



**South Florida Defense Alliance:
A Regional Look at Defense & National Security Interests**

Special Guests



**Steven C. Williamson, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret)
Board President, South Florida Defense Alliance
Managing Principal, BEST Solutions Consulting Group**



**Rick Miller, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret)
Executive Director, South Florida Defense Alliance
Founder & CEO, PHAROS Mission Critical Solutions**



Steven C. Williamson Managing Principal



Steven C. Williamson, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret) is the Managing Principle for BEST Solutions Consulting Group and Board President for the South Florida Defense Alliance. He is a true global leader with a local focus, serving for over 20 years in executive leadership positions where he has managed complex and diverse organizations that tackle the most pressing infrastructure and urban development challenges. Steve is passionate about transforming the built and natural environment into resilient, livable and thriving communities. He envisions what is special about a place and reinforces it with a strong identity, resilient infrastructure, economic opportunities and community involvement.

Steve served for 28 years as a U.S. Army engineer, culminating his career as a colonel in Miami, Florida. During his military career, he led 4,500 people, managed more than \$4 billion and served in five combat operations on four continents. His teams were responsible for planning, constructing and sustaining U.S. military and partner-nation bases, facilities and infrastructure worldwide. Continuing his devotion to public service, Steve has worked for over three years in senior municipal government positions. He planned and implemented the City of Miami's 5-year, \$3.1 billion capital improvements program, delivering over 250 projects valued at \$650M in a 2-year period to enhance city's transportation, recreation and cultural, public safety, and resilience and stormwater infrastructure.

To expand his support for the community, Steve founded a consulting firm to provide resilience and urban development solutions to government and private-sector clients. His team strengthens clients' ability to build transformative places and resilient infrastructure that improve communities' quality of life, economic opportunities, and urban experience. Also during his post military journey, Steve formed the South Florida Defense Alliance, a 501c(6) non-profit, where he now serves as Board President. The alliance's mission is to unite, champion and grow the defense community in South Florida by creating a single unified and consistent regional voice; promoting, preserving and enhancing local military missions and installations; facilitating resilient and compatible community-military development; attracting, expanding and retaining defense-related industry; and advocating for improved quality of life for service-members and their families.

Steve graduated from the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce. He received master's degrees from Webster University, Texas A&M University, and the U.S. Army War College. Steve then earned an Executive MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in 2018.

PHAROS Mission Critical Solutions

Helping Solve Your Toughest Operational Challenges



Richard "Rick" Miller

Founder and CEO – PHAROS Mission Critical Solutions

Captain, United States Navy (Ret)

Former Vice President, Nautical & Safety Operations, Carnival Cruise Line

Richard "Rick" Miller, Partner & CEO, founded **PHAROS Mission Critical Solutions** to provide a network of functional, government, and commercial business sector experts who work collaboratively with enterprises to achieve success by capturing risks, gaps, and inefficiencies in their unique operations, technology, management, and leadership elements that are critical to sustained mission success.

Prior to founding **PHAROS**, Rick led the Nautical & Safety Operations team at Carnival Cruise Line (CCL) where he was responsible for global nautical/marine operations for CCL's fleet of 26 ships including nautical voyage planning and execution, operational safety, occupational safety, environmental, training, and medical operations. Additionally, he led the concept development, planning, design, construction and opening of Carnival's Fleet Operations Center (FOC) in Miami, the largest and most advanced facility of its kind in the maritime industry. The remainder of his portfolio involved interfacing with ports, port pilots, and port state officials; emergency and incident management operations; health, environmental, safety and security related training development on the ships; as well as talent/career & professional development for all of CCL's deck officers across the fleet. As a leader of nautical operations, he also represented CCL in corporate-wide initiatives that developed enhanced policies and procedures across all nine operating lines and 100+ ships of the corporate fleet.

Rick's Carnival experience followed a successful career in the U.S. Navy including command at sea, with numerous shipboard and staff assignments across a number of specialties. Operationally, he was on extended deployments seven times across multiple regions, sailing all the world's oceans around five continents. He participated in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operating Enduring Freedom, counter-piracy and counter-terrorism operations, and dozens of contingency operations in Europe and the Balkans, Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America. He was professionally qualified for multiple roles in both surface ships and submarines.

