



Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Norfolk/ Virginia Beach Joint Meeting Summary June 26, 2023 (1500-1630)



Norfolk – RADM Jack Kavanaugh (Chair), VADM Herm Shelanski, Tom Bosse, Tom Ferguson, Todd Nichols, LaVoris Pace, Pam White, Len Remias, Jerry Johnson, Council JP Paige, Tom Bosse, Paul Olson, Sonya Smith, Scott McKinley

Virginia Beach – RADM Fenton Priest (Chair), Lee Barbrey, Kit Chope, John Uhrin, Kevin Cook, Lorin Heckelman,

Portsmouth – Councilman Mark Hugel, Irv Lindley, Ron Peterman, Brian Donohue

Guests - Bill Brown, Kayla Lafond, Jenny Lynee Stroup, Kayla Lafond, Trey Dudley, Mark Perryman, Mercedes Hollan, LTC Pierre Han, Jeff Guild, Anthony Littman, Diane Kauffman, Gene Garland, Allen Baker, Joe Frommelt

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Norfolk Beach MEDAC Chair, RADM Kavanaugh welcomed all to the joint meeting in-person hosted by City of Norfolk at the Slover Library.
- Members and guests' introductions

II. Approval of April 2023 MEDAC Joint Meeting notes - Provided via email. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. HRMFFA Update – Todd Nichols

- Update on federal budget, discussing defense spending and budget caps for the coming years.
- Explained impact of debt ceiling deal on the NDAA timeline and mentioned ongoing support for Secretary Crenshaw's strategy.

IV. Guest Presentations

A. Jason Pak – Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Commonwealth of Virginia

- Expressed his gratitude for being invited to the meeting in Norfolk and Virginia. He stressed the significance of his role, working alongside Secretary Crenshaw, in supporting veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families.
- Introduced himself as a veteran with experience serving in Afghanistan. After his military service, he transitioned to the private sector with Boeing before joining the governor's office.
- Highlighted the state's dedication to becoming the premier destination for military veterans, active-duty personnel, and their families.
- Expressed appreciation for the support provided by organizations like MEDAC and others within the community.
- Emphasized the importance of understanding and addressing the unique needs of both veterans and their families during the transition from military to civilian life.
- Outlined several initiatives, with a particular emphasis on tax relief for military.

B. Mark Perryman – President & CEO, Norfolk Airport Authority and Norfolk International Airport

- Shared insights about his background and role and projects and initiatives at the Norfolk Airport.

- Discussed the Economic impact - \$2.2B , 17.300 jobs. Over \$225M in capital improvements completed over the past 5 years.

- Skytrax Results: 83 in the world, 13 in North America, Only 7 in US.

C. Trey Dudley – Executive Vice President and Partner, First Financial Group and VetSteps

- Discussed the VETSTEPS program, an apprenticeship initiative for veterans and transitioning service members in the financial services industry.

V. Discussion

- Discussion and comments from attendees followed, with topics including mental health support for sailors and various initiatives and updates.

- Kayla LaFond provided updates on terminology changes for childcare providers and discussed the military spouse liaison compact and hiring preferences for military spouses.

- Other attendees shared updates on toll relief programs, hiring events, and partnerships.

- The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude and collaboration among attendees.

Next VB MEDAC: 28 Aug 2023

Next Norfolk MEDAC: 17 July 2023

Next Joint MEDAC: 25 Sep 2023 (City of Portsmouth Hosting @ Rivers Casino)

Adjournment at 1615