veteran Nursing Homes. This week's census is at 94% and is the highest census since COVID.
- Alwyn C. Cashe SVNH was inspected for VA certification by the VA and for Medicare/Medicaid certification and relicensure by AHCA in August. It failed to pass the VA certification and the AHCA certification surveys. It did pass the AHCA licensure survey. We have requested a review by the VA decision and have corrected deficiencies cited by AHCA and have requested approval of our corrections. It currently has a census of 23 private pay residents, as of November 1, 2023.

- **Veterans' Benefits and Assistance**

- Mark Johnson, Veterans' Claims Examiner (VCE) Supervisor, VA Outpatient Clinic (VAOPC), Middleburg, successfully advocated a disability claim appeal, for multiple conditions, for a U.S. Navy Gulf War Veteran. Mr. Johnson met with the Veteran in July 2014, reviewed his file and discovered a denied claim for anxiety/depression, lower back and knees, and cervical spine disabilities. He discussed the issues with the Veteran, gathered evidence and filed an appeal to the Board of Veteran Appeals (BVA). After adjudication, the BVA granted several disabilities for an overall 100% Permanent & Total (P&T) rating, effective February 9, 2014. Due to Mr. Johnson's advocacy, the Veteran now receives a monthly monetary compensation of \$3,750 and a \$130,470 retroactive payment was secured.
- Latasha Brown, VCE, VA Medical Center (VAMC), West Palm Beach, successfully advocated an initial disability claim for a Gulf War Era Veteran. Mrs. Brown met with the Veteran, reviewed his service treatment records, gathered evidence and filed a claim for multiple conditions. After processing, the VA granted several disabilities for an overall 40% rating. Due to Mrs. Brown's advocacy, the Veteran was awarded a monthly monetary compensation of \$731 and a retroactive payment of \$21,146 was secured.
- Armida Flores-Morales, VCE, VAMC, Lake Nona, successfully advocated a disability claim increase, for a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), for a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. Mrs. Flores-Morales met with the Veteran, reviewed his service treatment records, gathered evidence and filed the claim. After processing, the VA granted TBI with an overall 50% rating. Due to Mrs. Flores-

Morales's advocacy, the Veteran's monthly monetary compensation increased from \$328 to \$1,143 and a retroactive award of \$8,618 was secured.

- Roy Ward, VCE, VAMC, Lake Nona, successfully advocated a disability claim for a U.S. Army Veteran. Mr. Ward met with the Veteran in February 2023, reviewed his file and discovered worsening disability conditions. He discussed the issues with the Veteran, gathered evidence and filed the claim. After processing, the VA granted several disability increases with a 90% overall rating. Due to Mr. Ward's advocacy, the Veteran now receives a monthly monetary compensation in the amount of \$2,172 and a \$6,517 retroactive payment was secured.
- Kahdejha Parker, VCE, VAMC, Tampa, successfully advocated a disability claim, for a temporary 100% rating for surgery of the left foot, for a Veteran. Mrs. Parker was contacted by the Veteran's VA social worker on August 23, 2023, about the in-patient status of the Veteran following surgery. She gathered evidence of the convalescence period and filed a claim. After processing, the VA granted a temporary 100% rating for the disability recovery period. Due to Mrs. Parker's advocacy, the Veteran was granted a retroactive payment of \$3,456.
- Angela Brown, VCE, VAMC, Tampa, successfully advocated a disability claim, for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), for the widow of a Veteran. Ms. Brown met with the widow, reviewed the Veterans file and discovered that at the time of death, the Veteran had a 100% overall rating before he passed away. She discussed the issues with the widow, gathered evidence and filed the claim. After processing, the VA granted DIC.. Due to Ms. Brown's advocacy the widow now receives a monthly compensation of \$1,5624 and a retroactive award of \$4,256 was secured.
- **Executive Direction and Support Services**
  - On November 2, 2023, Deputy Executive Director, Bob Asztalos, attended the Stand Down event in Miami-Dade County, hosted by District 10 Commissioner and Vice Chairman, Anthony Rodriguez, to provide resources of the Agency's benefits and services to veterans and their families.
  - On November 3, 2023, Deputy Executive Director, Bob Asztalos, virtually participated in the Florida Health Care Association's (FHCA) Workforce Committee Meeting to discuss updates on FHCA workforce initiatives, and recovery relief assistance available to Floridians and VA benefit access services with available programs offered to servicemembers, veterans and their eligible families.
  - On November 3, 2023, Deputy Executive Director, Bob Asztalos, participated in the Florida Healthcare Association (FHCA) Legislative Committee meeting, to discuss legislative issues to make recommendations to the FHCA Board.
  - On November 3, 2023, Deputy Executive Director, Bob Asztalos, attended the Florida A&M Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit 248<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Birthday Celebration, hosted by the United States Marine Corps and United States Navy, in Tallahassee.



- **Executive Director Outreach and Activities**

- On October 31, 2023, Executive Director, Maj Gen (Retired) James Hartsell, participated in a conference call with Brandt McCartney, Founder and Chief Vulnerability Officer, to discuss Mission 38, which seeks to eliminate suicide through challenging stigma associated with bridging the gaps between suicide prevention, outreach and accessible benefits and services offered to veterans and their families.
- On November 2, 2023, Executive Director, Maj Gen (Retired) James Hartsell, Deputy Executive Director, Bob Asztalos, and Chief of Staff, Col. (Retired) Al Carter, participated in a monthly military conference call meeting with Enterprise Florida, Incorporated and the Military and Defense (EFI M&D) Programs, Disabled Veterans of America (DVA), Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Space Florida and Veterans Florida to network, synchronize efforts and collaborate with veteran organizations and stakeholders. The meeting focused on enhancing the overall health and well-being and safety of Florida's residents, servicemembers and veterans and their family members by connecting them with earned benefits.

