



Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Norfolk/Virginia Beach Joint Meeting Summary 26 September (1500-1630)



Members and Guests Present

Norfolk - RADM Jack Kavanaugh (Chair), CAPT Steven Borden (nominated), CAPT Tom Bosse, CDR Jerry Johnson, CAPT Mike O'Hearn, CAPT Zoah Scheneman, Mr. Rick Dwyer.

Virginia Beach - RADM Fenton Priest (Chair), RADM Gregory Nosal, CAPT Steve Brennan, CAPT Loren Heckelman, CDR Kathleen Owens, CAPT Bob Rieve, CAPT Lou Schager, CAPT Richard Trowbridge, Mr. Rick Dwyer.

City of Norfolk: CAPT Len Remias, LaVoris Pace, Sean Washington, Noell Saunders, Pamela White

City of VB: Ray White, Charles Bauman

Guests: CAPT Jennifer Stockwell (USCG VA Sector), CAPT Matt Frauenzimmer (CO NSA HR), LTC Pierre Han (DCOM JEB LC-FS), Michelle Stewart (JEB LC-FS PAO), Patrick Shuler (Director Jones Cabacoy VCC), Bianca Freeman (JCC VCC); Ashley Scott (Blue Star Families), Linda Isaac (South University), Kayla LaFond (VDVS); Megan Flaherty (Hampton VA Center); John Cordle (CNSL); John Andrews; Allan Baker (MIBE); Sultan Camp (HRVEC); Earnest McDonald (JEB LC-FS CPLO); Dianne Kauffman (Senator Kaine); Kip Pagach, Amy Rodriguez (VDVS).

- I. **Welcome and Introductions-** Norfolk/Virginia Beach MEDAC chairs welcomed all. Attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Summary of July 2022 Joint Meeting notes** - Provided via email. RADM Kavanaugh motioned for approval and all members approved unanimously.
- III. **HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer**
 - Discussed status of Continuing Resolution.
 - Update on Defense Bill – Tracking status of President Budget and Senate Armed Services Committee working to pass. Senate defense appropriations committee released defense bill to match plus ups. House defense appropriations bill awaiting a vote.
 - Approx. \$250M for MILCON projects for various installations and working sea level rise/resiliency, CDC childcare discounts.
- IV. **Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone (MSEEZ) – Linda Isaac and Len Remias**
 - Linda Isaac MSEEZ Co-Chair with Len Remias and Community Engagement for South University. MSEEZ goal is to inform, educate and empower milspouses.
 - Overview of South University for educating the military and their families. SU is located at Town Center and has Clinical programs such as occupational/physical therapy, nursing and clinical mental health.
 - Len provided additional update on MSEEZ program coordinated with Kayla Lafond and Sultan Camp. Also gave an update on Military Spouse Fellowship Program working with Hiring our Heroes program.
 - RADM Kavanaugh mentioned TCC has a big workforce program and mentioned Steve Borden as the TCC Military POC.

V. Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center – Patrick Shuler (Administrator) and Bianca Freeman (Marketing)

- Update on the center and plans going forward. Heading towards a January 2023 opening.
- Overview of history, facilities overview, staffing, and capabilities.
- Clarification that they are part of the Commonwealth of Virginia and not the Veterans Administration, but they are closely coordinated.
- RADM Kavanaugh asked how you decide who gets admitted. Discussed admission criteria/process. 180 are on the waiting list. They have an application process for skilled nursing care. Each application is vetted in discussion with family and decided by a medical director who will be hired.
- Various insurances that are required to be admitted for in patient care. Set up to do outpatient care and respite/hospice care.

