FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Luna Partners with Sec. Hegseth to Secure Special Tactics Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base

Washington, D.C. — Today, Congresswoman Anna Paulina Luna (FL-13) announced that she successfully partnered with Secretary Hegseth to secure a new Air National Guard Special Tactics presence at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. Following a directive from the Secretary of War, the new organization will strengthen military readiness and enhance hurricane response capabilities in Florida.

The directive calls for the creation of an Air National Guard Special Tactics Squadron Total Force Association at Hurlburt Field, with an associated new organization at MacDill Air Force Base. The new presence will strengthen coordination between the Air National Guard and active-duty special operations forces, taking advantage of MacDill's proximity to U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) and Hurlburt Field's role as headquarters of Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC).

“I’m proud to announce I have secured a new USAF Special Tactics Squadron (STS) at MacDill AFB. I am grateful to have worked alongside Sec. Hegseth in this initiative in expanding USSOCOM's capabilities. This unit is home to America's most elite fighters known as CCT's and PJ's. Additionally, this National Guard unit will enable Florida with the world's premier Search/Rescue assets in a time of crisis and natural disaster. I look forward to having Sec. Hegseth join us when we stand up the new Squadron,” said Rep. Luna.

Air National Guard Special Tactics personnel bring specialized capabilities in combat control, pararescue, and special reconnaissance, serving critical missions both domestically and abroad. In addition to strengthening military readiness and national defense, these capabilities can prove invaluable during natural disasters, particularly in hurricane-prone communities across Florida where rapid emergency response and search-and-rescue efforts are essential.

Under Secretary Hegseth's directive, the Department of the Air Force and National Guard Bureau will begin the organizational process, with implementation directed for fiscal year 2027. Additional requirements for military construction, equipment, and personnel will be addressed through the fiscal year 2028 budget process.

The announcement reflects an important investment in Florida's military infrastructure and reinforces MacDill Air Force Base's strategic importance to America's special operations community.

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