

# Virginia Beach Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting

23 January 2023

1500 - 1630

## Members Present:

Chair RADM Fenton Priest, Vice-Chair RADM Gregory Nosal, CAPT J.J. Cummings, RADM Richard Dunleavy, RADM Mark Gemmil, CAPT Steve Herbert, RADM Phillip Olson, CDR Kathleen Owens, CAPT Robert Rieve, CAPT Lou Schager, CAPT Richard Trowbridge, LtGen Frances Wilson

## Members/Guests Present via Phone:

CAPT Christopher “Kit” Chope (M), Elizabeth Dietzmann (M), Gene Garmen (G)

## Guests/Advisors/Staff Present:

Councilman Chris Taylor, Charles Bauman III, Sultan Camp, Rick Dwyer, Robert Holmes, Vicki Kelley, Letitia Langaster, Irvin Lindley, Earnest McDonald, Ihsane Mouak, Todd Nichols, Elisabeth Parker, Michelle Stewart, Svetla Tomanova, John Uhrin

- I. Chair Fenton Priest called the meeting to order at 1501.
  - a. Chair Fenton Priest welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  - b. General Introductions were made around the room for all those present.
  
- II. Chair Fenton Priest welcomed and introduced new members CAPT J.J. Cummings, CAPT Robert “Bob” Smith and the new City Council Liaisons Mr. Chris Taylor. Mr. N.D. “Rocky” Holcomb was unable to attend. CAPT Smith was unable to attend as well but a brief overview of his bio was given by Chair Priest.
  - a. Chair Priest also took a moment to recognize Capt. Bob Holmes who was present and thanked him for the three years he was with MEDAC. He is being relieved from NAS Oceana by Capt. Steve Djunaedi on 24 February 2023 at 900 during a Change of Command Ceremony.
  
- III. Approval of 24 October 2022 Meeting Minutes
  - a. Motion: Phillip Olson
  - b. Second: Louis Schager
  - c. Minutes approved unanimously
  
- IV. City Update – City Council Liaisons
  - a. Councilman Chris Taylor thanked everyone for the warm welcome. His platform focus is affordable housing and he is also now on the Housing Advisory Board. He also expressed the importance of the new voting districts being imposed.
  
- V. HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer
  - a. Mr. Dwyer shared that Governor Youngkin has proposed some budget amendments. One is removing the 55 year old age requirement for military retirement.

- b. The VA Values Veterans (V3) Program currently receives a \$1,000 tax credit per military veteran hired. That could be upped to a \$5,000 tax credit per hire with a max of \$50,000.
- c. Still waiting on the military spouse bill to be voted on. The state needs to add Clinical Counselor, Audiology, and Speech Pathology services. Please refer to the Department of Veteran Services website for more information. Please also so Congressman Dan Crenshaw's office for details on military impact.

**VI. Economic Development Update – Charlie Bauman, Elisabeth Parker**

- a. Charlie Bauman shared that the Department of Economic Development's business development team has hosted over 300 prospect meetings, 204 business retention meetings, 25 domestic and international marketing missions, 400 new company prospect meetings, closed 20 new/retention/and or expansion projects and ushered 1100 new jobs to market this past year with the assistance of the support of the talent in the room.
- b. CAPT (Ret) Christopher Rieve asked about companies in and around the Burton Station area. Mr. Bauman shared the there are plan executions in place to include the extension of Tolliver Road and more to come in general in future meetings.
- c. Elisabeth Parker disseminated and presented a brief overview of the 2023 MEDAC Virginia Beach Chapter and Joint MEDAC meetings calendar for the year, New Boards and Commissions Policy email and policy recommendations with board with an emphasis on attendance and the change in financial disclosures.

**VII. NAS Oceana/JEB Little Creek Fort Story – CAPT (Ret) Steve Herbert**

- a. Mr. Herbert deferred to Earnest McDonald, Planning Liaison for Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story. He announced the upcoming Change of Command Ceremony on 1 June 2023 at 1000 at Fort Story. Capt. Michael Witherspoon is being relieved by Capt. David Gray.
- b. Mr. Herbert asked for an update on scheduled gates updates. Mr. MacDonald shared that that work was originally scheduled for January but has been pushed back to May. They are working with City Transportation Offices to develop a Traffic Control Plan in addition to a Public Communication Plan to inform the citizens of the gate closures and traffic patterns.

**VIII. Military Workforce Development Update – Sultan Camp, Ihsane Mouak**

- a. Sultan Camp gave a detailed presentation. Please see attached presentation for full details. Highlights include a scheduled quarterly networking breakfast, centralized Veteran Employee Center, scheduled DoD Skillbridge Expos with the first one being at Langley Air Force Base, and the VA Talent Pipeline Project.
- b. Ihsane Mouak announced the launch of ScaleUp USA. It is a Federal Business Accelerator that focuses on entrepreneurs, startups, and small to mid-size businesses to win, administer, and execute US Federal Government opportunities.
- c. The HIVE Resource Center also has a new military partner, Ms. Moni Jefferson. She is currently the President of the Association of Military Spouse Entrepreneurs. She will be coming to the HIVE twice a month from 1000-1500 to help military spouse entrepreneurs with their startups and businesses.
- d. The HIVE also has a new program, Thrive at the HIVE, where office space is available that can be used with a user agreement for home-based and startup businesses.

- e. We have seen an uptick in veteran business engagement thanks to your support.

**IX. Command Visit Program – RADM (Ret) Greg Nosal, CAPT (Ret) Charles Stuppard**

- a. No updates at this time from Mr. Nosal. CAPT (Ret) Charles Stuppard was absent.

**X. Special Presentations and Discussions**

- a. Chair Fenton Priest shared that the USS Iowa Battleship Gun Barrell Project Letter of Support was signed by him and disseminated to City Council earlier this month. Terry McGovern, the point of contact for this project, is actively working with the City's Public Works and Utilities to move it to JEB Fort Story.
- b. CDR (Ret) Kathy Owens gave a presentation on the Jones & Cabacoy Veterans Care Center. Please see the attached presentation for detailed information. Highlights include: the anticipated open is first quarter of this year, 99% of construction is completed, on schedule to receive Certificate of Occupancy hopefully this month, and the State much complete a survey to verify safety and readiness for residential occupancy. She also thanked Mr. Sultan Camp for her tireless efforts in supporting the success of special projects like these that benefit the military and veteran community.

**XI. Announcements**

- a. Capt. Bob Holmes thanked Chair Fenton Priest for inviting him to the meeting to bid his fairwell and he appreciates all the work that has been done on a collaborative level.
- b. CAPT (Ret) Steve Herbert announced the ramping up of the City's efforts to understand and support Future Base Design with the military.
- c. The Mayor's Veterans Committee kicked off the new year with a meeting regarding mental health and had local community stakeholders and military members present.
- d. Chair Priest presented certificates of service to the four exiting MEDAC Board Members and thanked them for their many years of service on the board: RADM (Ret) Richard Dunleavy, CAPT (Ret) Robert Rieve, CAPT (Ret) Richard Trowbridge, and LtGen (Ret) Frances Wilson.

**Adjourned at 1648**

**Next Scheduled Virginia Beach Meeting: 27 March 2023**

**Next Joint Committee Meeting: 27 February 2023 (Norfolk Hosting at Slover Library)**