



Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Virginia Beach / Norfolk Joint Meeting Summary 25 July (1500-1630)



Members and Guests Present in Person or by Phone

Virginia Beach - RADM Fenton Priest (Chair), RADM Gregory Nosal, CAPT Steve Brennan, RADM Mark Gemmil, CAPT Loren Heckelman, RADM Phillip Olson, CDR Kathleen Owens, CAPT Bob Rieve, CAPT Charles Stuppard, CAPT Richard Trowbridge, John Uhrin, Rick Dwyer.

City of VB: Ray White, Letitia Langaster, Vicki Kelley, John Lauterbach

Norfolk - RADM Jack Kavanaugh (Chair), CAPT Mike Fierro, Len Remias, Tom Bosey, Earnest McDonald, Al Baker, Matt Frauenzimmer, Kevin Hill

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Virginia Beach MEDAC Chair, Fenton Priest welcomed all
- b. Chair Priest handed a card around so anyone could sign for Quigley's retirement.
- c. Chair Priest welcomed and introduced Wil Sessoms the Father of MEDAC.
- d. Al Baker introduced Elisbeth McMahan, the new VP for Maritime Initiatives at ODU.

II. Moment of Silence in Honor of Councilmember and Former Mayor Louis Jones.

- o Chair Fenton Priest asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Louis Jones who was our City Council liaison and the founding father of MEDAC in 2008 as he was the one who requested the City Council to organize a Military Economic Development Committee.

III. Summary of April 2022 Joint Meeting notes - provided via email. Phil Olson motioned for approval and all members approved unanimously.

IV. HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer

- a. Chair Priest announced that he was proud to have HRMFFA Executive Director, Rick Dwyer continues to give the HRMFFA updates to the group.
- b. Rick Dwyer shared he was looking forward to continuing working with the MEDAC groups.
- c. Rick stated he had big shoes to fill with Craig Quigley's departure.
- d. Budget updates
- e. Governor Youngkin and Secretary Crenshaw event at the Veteran's Care Center

Chair Fenton Priest recognized Will Sessoms as one of the founding fathers of MEDAC in 2008 and announced Mr. Sessoms was just appointed by the Governor to the VA Economic Development Partnership Board, one of 17 across the state.

Mr. Sessoms shared thoughts on MEDAC and the accomplishments it has made in bringing the Military and cities together. We now need to work on getting people to fill the jobs that economic growth has offered and possibly work with exiting soldiers coming out of the military.

Chair Priest shared with Mr. Sessom and the group that Leonard Remias with Norfolk has been sharing a lot with the VB MEDAC on the Skillbridge program and the Hire Vets Now initiative.

Len shared information on the Hire Vets Now Program and that he has been working with the City Manager and Mayor Dyer. Len informed the group that a Navy E5 is now working in the Auditor's Office for 6 months through the program. This program enables active-duty Military to get the chance to get placed prior to departing their Military Career.

Sultan Camp shared information about the Employment Center he has. Sultan asked if anyone was interested to contract with Service Members to contact him.

Ray White shared information about the new Business Resource Center, The HIVE, which is an endeavor of the City of Virginia Beach to help place both Military and Civilians in the Workforce.

Will Sessoms said he would like to see a central place where all this information can be shared.

- V. NAS Oceana Future Base Design Update – Ray White, VB Economic Development**
 - Ray shared the history of the Future Base Design agreements with the City of Virginia Beach and Oceana as well as events that have been held since the agreement was signed.
- VI. Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center Update – CDR (Ret) Kathy Owens**
 - First Director has been hired
 - Construction 99% complete
 - Five staff have been hired
 - Taking first residents in December
- VII. Guest Presentations**
 - **Mr. Kevin Hill – Deputy Director Commander Navy Regional Maintenance Center – Command update**
 - Presentation attached
 - **Ms. Carey Yates – Associate Vice President VP, Community Impact United Way South Hampton Roads – Mission United**
 - Presentation attached
- VIII. Discussion (Including visitors' announcements and comments)**
 - October 17th – 20th International Oceans conference and exhibition, Virginia Beach Conventions Center. Largest convention of its type in the world.
 - Air show is back on September 16th, 17th, and 18th.

Next VB MEDAC: Break in August / 24 October 2022

Next Joint MEDAC: 26 September 2022 – Norfolk hosting

Adjournment at 1637