### **Continuing Issues**

FDVA implemented its discretionary pay plan to address challenges associated with recruiting and retaining administrative and clinical support staff for our State Veterans' Nursing Homes due to a state-wide shortage.

FDVA is working with DMS on the memorandum which details the implementation of the new "Administrative Health Insurance Assessment". The Agency is requesting an exemption, exception, or reduction in the amount assessed for each employee due to the nationwide nursing shortage.

FDVA is working on the Hope Florida Program within the Agency, geared to support the issues germane to Veterans, Service Members, and their families. We anticipate doing an opening of the program within the Agency before the end of November 2023.

### **New Issues**

We have no issues to report.



*The Florida Senate*

## Committee Agenda Request

**To:** Senator Tom Wright, Chair  
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

**Subject:** Committee Agenda Request

**Date:** October 17, 2023

---

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill # 174**, relating to Veterans' Long Term Care Facilities Admissions, be placed on the:

- committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.
- next committee agenda.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Danny".

---

Senator Danny Burgess  
Florida Senate, District 23

09

# APPEARANCE RECORD

SB 174

Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

11/14/2023

Meeting Date

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name MAJOR GENERAL JAMES HARTSELL

Phone (950) 414-2312

Address 4040 ESPLANADE WAY

Email JAMES.HARTSELL@FOVA.FL.GOV

Street

TALLAHASSEE FL 32399

City

State

Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information **OR** Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against

### PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

FDVA

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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# Florida Division of Emergency Management

## *Overview of FDEM Ongoing Hurricane Response & Recovery*

*November 14, 2023*



# Overview of FDEM Core Programs

## Preparedness

- Administer Florida's All-Hazards planning programs to ensure the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) is prepared.
- Facilitate prompt and efficient response and recovery.
- Protect lives and property impacted by disasters.
- Coordinate training courses for counties and first responders.

## Response

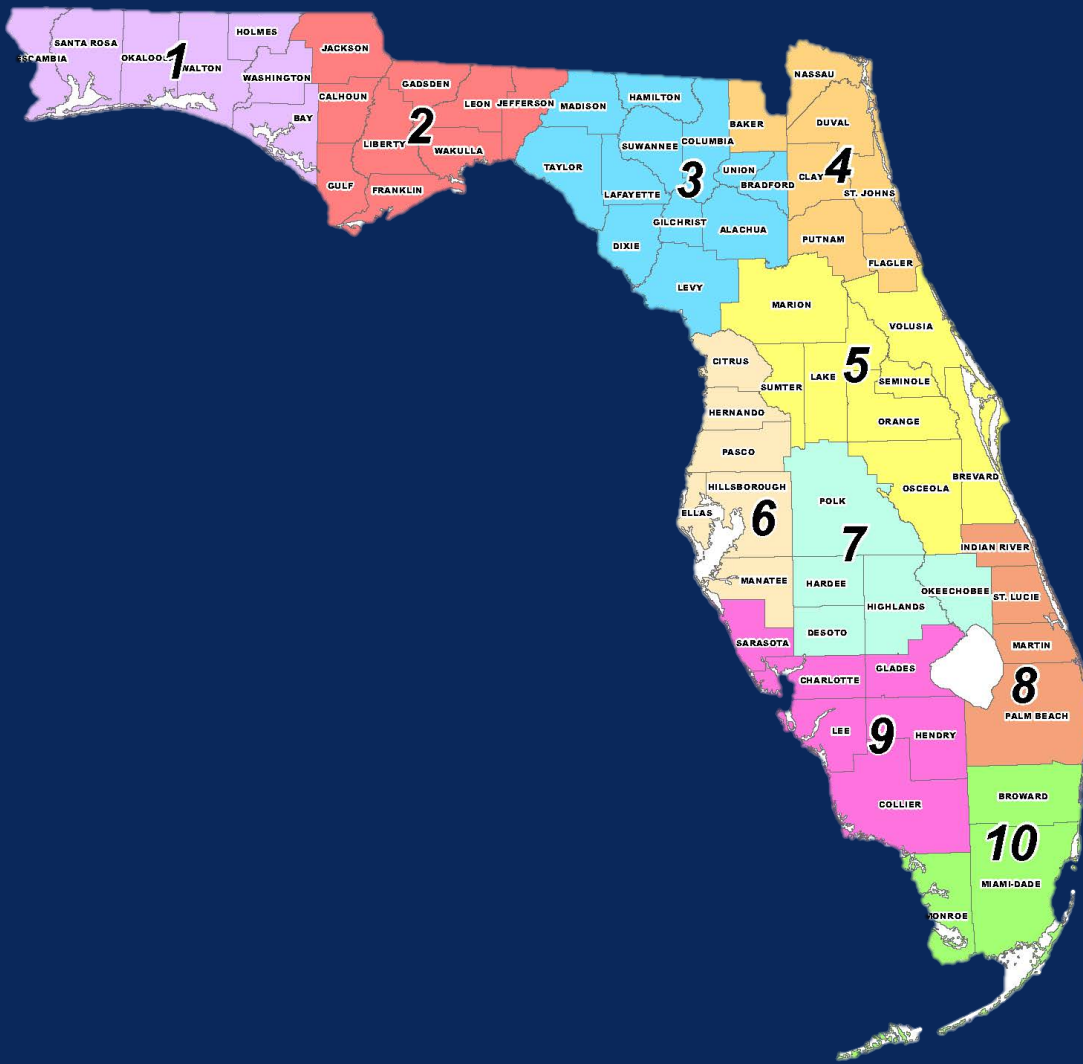
- Monitor incidents that may require State response.
- Manage 24/7 State Watch Office.
- Oversee logistics vendor management and resource deployment.
- Support State Emergency Response Commission through Tech Hazards Unit– *Nuclear Power Plants*.

