



Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Norfolk/Virginia Beach Joint Meeting Summary 27 February (1500-1630)



Members and Guests Present

Norfolk - RADM Jack Kavanaugh (Chair), VADM Herm Shelanski, CAPT Steven Borden, CAPT Tom Bosse, CDR Jerry Johnson, CAPT Zoah Scheneman, Mr. Rick Dwyer (HRMFFA), Mr. Todd Nichols (HRMMFFA)

Virginia Beach - RADM Fenton Priest (Chair), CAPT Charles Stuppard, CAPT Kit Chope, CDR Kathleen Owens, CAPT Bob Smith, CAPT Kevin Cook, Joseph Strange (VBDA)

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

City of VB: Ray White, Charles Bauman

Guests: CAPT Matt Fraenzimmer (CO NSA HR), LTC Curtis Thomas (MARFORCOM), Jenny Lynne Stroup (HOH), Laura Baxter (AFSYMCA) Curtis Thomas, LTC Pierre Han (DCOM JEB LC-FS), Allen Baker (MIBE), Ron Peterman (Portsmouth), Irv Lindley (Portsmouth), Gene Garland (Sen Warner), Janet Lomax (Sen Kaine), Bob Clark (ODU), Sultan Camp (HRVEC), Bob Oldani (AFSYMCA), Elspeth McMahon (ODU), Kip Pagach, John Uhrin

I. Welcome and Introductions

- MEDAC Chairs welcomed everyone to the Joint MEDAC and thanked all for their engaged leadership throughout the community. Thank VB for hosting the last meeting in November.
- RADM Kavanaugh motioned for approval of the November Joint meeting summary and all members approved unanimously.
- Tom Ferguson, a former Senior Executive Service (SES) from the Intelligence Community awaiting confirmation to join Norfolk MEDAC.
- Norfolk including military liaison representatives at academic institutions. In this case we have CAPT (Ret.) Steve Borden, Director, Center for Military and Veterans Education at TCC
- VB welcomed new member CAPT (Ret.) Bob Smith replacing CAPT Rob Rieve.

II. HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer

- General Assembly update/budget and bill related to military spouses/veterans:
 - a. Military retiree tax exemption eliminating age restriction. Passed House but not Senate Finance Committee
 - b. Approved Interstate Medical Licensure Compact for military spouses. Audiology /Speech Language and licensed professional counselors.
 - c. Passed universal license recognition bill that also benefits military spouses.
 - d. V3 grant program – Increased from \$1K (up to 10K) to \$2.5K (up to 25K) for V3 employers hiring and retaining veterans.
- Association of Defense Communities Conference. Scheduled for next week. Opportunity to meet with Installation leadership and meet Hampton roads CODELs.

- III. LTCOL Curtis Thomas, XO of the MARFORCOM Headquarters Service Battalion.**
- Representing CO Camp Elmore and Headquarters and Service Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, US Marine Forces Command (MARFORCOM) and US Marine Corps Forces Northern Command.
 - Thankful for opportunity to speak and how to bridge gap and further community and goals. Graduate ODU HR NROTC. Provides admin and logistical support directly for approx 800. Marines, Sailors, and civilians and approx. 500 Marine at Naval Commands.
 - Supports Marine Corps Community Services of all the Marines (approx. 4,000) in Hampton Roads as well as families.
 - Supports new Commanding General, LTG Brain Cavanaugh. Focus areas – establish strong community relations, engage with community leaders, communicate Marine Corps story, recruiting/retaining USMC talent, create a vision for working together with veteran community and strengthen community.
- IV. Jenny Lynne Stroup, Senior Manager, Hiring Our Heroes Military Spouse Program**
- Military Spouse Fellowship Program which expanded from 6 to 12 weeks.
 - The Military Spouse Fellowship pays the employee’s salary. There is no cost to your organization. Program is structured to match military spouses looking for full-time employment with employers. This engagement with local employers enables military spouses to quickly build their networks and showcase their skillsets. These are highly qualified candidates.
 - Discover the Talent HOH virtual event. Presents employers with engagement and educational opportunities to learn about hiring from the military connected community.
- V. Laura Baxter – Executive Director, Armed Services YMCA Hampton Roads**
- ASYMCA of Hampton Roads non-profit organization and offers a robust set of programs and services specifically designed for strengthening local military families.
 - They have a proud heritage that dates to the Civil War where YMCA volunteers provided comfort to soldiers on the front lines. They have evolved into a movement to “Strengthen Military Families.”
 - Key program offerings for military families include: Child and youth programs, an emergency assistance food pantry, travel assistance to military families experiencing financial hardship and more can be found on their website: [What We Do - Hampton Roads \(asymca.org\)](http://What We Do - Hampton Roads (asymca.org))
- VI. Discussion (Including visitors’ announcements and comments)**
- Norfolk DCM Pace provided Norfolk event updates to include Norfolk State of the City address in April.
 - VADM Shelanski thanked everyone for the great presentations and discussions.
 - Irv Lindley (Portsmouth Military Affairs Commission) mentioned RADM (Ret) Mark Hugil, City Council is liaison to PMAC. Coordination in progress for PMAC to integrate with Joint MEDAC rotation and host future joint meeting.
 - CAPT Fraenzimmer offered support to communicate information at MEDAC to other installation commanders.

- Sultan Camp, HRVEC provided an update on the Hampton Roads Career Summits. Four total events for region. Completed Langley, next NAS Oceana (May), Fort Eustis (August), Naval Station Norfolk (November).
- Bob Clark from ODU discussed hiring opportunities for veterans and spouses.
- Janet Lomax (Senator Kaine) - Accepting request applications for funding Virginia Community Projects via congressional directive earmarks. \$70M locally last year.
- RADM Priest congratulate Ray White and mentioned Charlie Bauman taking over for MEDAC coordination.
- Steve Borden at TCC – Discussed a partnership with Rivian at end of month.
 - a. The Rivian Technical Trades Program provides an opportunity for individuals to grow their careers in the skilled trades. During their 5 months in the program, Technicians learn the latest electric vehicle technologies inside the classroom and put those theories into practice with hands-on training in school as well as at a local Service Center
- Kip Pagach discussed USNA business networking group and opportunities for collaboration.
- Elspeth McMahon – Announced the upcoming ODU 1st Maritime Symposium on 12-13 April.

Next Norfolk MEDAC: 20 March 2023

Next VB MEDAC: 27 March 2023

Next Joint MEDAC: 24 April 2023

Adjournment at 1708