



Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Norfolk/Portsmouth Virginia Beach Joint Meeting Summary

September 25, 2023 (1500-1630)

Norfolk - RADM Jack Kavanaugh (Chair), Tom Ferguson, Mike O’Hearn, Sonya Smith, Pat Roberts (City Manager), LaVoris Pace (DCM), Sean Washington, Paul Bayer, Len Remias, Pam White

Virginia Beach - RADM Fenton Priest (Chair), RADM Phil Olson, RDML Rob Katz, Chuck Kubic, Charles Stuppard, Lou Schager, Kevin Cook, Kathy Owens, J.J. Cummings, Lawrence Barbrey, Charles Bauman, Elisabeth Parker, Shikim Holden, Ronnie Parker

Portsmouth - Mayor Shannon Glover, Mimi Terry (Interim City Manager), Roy Corby (GM Rivers casino), Councilman Mark Hugel, Irv Lindley, Ron Peterman, Brian Donohue, Nahla Saleh,

HRMFFA - Rick Dwyer, Todd Nichols,

Guests - CAPT John Dewey (CO USCG Base Portsmouth), CAPT Jip Mosman (CO NNSY), CAPT Brian Feldman (CO NMRTC), CAPT Dave Gay (CO JEBLCFS), CAPT Matt Frauzenzimmer (CO NSAHR), Gene Garland (Senator Warner), Diane Kaufman (Senator Kaine), Mike Nicosia (Rep Kiggans), Sultan Camp (HRVEC), Bill Brown (ECPI), Bob Clark (ODU), Landon Wellford (NSA HR), Tiffany Johnson (NSA HR), John Bos (Cybrex LLC), Allen Basker (VMASC), Jeff Guild (Liberty Military Housing), Mercedes Holland (JEBLCFS), Joe Frommelt (VSRA), Asa Worcester (VSRA), Greg Lewis (Future of Hampton Roads).

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Norfolk Beach MEDAC Chair, Kavanaugh:

- Welcomes all to the joint meeting in-person hosted by City of Portsmouth at Rivers Casino. Announced Norfolk new MEDAC appointments: Ms. Sonya Smith (USAF), RADM Scott McKinley (USCG), CAPT Steve Borden (USN), COL Paul Olson(USA).
- Recognize and thanks the new city manager of Norfolk, Pat Roberts and introduced the upcoming presentations at Rivers Casino Portsmouth, the first casino facility in Virginia.
- Agenda centered around economic development initiatives and projects in the city of Portsmouth, with a focus on involving military installations. Commanders from the Coast Guard base and Naval Shipyard, as well as the Naval Medical Command, will share insights. The goal is to strengthen community and military partnerships and boost economic and workforce development opportunities. The city is actively collaborating with partners to ensure regional benefits in Hampton Roads.

- Portsmouth Mayor, Shannon Glover: Thanks audience for attending and expressed excitement about hosting event in Portsmouth. Acknowledged key team members and emphasized city's gratitude for its military partnerships, essential for the city's success. Looks forward to learning and sharing insights during the MEDAC.

- VB MEDAC Chair, RADM Priest: Mentioned newer VB MEDAC members, including Chuck Kubic and VB members raised their hands to identify themselves. Acknowledges presence of some familiar faces, including

RDML Katz and others, and mentions the longevity of the group since 2008, highlighting their regular Thursday lunch meetings.

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

III. HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer

- Anticipates a potential federal shutdown, acknowledges uncertainty, and mentioned efforts to ensure military personnel continue to get paid.
- Discusses recent state budget developments, highlighting the elimination of age restrictions for the Virginia military retiree tax exemption from tax year 2024.
- Announces positive news of Norfolk and Virginia Beach receiving Defense Community Infrastructure Program grants for Naval Station Norfolk and drainage improvements, totaling millions.
- Reports on the board of directors meeting, including discussions with the Assistant Secretary of Energy Installation Environment and approval of the 2024 general assembly legislative priorities.
- Highlights success of the Virginia Military Community Grant program in the first year, with \$5 million leveraged for additional grants, requesting the Commonwealth to continue the program.

IV. Guest Presentations

A. Brian Donohue, City of Portsmouth Economic Development Director

- Economic development in Portsmouth includes the arrival of new industries, with a focus on commercial gaming, representing a \$340 million investment and creating 1300 jobs.
- Rivers Casino has been a successful partner, generating over \$9.8 million in gaming revenue since its opening in January, exceeding projections.
- The casino is seen as a catalyst for further development along the Victory Boulevard Corridor, expecting new hotels, retail, and restaurants.
- Portsmouth is actively involved in the offshore wind industry, retrofitting Portsmouth Marine Terminal to host projects along the East Coast, anticipating manufacturing and supply chain opportunities.
- The Port of Virginia expects the arrival of components for the sea project in October, marking the beginning of increased activity at PMT.
- The city is focusing on remaking its downtown waterfront, with plans for public solicitation for redevelopment in 2024, a significant development for Portsmouth.
- Future initiatives include ongoing economic development, particularly in offshore wind, with long-term prospects spanning 10 to 20 years.
- Portsmouth is eager to share more exciting developments in the coming years and welcomes questions and discussions about their progress.