## Recovery

- Work to maximize and accelerate federal disaster assistance to eligible public-sector partners and residents.
- Administer recovery funding such as Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and American Recovery Plan Act.
- Paid out over \$8.3 billion in recovery funding to local governments in four years.

## Mitigation

- State Coordinating Agency of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Administer FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
- Administer FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program.
- Provide technical assistance to counties developing and implementing local mitigation strategies.



# FDEM Operational Regions







# State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)



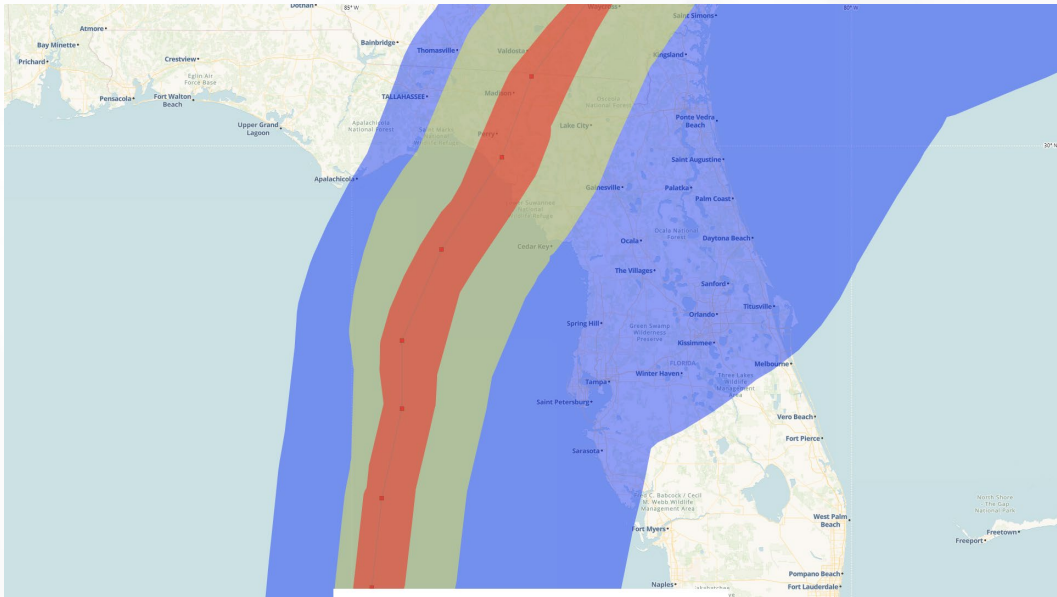
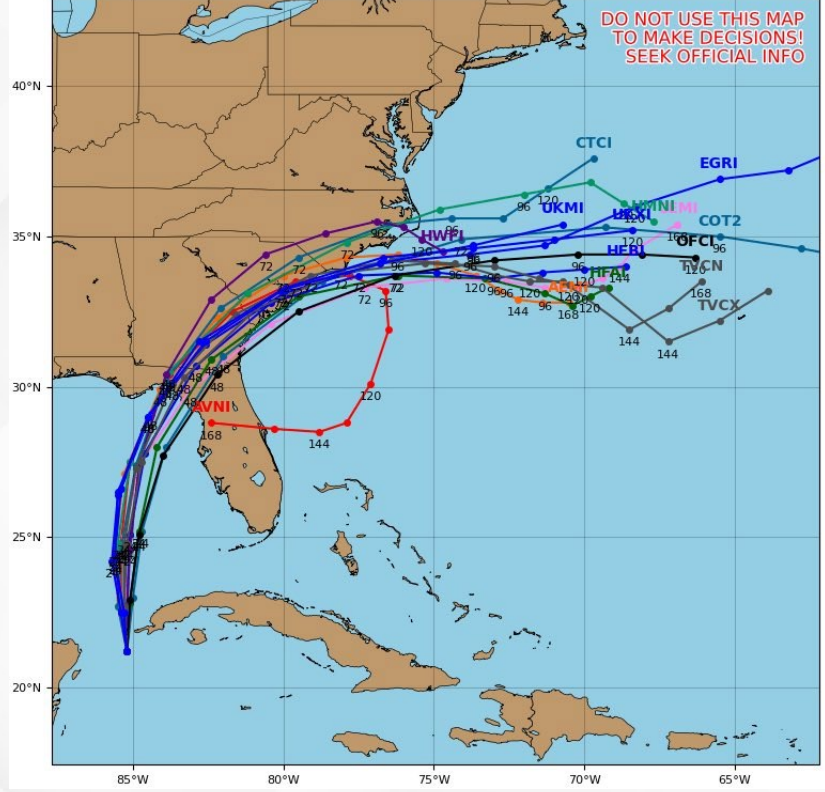


# Hurricane Idalia Path

## Tropical Storm IDALIA Model Track Guidance

Initialized at 18z Aug 28 2023

Levi Cowan - tropicaltidbits.com







# Hurricane Idalia – August 30, 2023

## Immediate: RESPONSE

- **Logistics** – FDEM mobilized requested resources to support residents and first responders in the path of the storm, including meals ready to eat, bottled water, tarps, and generators.
- **Infrastructure** – 90% of utility accounts impacted by the storm were restored within three days of landfall.
- **Human Services** – More than 220,000 meals, over 150,000 water bottles and 3,000 tarps have been distributed at Points of Distribution.
- **Coordinate, Collaborate, Communicate** – Partner agencies & non-profits played integral roles in the Idalia response and ongoing recovery.





# Hurricane Idalia – August 30, 2023

## Ongoing: RECOVERY

- **Public Assistance** – FDEM prioritized recovery funding and already has **\$273M** obligated.
- **State Non-Congregate Sheltering Program** – Florida's state-led sheltering program is available through [FloridaRecovers.org](https://www.floridarecovers.org) in partnership with the American Red Cross to provide temporary sheltering options — such as travel trailers and hotel rooms — for households whose homes may be uninhabitable.
- **Volunteer Village** – Mayo, Lafayette County. Provides lodging for approximately 100 volunteers who are serving in the surrounding areas.
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** – The state is currently estimating that it will receive **\$241,007,130** in hazard mitigation funding to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures in communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia.





