

Virginia Beach Military Economic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
4525 Main Street, Suite 700, Virginia Beach, VA 23462
1500, Monday, 22 July 2024

Members Present:

Chair RADM Phil Olson, City Council Liaison Dr. Amelia Ross-Hammond, MCPO Lawrence Barbrey, CAPT Christopher (Kit) Chope, CAPT Loren Heckelman, CAPT Robert (Steve) Herbert, VBDA Rep Eric Keplinger, RADM Gregory Nosal, RADM Charles Kubic, RADM Fenton Priest, CAPT Charles Stuppard

Members Present Virtually: CAPT Bill Curtis business travel in Virginia, Vice-Chair RADM Robert Katz from business travel in Croatia, CAPT Robert Smith from Florida for personal reasons RADM Mark Gemmill from North Carolina due to a family death, CDR Kathleen Owens, from her office in Virginia Beach

Members Absent:

Councilman Chris Taylor (City Council Liaison) CAPT J.J. Cummings, CAPT Robert Holmes, CAPT Louis Schager (Excused)

Guests/Advisors/Staff Present:

Mayor Bobby Dyer, Charles Bauman, Kayla Dotson, Gene Garland, Vicki Kelley, Edmund Libby, Todd Nichols, John Uhrin III, Mercedes Holland, Roosevelt Grandberry, CAPT David Gray, Nellie Porter

Opening Remarks:

- I. Chair Olson welcomed everyone to the meeting and greeted the special guest Mayor Bobby Dyer and thanked him for his attendance, all present members introduced themselves.
- II. Minutes:
 - a. 25 March 2024 Minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. Mayor Dyer and Council Woman Amelia Ross-Hammonds provided city updates
 - a. Mayor Dyer shared news of City Council support for F-35 basing in Virginia Beach. He also recently celebrated a memorial for the battle of Midway and a rededication of the Aviation Museum. He shared thoughts and perspectives on the importance of the quality of life on Military institutions in Virginia Beach.
 - b. Council Member Ross-Hamond shared that while at a recent visit to Norfolk Naval Base, she was allowed to give input on a historical building on base she appreciates the efforts from the Department of the Navy to make sure they were properly respecting historic structures.
- IV. Approval of MEDAC FY23-24 Annual Report to City Council
 - a. MEDAC FY23-24 Annual Report to City Council was unanimously approved.
- V. Command Updates

- a. Little Creek/Fort Story – Captain David Gray shared updates including updating Child Development Centers and building 2 additional CDC’s. They are working towards adding air conditioning in the fitness center and enhancing funds to help repair the lighthouse and construct public bathrooms. Capt. Gray addressed issues about gate hours and shared information that gates are being updated with new security programs.
 - b. NAS Oceana – No updates
- VI. HRMFFA Update – Todd Nichols
 - a. Shared updates on Fiscal Year 2025 Defense Appropriation including a 4.5% pay raise for military personnel and an appropriation of \$9.2 billion for F-35 aircraft: 44 Air Force F-35A's, 13 Marine Corps F-35 B’s and 19 Navy F-35C’s.
 - b. Fiscal year 2025 MilCon - \$340 million for Regional Installation Area Projects to include child development centers at Fort Story and NAS Oceana.
 - c. Defense-wide Special Operations Forces Human Performance Training Center at JED Little Creek-Fort Story.
- VII. Economic Development Update – Charlie Bauman
 - a. Zimm US Shipping line will be holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their grand opening, all MEDAC members have been sent an invitation to attend the ceremony.
 - b. Powertrain Industries have expanded from a 22k square foot building to a 100k square foot building and to and hiring additional 50 employees.
- VIII. Military Workforce Development Update – Sultan Camp
 - a. Mr. Camp was not present for the July 22, 2024, meeting.
- IX. Command Visit Program Updates
 - a. CAPT Kit Chope shared that a change of command ceremony will be on August 9th.
 - b. A discussion was held to talk about the possibilities of a command visit with Members of MEDAC with recent changes in state FOIA laws, Clerk to follow up with City Attorney to discuss changes and pass them along to the Chair.
- X. Virginia Department of Veterans Services Update – Kathy Owens
 - a. No current updates to discuss.
- XI. Special Presentations and Discussions
 - a. No special presentations
- XII. Announcements
 - a. The Chair requested that if any members have updates to contact information or address change please share this information with the Clerk.
 - b. RADM Kubic shared he will be traveling to the Philippines to help establish a resource center for humanitarian efforts.
 - c. CAPT Stuppard offered the idea of having the General of National Defense University come present in the November MEDAC meeting.
 - d. CAPT Bill Curtis shared information of the Governor’s Annual Housing Conference to be held in Virginia Beach in November and will share more information in the November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 15:56.