

Military Economic Development Advisory Committee
Virginia Beach/Norfolk/Portsmouth Joint Meeting Summary
20 May 2024 (1500-1630)

Members and Guests Present in Person or by Phone

Virginia Beach – RADM (Ret.) Phil Olson (Chair), CAPT (Ret.) Kit Chope, CAPT (Ret.) J.J. Cummings, CAPT (Ret.) Curtis, William, (Ret.) Mark Gemmill, CAPT (Ret.) Robert Herbert, CAPT (Ret.) Holmes, Robert, RADM (Ret.) Robert Katz, VBDA Rep. Keplinger, Eric, RADM (Ret.) Kubic, Charles, CDR (Ret.) Kathy Owens, RADM (Ret.) Priest, Fenton, CAPT (Ret.) Louis Schager, CAPT (Ret.) Robert Smith, CAPT (Ret.) Charles Stuppard

Norfolk – RADM (Ret.) Jack Kavanaugh (Chair), CAPT (Ret.) Steve Borden, CAPT (Ret.) Tom Bosse, RADM (Ret.) Scott Mckinley, COL (Ret.) Paul b. Olsen, Pete Schridder, Mike Paris, Len Remias, Devine Johnson, Pam White

Portsmouth – RADM (Ret.) Mark Hugel, Brian Donahue

Guests – Ryan Banas, Allen Baker, Tom Crabbs, Rick Dwyer, Joe Frommelt, Mona Gunn, Edmund Libby, Paula Miller, John Uhrin III

Welcome and Introductions

- A. Virginia Beach MEDAC Chair, RADM (Ret.) Phil Olson welcomed everyone and thanked Norfolk and Portsmouth MEDAC for joining the joint meeting in Virginia Beach.
- B. Members and guests' introductions

I. Approval of 27 November 2023 MEDAC Joint Meeting notes - Provided via email. The minutes were approved unanimously.

II. Guest Presentation IV. A was moved up to allow ample time for Project Director Ryan Banas to leave the meeting earlier than scheduled. *(IV. A to III.A.)*

- A. Project Director Ryan Banas shared a Presentation on the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion Project.
 - Presentation attached to these minutes.

III. HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer, Executive Director of HRMFFA – *(moved from III to IV.)*

- A. The House released its draft FY25 849.8-billion-dollar budget last week.
- B. There is 31.5 billion for the construction of 6 new ships.
- C. Cut procurement of F35s from 68 to 58.

IV. Economic Development Updates – Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach *(moved from IV to V)*

- A. Norfolk Economic Development continues to support the existing businesses – Mike Paris
 - about six projects are expanding ranging from cold storage to logistics
 - \$57 million investment and about 200 jobs
 - \$1.2 million in grants that mainly focused on 35th Street in the Riverview area

- City Council allocated \$500,000 to our commercial corridors
 - We continue to work with our Military Affairs
- B. Portsmouth Economic Development – Brian Donahue
- The maritime industrial base is strong
 - A longtime Company headquartered in Portsmouth now manufacturing aircraft carrier and submarine hull sections
 - Exciting work on Wavy Street – over #20 million investments supporting over 200 new jobs in the last two years
 - International interests in the city for example a Trilateral AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, and United States) Agreement to provide fleet to the Australian Navy.
 - Bill’s Marine Ship Repair expanded to Portsmouth giving them a second campus and one of 2 black-owned ship building companies.
 - JRF, a Hispanic-owned company, is the other ship repair company that expanded in Portsmouth.
 - The very large vessel Orion is on the waterfront now with endeavors with the Offshore Wind Project.
- C. Virginia Beach Economic Development – Charlie Bauman
- City of Virginia Beach was the presenting sponsor in the 2024 Hampton Roads Global Commerce Council State of the Port and will be hosting again in 2025.
 - This created a large economic impact for the area.

v. Guest Presentations – (Moved to VI)

- A. HRBT – (moved to III. A.)
- B. Commonwealth of Virginia Military Liaison Update – Tom Crabbs, Military Liaison
- Mr. Crabbs shared a presentation on the value of the Military in Hampton Roads.
 - Presentation attached to these minutes.
- V.B..1. Please speak on the Military Education Program
- V.B..1.1. The Governor just signed a directive to study the Education Program
 - V.B..1.2. The intent and costs are being studied
 - V.B..1.3. Other impact studies
 - V.B..1.4. This study will determine the correct program.
- C. Hershel Woody Williams Foundation Gold Star Families Monument – Ms. Mona Gunn, Past National President (2019-2020). American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., Mother of SMSN Cherone L. Gunn USS Cole Terrorist Attack.
- Ms. Gunn shared a video of the Gold Star Families
 - Hampton Roads Gold Star Mothers are looking for support with the Monument to be placed in downtown Norfolk in West Constant Square.
 - Asking for volunteers to join a committee to see the monument installation through

vi. Discussion (moved from V to VII)

- A. Meeting schedule agreed upon.
- Schedule attached to these Minutes
 - Kathy Owens shared that the compatible use matrix for the excess property at Oceana update is being discussed. MEDAC has been asked to submit a letter of recommendation to the Virginia Beach City Council and the Virginia Beach Development Authority to support this update.
 - Steve Herbert volunteered to work with Kathy Warren on a letter of support.
 - Tom Crabbs reminded the group that the Veterans Services Commissioner, Chuck Zingler was unable to attend the meeting today, but would like to attend the joint meeting in September.

The meeting adjourned at 1633.

Next VB MEDAC: 22 July 2024

Next Norfolk MEDAC: 15 July 2024

Next Joint MEDAC: 23 September 2024 – Portsmouth hosting