# Hurricane Ian – September 28, 2022

## Ongoing: RECOVERY & MITIGATION

- **Unite Florida Recovery Portal** – This program was created in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian to connect survivors to important recovery resources, including housing support:
  - **State Non-Congregate Sheltering Program**
  - **Sheltering in Home for Recovery Continuation**
- **Public Assistance** – FDEM prioritized recovery funding by cutting through red tape and achieving federal obligation of **\$1 billion** in funds during the first 256 days post-landfall of Hurricane Ian - 344 days faster than any other hurricane on record.
- **Current Numbers:** Obligated **\$1.8B**  
In Development **\$2.48B**, including \$88M for FDEM
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program** – The state is currently estimated to receive **\$1,165,933,863** in Hazard mitigation funding to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures in communities impacted by Hurricane Ian.







# Hurricane Nicole – November 10, 2022

## Ongoing: RECOVERY & MITIGATION

- **Public Assistance –**
  - Obligated: **\$27,456,639**
  - In Development: **\$180,610,628**
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program –**
  - The state is currently estimated to receive **\$47,589,863** in hazard mitigation funding to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures in communities impacted by Hurricane Nicole.



# Thank You



## For Additional Questions:

**Amelia Johnson**

Phone: 850-800-7669

Email: [Amelia.Johnson@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Amelia.Johnson@em.myflorida.com)

11-14-23

Meeting Date

Military & Veterans Affairs

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

FDEM Presentation

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Luke Strickland

Phone

850-815-4000

Address

2555 Shurmond Oak Blvd

Email

Luke.Strickland@em.myflorida.com

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

For

Against

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

In Support

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

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This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)



