View in browser

GATOR RECON

University of Florida Association of Military Alumni newsletter for Gator veterans and UF military-affiliated alumni

September 2026

www.gatormilitary.org

On the Radar: Key Alumni Group Homecoming Events

For University of Florida Association of Military Alumni who are members of other affiliate groups, here are upcoming events to consider this Fall:

- **Sept. 25-27:** Hispanic Alumni Weekend @ Gainesville
- **Oct. 9-10:** Association of Black Alumni Homecoming @ Gainesville
- **Oct. 9-10:** Gator Band Alumni Association Reunion @ Gainesville
- **Oct. 31:** Association of Black Alumni FL/GA Tailgate @ Atlanta
- **Nov. 6-7:** Military Alumni Reunion Weekend @ Gainesville

UFAMA opens registration for Military Reunion Weekend

Now is the time to register and reconnect with fellow military-affiliated Gators during the 2026 University of Florida Military Reunion Weekend. Join veterans, service members, military families, and Department of War civilians for a special weekend of recognition, camaraderie and Gator pride.

The agenda:

- **Nov. 6:** Cocktail Hour kicks off at 5:30 p.m. and the Gator Military Awards Dinner & Ceremony starts at 6:30 p.m. We'll celebrate the outstanding achievements of our military-affiliated alumni as we honor the 2026 award recipients and induct a new member into the UF Association of Military Alumni Hall of Fame. *Recommended attire: Business casual.*
- **Nov. 7:** Gator Nation Tailgate will include food, networking, giveaways and festivities before cheering on the Gators as they take on the University of Oklahoma. *Attire: Your favorite orange and blue "fit."*

This year's reunion will coincide with the University of Florida Athletics Department's annual "Saluting Those Who Serve" festivities to honor members of the Armed Forces and first responders.

Gator Spotlight

Brian Wehle: How UF Shaped a Navy Leader

By Amanda Winkle, UFAMA Staff Writer

Since he was born in Gainesville, it seems serendipitous that Cdr. Brian Wehle's higher education path took him through the University of Florida.

It is UF's paths that Wehle remembers fondly.

"I loved walking the paths between class, I loved my lectures in the big halls, and I loved the Marston Library," he said.

He started college at the University of Central Florida and ended up transferring to UF.

"I felt so lucky to be able to go to school there," Wehle said of the move to UF.

CDR Wehle is now serving as Deputy Director for Intelligence at U.S. Special Operations Command Central, and as a liaison with Israeli Defense Intelligence in Tel Aviv, Israel.

When he graduated from UF in 2006, it wasn't quite clear to him what would come next. But being part of Gator Nation helped him to be ready. He joined the Navy via Officer Candidate School in 2008.

"I knew I wanted my 20s to be about service and I thank God the Navy gave me that opportunity. UF gave me the confidence to look for a career that was going to

be challenging and outside of my comfort zone," Wehle said.

Wehle said he is proud of UF's legacy of leadership and is excited when he gets the chance to work with fellow Gators in the wild.

"I am most proud of what UF stands for," Wehle said. "The school continues to create an environment that fosters leaders who influence Florida and the broader communities. Nothing excites me more when I learn that someone I am working for or who works for me is a UF grad."

Happy Birthday, U.S. Air Force!

UFAMA extends birthday wishes to the U.S. Air Force, celebrating its 79th anniversary on Sept. 18.

To every member of the Gator Nation who has worn the Air Force uniform, supported its mission, or stood beside those who serve, thank you for advancing the U.S. Air Force’s legacy of excellence, precision, and service to our nation. Aim High and Fly-Fight-Win!

CONNECT WITH US:

www.linktree.com/ufama

You received this email because you signed up on our website.

Unsubscribe