

Virginia Beach Military Economic Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
4525 Main Street, Suite 700, Virginia Beach, VA 23462
1500, Monday, November 25, 2024

Members Present:

Chair RADM Phil Olson, Vice-Chair RADM Robert Katz MCPO Lawrence Barbrey, CAPT Andy Baan, CAPT Bill Curtis CAPT Loren Heckelman, RADM Mark Gemmill VBDA Rep Eric Keplinger, RADM Gregory Nosal, RADM Charles Kubic, RADM Fenton Priest, CDR Kathleen Owens, CAPT Louis Schager

Members Present Virtually:

CAPT Robert Holmes due to business travel, RADM Greg Nosal CAPT Charles Stuppard

Members Absent:

Councilman Chris Taylor (City Council Liaison) City Council Liaison Dr. Amelia Ross-Hammond, CAPT Christopher (Kit) Chope, CAPT J.J. Cummings (Excused), CAPT Robert (Steve) Herbert

Guests/Advisors/Staff Present:

Charles Bauman, Sultan Camp, Mike Cobb, Brian Donahue, Kayla Dotson, Rick Dwyer, CAPT David Gray, Mercedes Holland, Devine Johnson, Vicki Kelley, John Lauderback, Edmund Libby, Todd Nichols, Mike Nicosia, John Uhrin III

Opening Remarks:

- i. Chair Olson welcomed new member CAPT Andy Baan.
- ii. Minutes:
 - a. 22 July 2024 Minutes were unanimously approved.
- iii. City updates:
 - a. No City Council representative was present to provide an update.
- iv. Command Updates:
 - a. Little Creek/Fort Story – Captain David Gray shared updates on three CDC's being developed and information on the groundbreaking for the Queens Law Enforcement Training Center on December 2, 2024.
 - b. NAS Oceana – Mr. Lauterbach shared information on CVOW and shared Oceana was selected as one of the five bases in Virginia to be reviewed for possible placement of a micro reactor.
- v. HRMFFA Update – Todd Nichols:
 - a. Shared information on the desire of congress to move into new the administration without any disagreements on budgets.
 - b. From around the country there are continued conversations regarding quality of life and quality of service.

- c. Next Board of directors meeting held on Dec 12, 2024, with primary speaker Doug Smith with HR alliance speaking on maritime and defense industrial case strategy.

- vi. Economic Development Update – Charlie Bauman:
 - a. LifeNet Health recently moved into to the Virginia Beach Bio Incubator space.
 - b. Mr. Bauman also shared information on the very successful Virginia Governors Housing Conference.

- vii. Military Workforce Development Update – Sultan Camp & Ihsane Mouak:
 - a. Ms. Mouak shared a report on the very successful Career Submit in November and detailed the HIVE's efforts to interacting with the military community and encouraging entrepreneurship for retired veterans.
 - b. Mr. Camp shared that from contact with over 600 members moving out of the military in 2024 that 50% landed meaningful employment. 25% were under or unemployed.
 - c. Blue Star Families center coming to Hampton Roads.

- viii. Command Visit Program Updates:
 - a. No Updates

- ix. Special Presentations and Discussions:
 - a. Historical Fort Wool Presentation – Mike Cobb, Fort Wool Historic Site Director
 - i. Mr. Cobb Presented information on Historical Fort Wool with a focus on the goal of restoring Fort Wool to its previous status of a historic site for public visitation and supporting the completion of the USACE's Proposed [HR Beneficial Use of Dredged Material](#) Project.
 - b. Virginia Governors Housing Conference Recap – Todd Nichols, HRMFFA
 - i. Mr. Nichols shared information on current statistics of Hampton Roads Military and Federal Presence. The presentation dove deeply into the need of creating affordable housing in the region specifically for military members. The presentation drew attention to the common misconceptions that enlisted military members either live on base or can easily afford local housing within reasonable commuting distant to the base they serve on. Mr. Nichols also highlighted some supply and affordability challenges for service members in Hampton Roads.
 - ii. The Low-Income Housing for Defense Communities Act with bring much needed relief to Service members. Several MEDAC members agree that this is an opportunity for all local MEDAC to have an influence and participate in a discussion to advocate for affordable housing in Hampton Roads and perhaps draft a comment for the Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan.
 - iii. Full presentation available upon request
 - c. Discuss Bylaws