# Florida National Guard Department of Military Affairs

## Senate Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

**Major General John D Haas**

The Adjutant General





# Our Mission



**Provide Highly Trained Units and Personnel to:**

**Support National Security Objectives**

**Respond to Emergencies and Disasters**

**Support Programs which add Value to Our State and Nation**



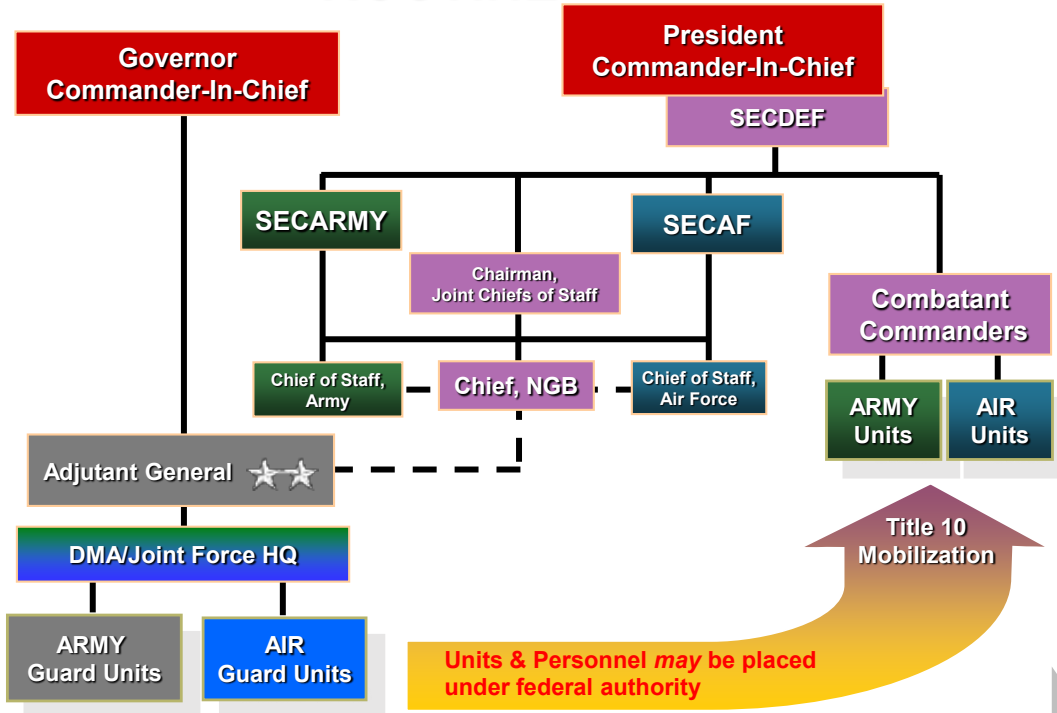




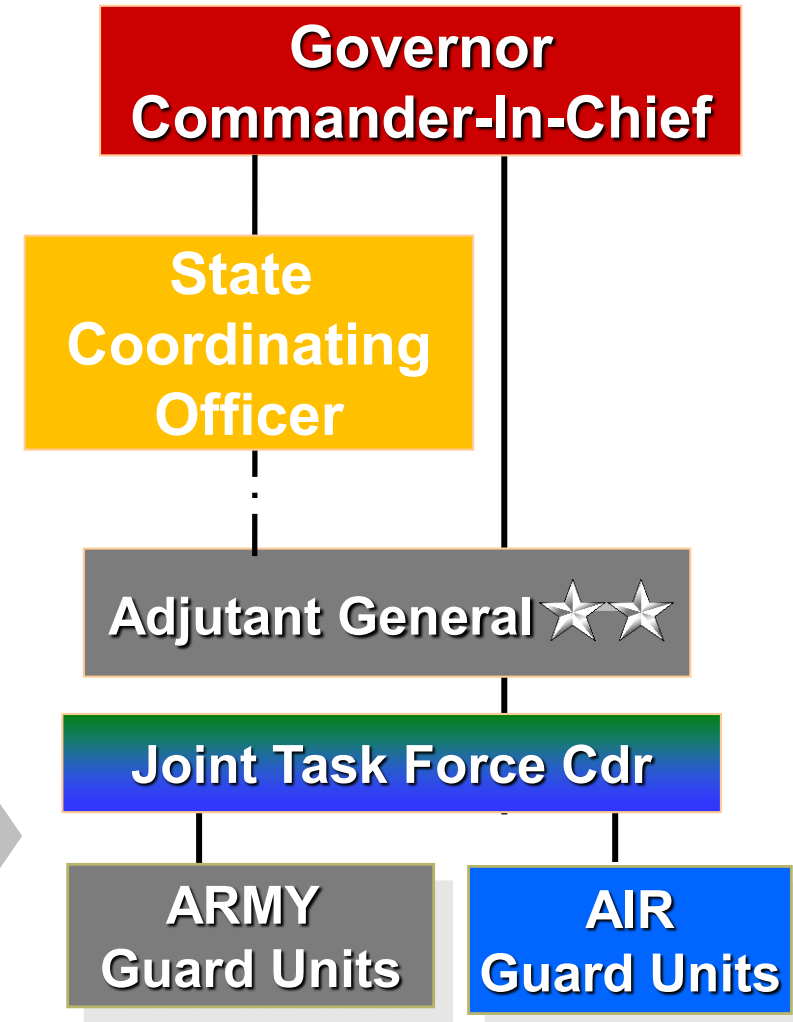
# Chain of Command Routine and Emergent



## ROUTINE



## EMERGENT



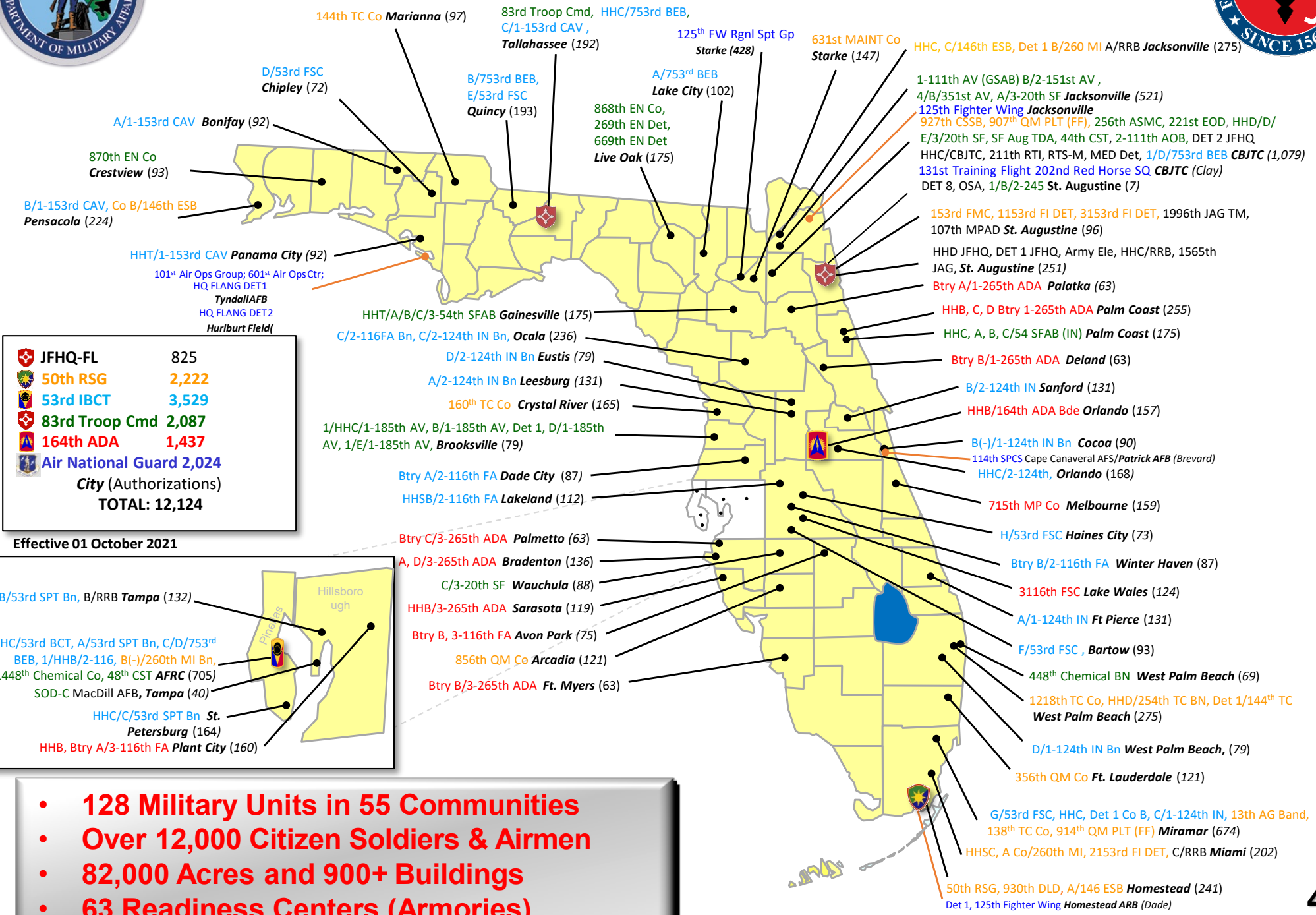
### FLORIDA STATUTE § 250.06:

#### As the Commander of the Guard, the Governor:

- ✓ Declares an emergency through an Executive Order
- ✓ Designates the "State Coordinating Officer"
- ✓ Orders the Guard to State Active Duty for emergency aid
- ✓ Initiates Emergency Management Assistance Compact with other Governors as required

