

## Active Base Community Leadership Award Donald Salter, Commissioner, Santa Rosa County, Florida

Don Salter has been his community's guiding force in support of the military for more than 20 years. Many of his achievements laid the ground work for successful partnerships with the military, while others simply got things done. Salter has served on every BRAC committee of Santa Rosa County since 1991. He played a leading role in the Florida Defense Alliance's effort to assist communities in protecting neighboring bases from encroachment.

Salter spearheaded the 2003 joint land use study between Santa Rosa County and the Navy to protect Naval Air Station Whiting Field and the county's six outlying landing fields from encroachment. To date 2,000 acres are protected and the effort is recognized throughout the Navy as "The Santa Rosa Model." He also led efforts to develop Whiting Aviation Park. Most significantly, he reached terms with the Navy on a limited access use agreement allowing tenants of the aviation park to use the runway and taxiways at Whiting Field. It was the first agreement of its kind with the Navy.

Salter also has supported his community's military veterans. He spearheaded the establishment of the Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Plaza, and established the Santa Rosa County Veterans Memorial Foundation assisting needy veterans.



