Mayor Alvin Brown's Military Affairs, Veterans and Disabled Services Accomplishments

- Nearly one in four Jacksonville residents is an active duty service member, guardsmen or reservist, retired military, or a veteran. The economic impact of the military community on the city is $12.2 billion annually, and $14.4 billion if you include the nearby submarine base at Kings Bay, Ga. The economic impact of earned benefits for our veterans community adds another $1 billion annually to these figures.
- Jacksonville's Military Affairs, Veterans and Disabled Services Department, which Mayor Alvin Brown elevated to a cabinet level, and appointed as its director the recently-retired Rear Admiral Victor Guillory, operates with a threefold mission: To advocate for the expansion of military infrastructure, personnel, and jobs in Northeast Florida; to deliver competent and timely services to our veterans, their families and their caregivers; and to serve the disabled community through ADA compliance and enforcement, special events and services.
- Mayor Brown worked with U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus to deliver three amphibious ready group ships (ARG) at an accelerated timeline that will be homeported in Mayport beginning the last quarter of 2013. The USS New York (LPD 21) will arrive in Mayport in 2013, and the USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) and the USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) will follow in 2014. By serving as the homeport for an ARG, Mayport will be home to 2,000 additional sailors and their families, and will also sustain the area's ship repair facilities, local ship maintenance expertise and the industrial base.
- Mayor Brown launched the Jobs for Veterans website, a public-private partnership with more than 100 participating companies offering jobs and workforce information to help military men and women, and their families, transition to civilian life. More information can be found on www.coj.net, keyword: Jobs for Vets.
- Mayor Brown worked with team owner Shahid Khan and the Jacksonville Jaguars to aid our military veterans in assimilating back into the community when they return from service. Mr. Khan and the Jacksonville Jaguars made a $1 million financial commitment to the City of Jacksonville.
- Mayor Brown worked with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki to garner a $1 million award in homeless prevention grants to combat a shared goal of ending homelessness among veterans by 2015.
- The Florida Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) has bestowed the Pro Patria award on Mayor Alvin Brown's Jobs for Veterans program. This represents the highest honor the ESGR, a Department of Defense agency, bestows to recognize best practices. Normally the award goes to a business, but for the first time the award went to a municipality in recognition of the Jobs for Veterans initiative.
- The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded the City of Jacksonville a $218,260 grant to help homeless veterans obtain job training.
- The City of Jacksonville was awarded a $95,000 Defense Reinvestment Grant from the State of Florida's official economic development organization, Enterprise Florida.