Ashore, he led current operations for U.S. Southern Command, the Department of Defense regional command responsible for dispersed air, sea, land, cyber, and counter-narcotics operations across 31 countries in South/Central America and the Caribbean in collaboration with civilian government and non-governmental organizations. A proven specialist in both strategic planning and financial management, he served multiple tours in the Pentagon as part of both the Navy and Joint Staffs directing and planning a significant portion of the Navy's programs and budgets, guiding development of Department of Defense appropriations to support

wartime activities, coordinating congressional engagements and support to the Office of Management and Budget. He served on the personal staffs of both the Vice Chief of Naval Operations and Chief of Naval Operations, the top two uniformed officers in the Navy. Additionally, Rick worked special support on several issues for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also spent a year as the Navy's Federal Executive Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy in Boston, Massachusetts.

Active in the community, Rick supports both military and charity causes. He is Executive Director of the South Florida Defense Alliance, a non-profit focused on uniting, championing, and growing the military command, infrastructure, community and defense industries in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. At the state-level, Rick is on the Board of Directors for the Florida Defense Alliance and serves as Chairman of their Mission Sustainment Working Group. He served on the commissioning committee for the Navy's new guided missile destroyer, USS PAUL IGNATIUS (DDG 117), recently entering service in Port Everglades and supports a local congressional military service academy nomination selection committee. Rick is also active in supporting several charity missions through the Covenant Church of Naples.

Rick is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, a distinguished graduate of both the U.S. Naval War College and U.S. National War College and the Catholic University of America. His undergraduate and graduate degrees include engineering, international affairs, and strategic planning disciplines, as well as doctoral work in political economy. Rick has served as a guest lecturer in several graduate schools across the country. He is the author of over 30 articles, professional papers, and the book *Funding Extended Conflicts*, a history of U.S. war financing. He is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society. In his military career, Rick received multiple personal and team awards for superior achievement and outstanding performance. He was also the winner of the Naval War College's B. Franklin Reinauer Defense Economics Prize and the U.S Naval Institute's Naval History Essay Prize. Early in his career, he led a team that designed, built and raced a human-powered submarine that won the first ever international competition and was featured in a National Geographic television documentary, the Wall Street Journal and Popular Science magazine.

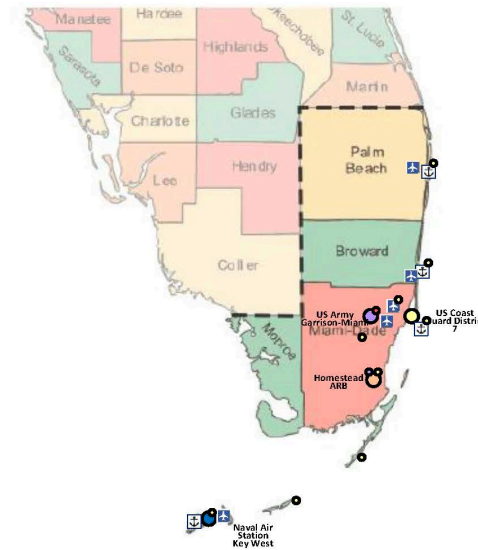
For additional information about the South Florida Defense Alliance:

<https://www.southfloridadefensealliance.org/about-us-1>



Who We Are: Purpose & Goals

- Create a single unified and consistent voice
- Coalesce community support around our defense community and industries
- Promote, preserve and enhance our local military missions and installations
- Attract, retain, expand defense related industry, academic study and research
- Promote and facilitate compatible community development
- Advocate for our military commands, service-members and their families to enhance their quality of life... making South Florida more "military friendly"



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Why a Defense Alliance



- **Advocate:** 24 Commands and 15 Installations
- **Support:** 56,000 active, reserve, guard service-members, civilians and their families
- **Assist:** Over 230,000 veterans in our 4 counties
- **Grow:** Economic impact of \$12.3B and 130K jobs
- **Enhance:** Increased military missions and latest advanced technology and equipment
- **Protect:** Encroachment, realignment or BRAC
- **Champion:** Value of our strategic location, training sites and installations
- **Need:** Strong consistent, single voice to tell our story and change perceptions
- **Essential:** United effort – local, state and federal

