



**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, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret) is the Managing Principal of BEST Solutions Consulting Group and Board Chair of the South Florida Defense Alliance, a 501 (C)3 . Steve possesses over 25 years as a senior Army Engineer and subsequent years in the private sector enhancing community-military collaboration. Through broad expertise and experience, he has led community-driven, cooperative strategic plans creating valued and lasting solutions resulting in an effective balance between military readiness, defense capabilities and continued local economic growth.

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.

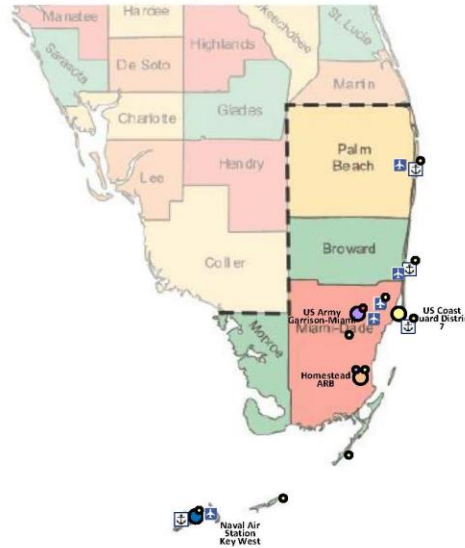
For additional information about the South Florida Defense Alliance:

<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