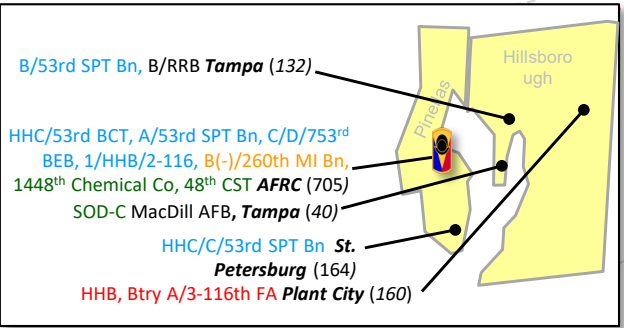


# Florida National Guard Units



|                              |                           |              |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
|                              | <b>JFHQ-FL</b>            | <b>825</b>   |
|                              | <b>50th RSG</b>           | <b>2,222</b> |
|                              | <b>53rd IBCT</b>          | <b>3,529</b> |
|                              | <b>83rd Troop Cmd</b>     | <b>2,087</b> |
|                              | <b>164th ADA</b>          | <b>1,437</b> |
|                              | <b>Air National Guard</b> | <b>2,024</b> |
| <b>City (Authorizations)</b> |                           |              |
| <b>TOTAL: 12,124</b>         |                           |              |

Effective 01 October 2021



- **128 Military Units in 55 Communities**
- **Over 12,000 Citizen Soldiers & Airmen**
- **82,000 Acres and 900+ Buildings**
- **63 Readiness Centers (Armories)**

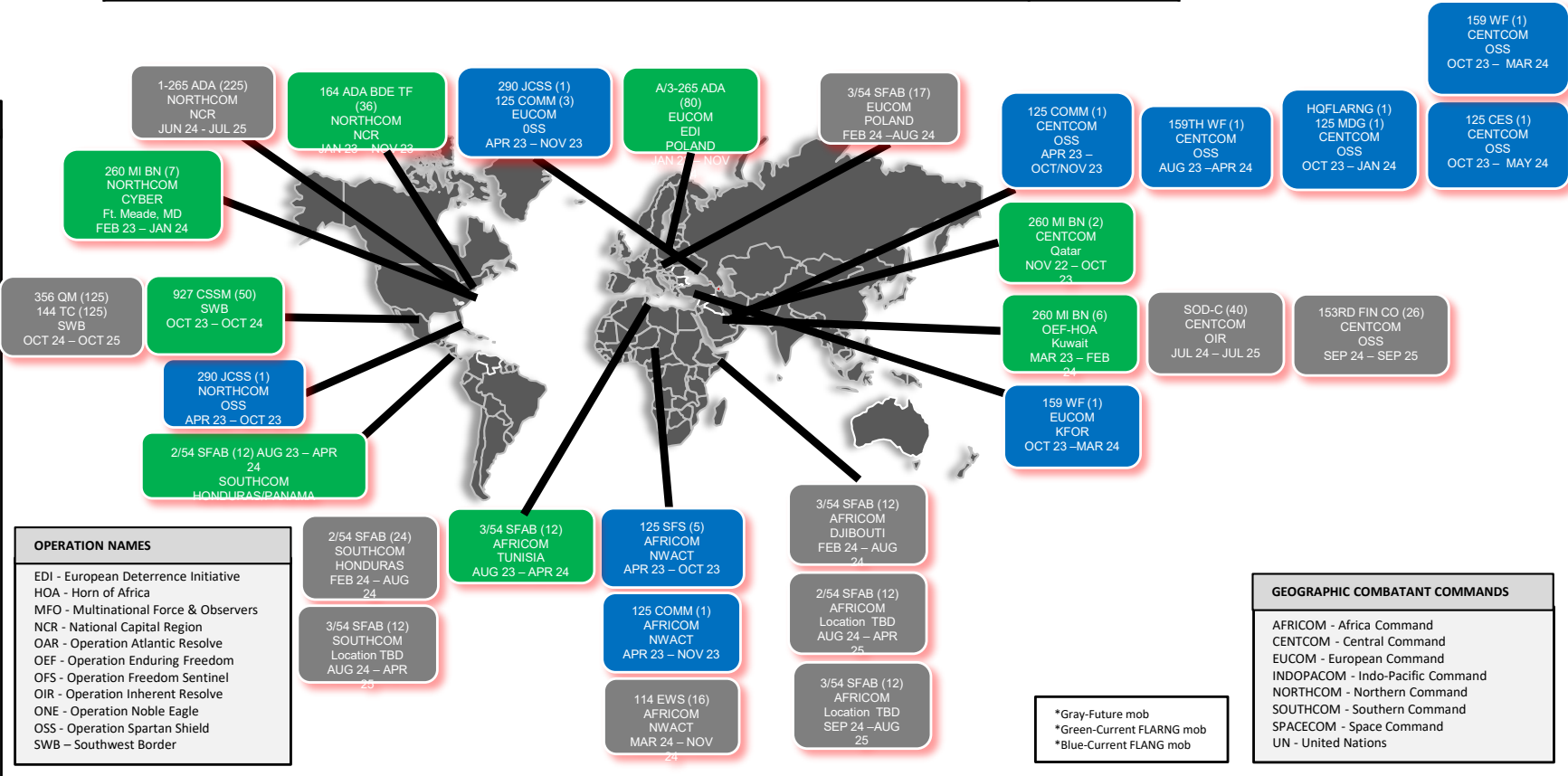


# Florida National Guard Mobilization Update



| FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENTS                                 |            |
|--|------------|
| Total Soldiers & Airmen Currently Deployed as of 06 NOV 2023:      | <b>223</b> |
| Total Soldiers & Airmen Scheduled for Deployment Through NOV 2024: | <b>646</b> |

