

Military Economic Development Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach/Norfolk Joint Meeting Summary
27 November 2023 (1500-1630)

Members and Guests Present in Person or by Phone

Virginia Beach – Mayor Bobby Dyer, City Councilman Chris Taylor, RADM Fenton Priest (Chair), MCPO Lee Barbrey, CAPT Kit Chope, CAPT J.J. Cummings, Ms. Elizabeth Dietzmann, RADM Mark Gemmill, CAPT Loren Heckelman, CAPT Steve Herbert, RADM Robert Katz, RADM Greg Nosal, RADM Phillip Olson, CDR Kathy Owens, Mr. Ronnie Parker, CAPT Lou Schager, CAPT Robert Smith, CAPT Charles Stuppard

Norfolk - VADM Herman A. Shelanski, Mr. Tom Ferguson, CAPT Tom Bosse, Ms. Pam White.

Portsmouth – RADM Mark Hugel, CAPT Ron Peterman

HRMFFA – Rick Dwyer, Todd Nichols

Guests – CAPT David Gray (CO JEBCFS), Mr. Bill Brown (ECPI), Mr. Sultan Camp (HRVEC), Mr. Jeff Guild (Liberty Military Housing), Ms. Mercedes Holland (JEBCFS), Mr. Mike Nicosia, Ms. Jenny Lynne Stroup (ODU).

I. Welcome and Introductions.

- Virginia Beach MEDAC Chair, Priest:

- Welcomes all to the joint meeting hosted by the Virginia Beach MEDAC in the Boardroom of the Department of Economic Development at Town Center.
- Recognizes Mayor Bobby Dyer and Councilman Chris Taylor and thanks them for their attendance.
- Reminds Virginia Beach members that his term expires in December, and since there will be no December meeting it will be necessary to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair at this meeting. Hearing no objections, the Chairman opened the floor for nominations, CAPT Lou Schager nominated RADM Phil Olson for Chairman. Captain Steve Herbert nominated RADM Robert Katz for Vice Chairman. There being no other nominations, Chair Priest closed the nominations and called for the vote. By a unanimous voice vote the two nominees were elected and will assume their positions at the January Virginia Beach MEDAC meeting.
- Thanks other city representatives and guests for their patience while this important leadership change took place.

II. Approval of 25 September 2023 MEDAC Joint Meeting notes – Provided via email. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Remarks – Mayor Bobby Dyer

- Expresses his admiration and respect for the military service which began for him as a young Marine “many years ago”.
- Complements the regional MEDAC organizations for meeting together and talking about military and veterans affairs that are important to every locality in Hampton Roads.

- Notes the great pride he takes in having such a high number of veterans and their families living in the city and says he firmly believes they are a major contributing factor to the outstanding quality of life in Virginia Beach and the region.
- Believes the city will focus on providing more affordable housing in the coming years for young veterans and their families leaving the service and staying in Virginia Beach.

IV. HRMFFA Update – Todd Nichols

- HRMFFA visited Washington DC on 26 October with several elected officials to discuss Hampton Roads legislative priorities.
- Continues to anticipate a potential federal shutdown while acknowledging uncertainty.
- Reminds all of the positive news of recent Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grants for Norfolk Naval Station drainage improvements.
- Notes a letter sent from Mayor Dyer to Governor Youngkin requesting to increase the Virginia Military Community Infrastructure Grant Program (VMCIGP) from \$5 million to \$15 million. The program provides funding to serve as a local match for military communities to pursue DoD grants to support infrastructure resilience projects in communities with military installations and to enhance military readiness.
- On 14 December, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Sustainment) Erica Plath and Commander, Navy Installation Command (CNIC), VADM Scott Gray, will be speaking with the HRMFFA Board along with the State Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Craig Crenshaw.

V. Remarks – Councilman Chris Taylor (City Council Liaison to MEDAC)

- Discusses his strong interest in economic development especially support for small businesses in the city.
- Recognizes the importance of the active and retired military population to the economic well being of the city and the region and thanks the MEDAC organizations for their work.
- Notes his concern with the lack of affordable housing in the city and his commitment to improving the availability of affordable housing through various programs that city council may initiate.
- Recaps a recent experience traveling as part of a US Mayors Conference.

VI. Virginia Beach Economic Development Update – CAPT Steve Herbert

- Notes that proposals for development of the former horse stables property (113 acres) at NAS Oceana are due on 1 December. Part of the Future Base Design (FBD) program, this procurement could be the beginning of a larger initiative to develop as much as 770 acres of non-excess property at the air station. The city council adopted and MEDAC endorsed a Resolution to consider “all reasonable ways” to support the prevailing offeror including cost participation for infrastructure improvements. The City has supported the Navy’s efforts with this program from its beginning nearly four years ago.

VII. Military Workforce Development Update – Sultan Camp (HRVEC)

- Reports that HRVEC has connected with 2,700 out of 16,000 transitioning members so far this year.
- Future focused summits are planned. The last one focused on maritime shipbuilding, ship repair and the energy sector.
- First summit of the new year will be hosted in February at Langley AFB

VIII. Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center, Virginia Beach – CDR Kathy Owens

- The new Virginia Department of Veterans Affairs Care Center was opened officially in November.
- The Center is located near the Municipal Complex on a 25-acre site donated by the city. The 128-bed facility features all private rooms that are organized into eight 16-bed households that surround a central community center.

- Full occupancy of the Veteran Care Center may occur in the February-March time frame.
- A copy of CDR Owens' presentation is attached.

IX. Discussion.

- Portsmouth MEDAC members RADM Hugel and CAPT Ron Peterman reported a recent ribbon cutting for the Offshore Wind Initiative site at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal (PMT).
- Portsmouth MEDAC and Mayor will be visiting Danville, VA to review the Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing Program (ATDM).

Next VB MEDAC: 22 January 2024

Next Norfolk MEDAC: 29 January 2024

Next Joint MEDAC: 26 February 2024 – Norfolk Host

Adjournment at 1630