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## ***Commissioner Salter Receives National Defense Award***

Santa Rosa County District 3 Commissioner Don Salter was selected as the Association of Defense Communities' 2011 Defense Community Award- Active Base Community Leader recipient. Salter was recognized for his accomplishments during the ADC 2011 Annual Conference in Norfolk on Tuesday, July 19. The award will be presented locally to Commissioner Salter at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 25 during the commission committee meeting held in the Santa Rosa County Commission Meeting Room, 6495 Caroline Street in Milton.

The ADC Awards Program is a unique national program which recognizes outstanding quality projects and initiatives in communities with active and realigning or closing installations, the individuals that lead them and members from the military and private sector and recognizes outstanding achievements in the field. The program recognizes innovative plans and projects, distinguished public officials and lay contributors, and ADC members. The program is the centerpiece of ADC's efforts to identify and promote best practices.

According to the ADC, Commissioner Salter was selected for the Active Base Community Leadership Award in recognition of his long-standing efforts in support of Northwest Florida's military. Under his guidance, he has helped to protect Naval Air Station Whiting Field from encroachment while strengthening ties among the region's installations, local leaders and businesses for more than 20 years.

Salter comments on the award, "I am honored to have been nominated and to receive the Association of Defense Communities 2011 Defense Community Award – and I accept this prestigious recognition on behalf of all who have fought so hard over the years to support the continued military presence in our community, especially the late Vice Admiral Jack Fetterman, Rear Admiral Jimmy Taylor, Brigadier General Mike Ferguson, Captain Vann Goodloe, the late Marty Martin and John Griffing." He continues, "I am especially appreciative of Kay Rasmussen, Jim Breitenfeld and the members of the three-county Defense Support Initiative who supported my nomination for the award and for all that they do to support our warriors and their families in Northwest Florida."

Commissioner Don Salter's accomplishments recognized by this award include, but are not limited to:

- Served on every county BRAC committee since 1991.
- Active in the establishment of the Florida Defense Alliance to assist communities in protecting their bases from encroachment.
- Spearheaded the 2003 Joint Land Use Study between the county and the Navy to protect Naval Air Station Whiting Field and the six Outlying Landing Fields in Santa Rosa County from encroachment. To date 2,000 acres are protected and the effort is recognized throughout the Navy as "The Santa Rosa Model".
- Led efforts to develop the Whiting Aviation Park. Finalized execution of the Limited Access Use Agreement between the Navy and the county allowing use of the runway and taxiways at the base by Park tenants. First agreement of this kind by the Navy.
- Led volunteer effort to build a \$300,000 handicap accessible home for an Army Guard veteran who lost both legs in Iraq.
- Spearheaded the establishment of the Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza.
- Established the Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Foundation assisting needy veterans.
- Chaired the Emerald Coast Honor Flight sending 925 WW II Veterans from the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District to see their memorial in Washington DC at no cost to them.

The Association of Defense Communities is the nation's premier membership organization serving America's defense communities. With 1,200 members nationwide, ADC is the voice for communities and states with a significant military presence. ADC unites the diverse interests of communities, state governments, the private sector and the military on issues of base closure and realignment, community military partnerships, defense real estate, mission growth, mission sustainment, military privatization, and base redevelopment. For more information, visit [www.defensecommunities.org](http://www.defensecommunities.org).

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