VI. LivingWorks safeTALK/Suicide Prevention - John Cordle (CNSL)

- LivingWorks safeTALK, suicide alertness training is part of the pre-separation program curriculum for all of the branches of service.
- All new veterans would leave active duty having been introduced to the skills of suicide intervention and connecting others who are considering suicide to help.
- Training for potentially thousands of volunteer veteran sponsors to act as individual sponsors, mentors, guides, and listening ears for service members separating from the military for a period of several years after.
- These sponsors would be veterans themselves, who successfully transitioned to life following the military, are active in local veteran service organizations, and have an interest in looking out for and helping fellow service members to stay safe from suicide.
- RADM Nosal asked where in the process is there a training program for ex. like Sailors lost on GW.
- Tom Bosse asked is there a cost associated with this to expand as a service beyond the Navy. Yes, there is and the Navy does have a contract with LivingWorks.
- Ashley Scott from Blue Star Families asked a question about how are families involved and how are you using support efforts already in place?

VII. Commander, Coast Guard Sector Virginia, CAPT Jennifer Stockwell

- Area of responsibility: 550 Active Duty, Civilian, Reservists; 630 Auxiliarists; 6 Boat Stations; 3 Aids to Navigation Teams; 3 87-ft Patrol Boats; 1 Sector Field Office
- Commander Authorities: FOSC (Federal On Scene Coordinator) Oil spill & hazmat response to 200 nm; SMC (SAR Mission Coordinator) Maritime Search and Rescue; COTP (Captain of the Port) Safety and Security of COTP Zone; FMSC (Fed Maritime Security Coord) Area Maritime Security Plan; OCMI
- Officer In-charge of Marine Inspections ; Vessel & Port Facility Inspections, Investigations, Licenses & Documents
- Challenges: Offshore wind energy development, Aging infrastructure, UaS & cUAS threats, Cyber threats to the Maritime Transportation System
- Successes: 2022 Port Security Grant \$2.3M awarded to Virginia; Port of Virginia Maritime Incident Response Team; Regional training
- Initiatives: “Deeper, Wider, Safer;” Area Maritime Security Committee - Cyber Subcommittee

VIII. Economic Development Update – Sean Washington, City of Norfolk Interim Director

- Provided update on business lines: Attraction, Business Creation and Entrepreneurship, Real Estate and Business Retention and Expansion areas and development projects throughout city.

IX. Discussion (Including visitors’ announcements and comments)

- RADM Priest who has been with VB MEDAC for at least 15 years, thanked Ray White for his support and upcoming retirement from VB.
- Announced Blue Star Families – Sept 24th kick off for an Expo at Ted Constant and Langley AFB supporting military families

- DCM Pace from Norfolk City Manager Office – A search for the new Chief of Police is in progress. Council retreat will also be occurring this month.
- Megan Flaherty introduced herself as the Suicide Prevention Coordinator/Community Engagement Partnership Coordinator and is looking forward to working with MEDAC and the community.
- Tom Bosse reminded everyone about the International Oceans Conference will be held at VB Convention Center 17-20 October. Largest Marine technology Conference in country, Navy, NASA, NOAA big players attending.
- John Andrews announced he is a candidate for City Council VB. Not here to campaign but wanted to thank the MEDAC for their efforts and looks forward to working with everyone.
- Sultan Camp reminded everyone about the Military Expo at Ted Constant starting tomorrow. Plenty of resources available to assist military families.
- Amy Rodriguez – Primary POC for all SkillBridge candidates for Hampton Roads.
- Kayla LaFond – Virginia is the first state to recognize Blue Star Families welcome week and supports the entire program.
- Earnest McDonald CPLO JEB LC-FS introduced the new Deputy Commander, LTC Pierre Han
- Ray White discussed Drone Up development in VB and entrepreneurship conference in occurring this week. Future Base Design met with CNRMA RADM Gray and things are moving forward using the Councilor of Real estate study. Thanked everyone for cooperation and enjoyed working with MEDAC over the years.

Next Norfolk MEDAC: TBD

Next VB MEDAC: October 24, 2022

Next Joint MEDAC: November 28, 2022

Adjournment at 1630