

# Okaloosa County News Release

December 21, 2015

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NR15-104

**Media Note:** *Military Community Covenant Attached.*

*Photo Captions: 1) Col. Farrell & NB photo: Okaloosa Commission Chairman Nathan Boyles presents the Military Community Covenant pledging community support of our military families to Col. Sean Farrell, commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing at Hurlburt Field.*

*2) NB Presentation Gen. Haase: Commissioner Boyles presents Military Community Covenant to Maj. Gen. Eugene Haase, vice commander, Air Force Special Operations Wing, during a recent staff meeting.*

*3) Commission Chairman Nathan Boyles presents Military Community Covenant to Col. Matthew Higer, vice commander, 96th Test Wing. Also pictured, County Administrator John Hofstad.*

## Okaloosa County Renews Military Community Covenant

In celebration of Okaloosa County's Centennial Year, the Military Community Covenant was presented to local military installations. "I can think of no better way to celebrate our Centennial than by renewing our commitment to the military service members and their families, who have been an integral part of our community for much of our history as a county," stated Chairman Nathan Boyles, Okaloosa County commissioner.

At the March 17 Board of County Commission meeting, elected officials signed a renewal of the Military Community Covenant in support of the local military. The original Covenant signed in 2009, in addition to supporting our existing military, welcomed the Joint Strike Fighter and the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group.

The Military Community Covenant was first implemented by the United States Army and designed to sustain effective state and community partnerships, as well as improve overall quality of life for soldiers and families. Okaloosa County Commissioners were approached by the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, Brig. Gen. Michael L. Ferguson to welcome the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group to our area. It was signed in 2009 by 40 people from all over the nation and local citizens, consisting of active duty and retired military members, military spouses, state and local elected officials, and chambers of commerce. The event was held at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport and the original Military Community hangs in the Airport.

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