| FLNG NAMES                                  |
|---|
| ADA BDE: AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE      |
| FW: FIGHTER WING                            |
| ADA BN: AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION     |
| HOA: HORN OF AFRICA                         |
| POTUS: PROTECTION OF THE UNITED STATES      |
| IBCT: INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM          |
| RCP: RESERVE COMPONENT PERIOD               |
| AOB: AIRFIELD OPERATIONS BATTALION          |
| IN BN: INFANTRY BATTALION                   |
| RHS: RED HORSE SQUADRON                     |
| AOG: AIR & SPACE OPERATIONS GROUP           |
| RSG: REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP                 |
| AVN BN: AVIATION BATTALION                  |
| JCSS: JOINT COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON |
| SC BN: SIGNAL BATTALION                     |
| CAV: CAVALRY                                |
| LRS: LOGISTICS & READINESS SQUADRON         |
| SF: SPECIAL FORCES                          |
| MCE: MISSION COMMAND ELEMENT                |
| SFS: SECURITY FORCE SQUADRON                |
| CES: CIVIL ENGINEER SQUADRON                |
| MP CO: MILITARY POLICE COMPANY              |
| SPCS: SPACE CONTROL SQUADRON                |
| CF: COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT                   |
| NCR: NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION                |
| SOS: SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON            |
| CPTF: COMPTROLLER FLIGHT                    |
| DET: DETACHMENT                             |
| TC: TRANSPORTATION COMPANY                  |
| EOD: EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL            |
| TSP: THEATER SUPPORT PACKAGE                |
| TF - TASK FORCE                             |
| FI DET - FINANCE DETACHMENT                 |



**Mobilized over 28,000 since September 11, 2001**



# Florida National Guard Current Operations Update



| Total PAX                         |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Total FLNG Service Members<br>353 |          |
| Army<br>345                       | Air<br>8 |

**FLNG MISSION SUMMARY**

The Florida National Guard (FLNG) is currently providing aviation support to state law enforcement to detect and report migrants approaching the Florida coastline while continuing support for the Department of Corrections. The FLNG is also conducting close out operations for Idalia.

### Department of Corrections

| Service Members |     |       | Facilities<br>10 | Days<br>394 |
|-----------------|-----|-------|------------------|-------------|
| Army            | Air | Total |                  |             |
| 302             | 6   | 308   |                  |             |