B. Roy Corby, General Manager Rivers Casino

- Expresses gratitude for the opportunity to host the meeting, recognizing the region's military presence and emphasizing meaningful support for military personnel and their families.
- Acknowledges early mentorship from VB Councilwoman Delceno Miles and appreciates the welcoming reception from the military community.
- Highlights Rivers Gifts, the corporate giving program, with key pillars focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion, public health, education, economic and community development, workforce development, public service, and support services.
- Demonstrates commitment to the military community through various initiatives, including a \$170,000 donation to USO Hampton Roads and Greater Richmond during the Grand Opening ceremony.
- Yard House, attached to the casino, plans to provide 200 more jobs, adding to the 1300 jobs already committed to.

- Teases a forthcoming hotel announcement to further expand the property and community commitment.
- Donations exceeding \$10,000 to the American Legion Post and \$12,000 to Portsmouth Post 14, showcasing ongoing community support.
- Active participation in service days and support for organizations like Armed Forces YMCA, Coast Guard Cutter 5K, Veterans and Athletes United, and the USO experience.
- Proudly mentions V3 certification and encourages veterans and military spouses to pursue gaming careers at the casino.
- Expresses gratitude to MEDAC members, military leaders, community partners, and attendees, offering availability for questions.

C. Captain John Dewey – Commander, United States Coast Guard Base Portsmouth

- Base Overview: Base Portsmouth's small size, strong ties with Portsmouth, and Coast Guard City designation.
- Coast Guard Mission: Coast Guard's dual mission: operations (search and rescue, law enforcement) and support (timely mission support).
- Infrastructure and Historical Significance: Overview of base facilities and historical importance in supporting Coast Guard missions.
- Future Developments: Anticipates newer, larger ships in 10-12 years, highlighting the need for pier updates and infrastructure preparations.
- Community Impact and Initiatives: Reliance on community medical services and ongoing projects like retention ponds and clinic expansion.
- Population Shifts and Housing: Observes a shift in Coast Guard personnel living in or near Portsmouth in recent years.
- Anticipated Growth and Crew Changes: Expects minimal numerical growth with the arrival of offshore patrol cutters, emphasizing shore-based support.
- Closing and Q&A: Concludes by opening the floor for questions regarding personnel living in Hampton Roads and potential growth.

D. Captain James P. “Jip” Mosman – Commander, Norfolk Naval Shipyard

- Base Overview: 10,000+ people, 900 sailors, and daily visits by 13,000 to 15,000 individuals.
- Infrastructure and Dry Docks: Descriptions of dry docks, renovations, and ongoing projects, including work on aircraft carriers and submarines.
- Geographical Presence and Global Operations: Base's geographical location, support for submarines, aircraft carriers, and involvement in global operations.
- Budget and Business Focus: Overview of the base's \$2 billion budget, business focus on submarines, aircraft carriers, and diverse support services.
- Personnel and Workforce Challenges: Workforce demographics, hiring challenges, security clearance issues, and workforce development efforts.
- Facility Optimization and Future Plans: Plans for base optimization, ongoing projects, and considerations for future expansion or relocation.
- Quality of Life Initiatives: Efforts to address quality of life issues, sailor housing, and facilities like unmanned snack bars.
- Collaboration and Future Prospects: Collaboration with other shipyards, potential impact of industry trends on workforce migration, and considerations for the future.
- Q&A Session: Addressing questions on security clearances, workforce challenges, quality of life, and potential impact of industry changes.

E. Captain Brian Feldman – Commanding Officer, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Portsmouth

- Discusses the Defense Health Agency (DHA) and its role in military healthcare.
- Emphasis is on Naval Medical Center Portsmouth's collaboration with DHA.
- Partnerships, organizational changes, and standardization efforts to reduce costs are highlighted.
- Oversees medical readiness, training, and dual-hat responsibilities. Topics include strategic partnerships, community collaborations, trauma care capabilities, and healthcare staffing challenges.
- A trauma center was opened, addressing healthcare shortages and expanding services.
- Initiatives for virtual health platforms and patient access improvement are mentioned.
- Medical staff deployment on various platforms, including the USNS Comfort, is discussed.
- Enrollment processes, benefits, and retiree access to care are touched upon.
- Efforts to enhance women's health services and collaborations with other institutions are outlined.
- Concludes with ongoing initiatives and improvements in military healthcare.

V. Discussion

- Mention of investment by Lyon Shipyard, involving a \$13 million deal.
- Acknowledgment of Portsmouth Military Mayor's Advisory Committee lead COL Irv Lindley.
- Recognition of the USS Iowa Gun Project ceremony and appreciation for Captain Gray's presence.
- Upcoming events like an NASO air show, art show, and military facility tours are highlighted.
- A mention of NATO and regional growth opportunities.
- Notable events such as the grand opening of the Veterans Care Center and a mobility symposium.
- Discussion about the health assessment program and plans to identify groups for assessment.

Next Norfolk MEDAC: 16 October 2023

Next VB MEDAC: 23 October VB Economic Development Conference Room

Next Joint MEDAC hosted at VB – 27 November VB Economic Development Conference Room

Adjournment at 1650