C2/ARRO at RFE - 9

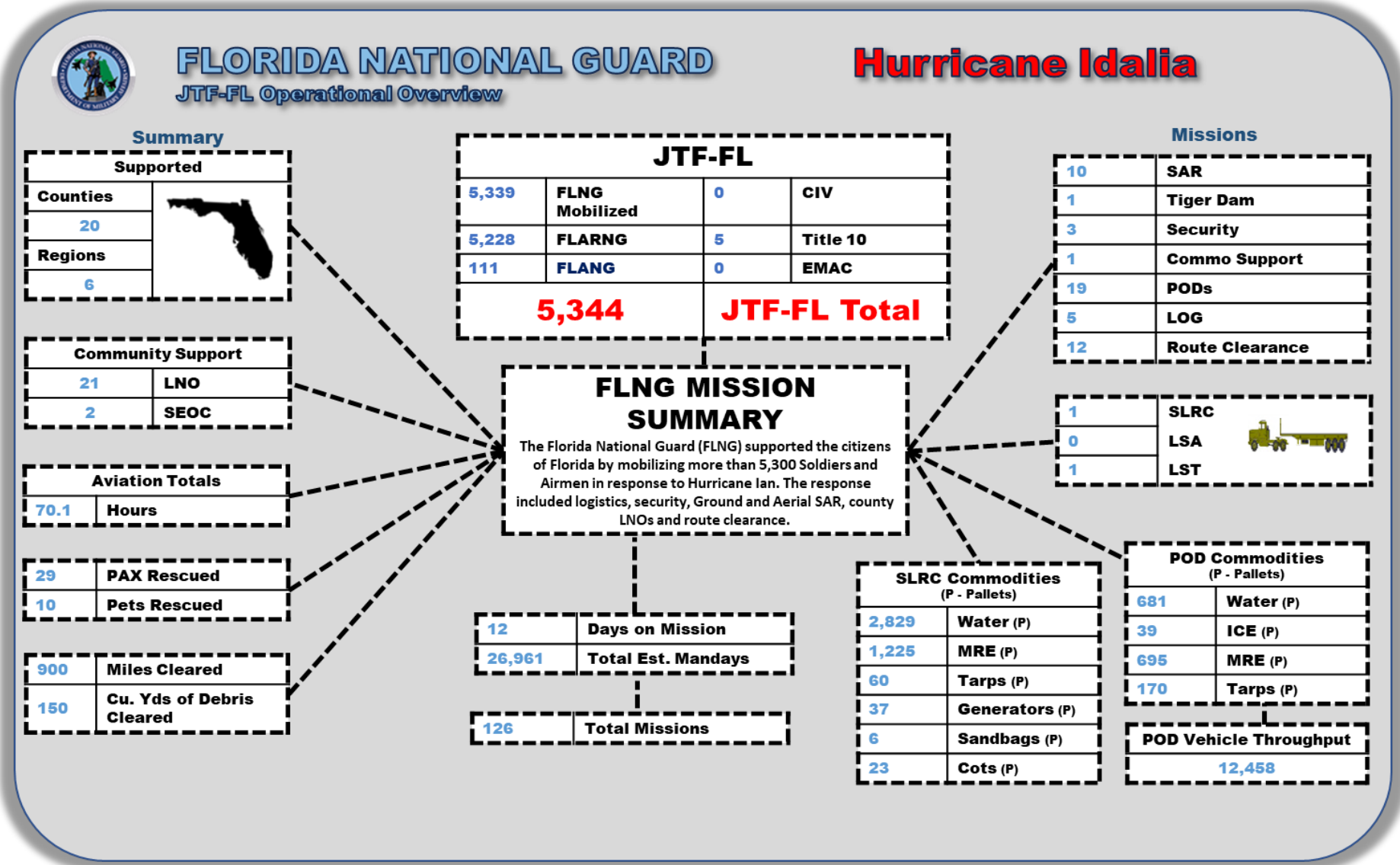
### Migration Support

| Service Members |     | Aircraft      | Flight Hours       | Days  |
|-----------------|-----|---------------|--------------------|-------|
| 35              |     | 1             | 2,536.8            | 301   |
| Army            | Air | Total Sorties | Chugs Reported     |       |
| 33              | 2   | 1,226         | Last 24Hrs         | Total |
|                 |     |               | 0                  | 86    |
|                 |     |               | Rustics Reported   |       |
|                 |     |               | 0                  | 39    |
|                 |     |               | Haitian Freighters |       |
|                 |     |               | 0                  | 4     |
|                 |     |               | Migrants Reported  |       |
|                 |     |               | 0                  | 454   |





# Florida National Guard Hurricane Idalia Overview





# DMA Contact Information



---

For More Information  
904-823-0166  
[Fl.ng.pao@mail.mil](mailto:Fl.ng.pao@mail.mil)

Joint Operations Center (24 Hrs)  
904.823.0459  
[ng.fl.flarng.mbx.joc-officer@army.mil](mailto:ng.fl.flarng.mbx.joc-officer@army.mil)

[www.floridaguard.army.mil/news](http://www.floridaguard.army.mil/news)

<http://dma.myflorida.com>

[www.twitter.com/flguard](https://www.twitter.com/flguard)

[www.facebook.com/floridanationalguard](https://www.facebook.com/floridanationalguard)

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The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

14 Nov 2023

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name MAJOR GENERAL John HAAS

Phone 850-717-9261

Address 82 Marine STREET

Email John.Haas@army.mil

St Augustine

FL

32084

City

State

Zip

Speaking: [ ] For [ ] Against [X] Information OR Waive Speaking: [ ] In Support [ ] Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

[X] I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

[ ] I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



# THE FLORIDA SENATE

## SENATOR JASON W.B. PIZZO

### DISTRICT OFFICE:

3475 Sheridan Street  
Suite 211  
Hollywood, FL 33021  
Phone: 954.893.5045  
[pizzo.jason@flsenate.gov](mailto:pizzo.jason@flsenate.gov)

### CAPITOL OFFICE:

222 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: 850.487.5037

### STAFF:

Teri Cariota  
*Chief Legislative Aide*  
[cariota.teri@flsenate.gov](mailto:cariota.teri@flsenate.gov)

Olivia Callari  
*District Legislative Aide*  
[callari.olivia@flsenate.gov](mailto:callari.olivia@flsenate.gov)

Joanne Alvarez  
*District Legislative Aide*  
[alvarez.joanne@flsenate.gov](mailto:alvarez.joanne@flsenate.gov)

### COMMITTEES:

Joint Legislative Auditing,  
*Alternating Chair*

Appropriations

Appropriations  
Committee on Criminal &  
Civil Justice

Community Affairs

Criminal Justice

Finance & Tax

Military & Veterans  
Affairs, Space, and  
Domestic Security

Select Committee on  
Resiliency, *Vice Chair*

### KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO

*President of the Senate*

### DENNIS BAXLEY

*President Pro Tempore*

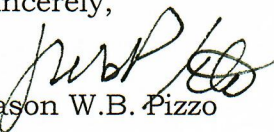
November 14, 2023

Chair Tom Wright  
Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs,  
Space, and Domestic Security  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Chair Wright,

Please excuse my absence from the Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security this morning, November 14, 2023.

Sincerely,



Jason W.B. Pizzo

cc: Tim Proctor, Staff Director  
Lois Graham, Committee Administrative Assistant  
Maggie Gerson, Senate Democratic Office Staff Director  
Megan Ramba, Senate President's Office



# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** SB 301

**Case No.:**

**Type:**

**Caption:** Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security

**Judge:**

**Started:** 11/14/2023 8:34:06 AM

**Ends:** 11/14/2023 9:06:40 AM

**Length:** 00:32:35

8:34:06 AM Chair Wright calls the meeting to order  
8:34:26 AM Roll Call  
8:34:26 AM Quorum announced  
8:34:31 AM Pledge of Allegiance  
8:34:34 AM Chair Wright with opening comments  
8:34:58 AM Tab 1 SB 174 Veterans Long Term Care Facilities  
8:35:34 AM Senator Burgess  
8:35:37 AM Questions  
8:37:21 AM Debate  
8:37:31 AM Senator Collins  
8:37:33 AM Chair Wright  
8:38:46 AM Appearance Form  
8:39:41 AM Major General James Hartsell, FDVA, waives  
8:39:47 AM Senator Burgess  
8:41:35 AM Roll call  
8:42:32 AM SB 174 is reported favorably  
8:42:40 AM Tab 3 Presentation-Major General John Haas, Adjutant General, Department of Military Affairs  
8:42:55 AM Major General John Haas  
8:48:58 AM Questions  
8:49:12 AM Major General Haas  
8:49:48 AM Chair Wright  
8:49:56 AM Major General Haas  
8:50:02 AM Chair Wright  
8:50:28 AM Tab 2 Presentation by Luke Strickland, Chief of Staff, Division of Emergency Management  
8:50:45 AM Luke Strickland  
9:01:18 AM Questions  
9:02:24 AM Chair Wright  
9:03:07 AM Mr. Strickland  
9:03:14 AM Chair Wright  
9:03:33 AM Mr. Strickland  
9:04:08 AM Senator Torres  
9:04:44 AM Mr. Strickland  
9:04:57 AM Senator Collins  
9:05:04 AM Mr. Strickland  
9:06:09 AM Chair Wright  
9:06:23 AM Senator Collins moves to adjourn  
9:06:30 AM Meeting adjourned