



Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Norfolk/Portsmouth Virginia Beach Joint Meeting Summary March 24, 2025 (1500-1630)

Norfolk - RADM Jack Kavanaugh (Chair), VADM Herm Shelanski, Tom Borden (TCC), Tom Bosse, Tom Ferguson, Joe Frommelt (VSRA), Jerry Johnson, Zoah Scheneman, Paul Olson (ODU), Sean Washington, CAPT Matt Frauenzimmer (ODU), Councilman JP Paige, DCM James Rogers, Len Remias, Donna Manglicmot, Kendall Lawson

Virginia Beach - RADM Phil Olson, Charles Stuppard, Kathy Owens, Bob Holmes, Eric Keplinger, Stacy Cummings, John Uhrin, Ihsane Mouak

Portsmouth - Councilman Mark Hugel, James Cullen (PMMAC), Charlie Bauman

HRMFFA - Rick Dwyer, Todd Nichols

Guests – RADM Carl Lahti (CNRMA), MajGen Thomas Crimmins (JFSC), CAPT Dave Gray (JEB LC-FS), CAPT Matt Olson (NSA-HR), CAPT Matt Schlarmann (NSN), Scott Jackson (VIT), Malia Diaz (NNF), Mike Cobb, Gene Garland (Rep Warner), Sultan Camp (HRWC), Julie Stark (MATB), Greg Lewis, Clint Ross (Hampton), Rob Mulvahill, Landen Wellford (NSA-HR CPLO), Steve Jones (NSN CPLO), Brian Ballard (NRMA), Joe Howell (NRMA), LT Derya Happe (JFSC), Edmund Libby, Gary McClure (NCOA), Lakenda Hayes (V3), Pat Tamakloe (GLI), CDR Amber Lewis (NRMA), LT Ryema (NRMA), Bill Brown (ECPI), Allan Baker (VMASC)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Norfolk Chair RADM (Ret.) Jack Kavanaugh welcomed members and guests. Meeting participants introduced themselves.

II. Approval of September 2024 MEDAC Joint Meeting notes

- The September 2024 joint meeting summary was unanimously approved.

III. HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer, Executive Director

- Update on Virginia's Military Community Infrastructure Grant Program and efforts to decouple it from federal grant dependency.
- Legislative wins included: carryover of \$3M grant funds, new pilot childcare grants for small providers, expanded military school enrollment flexibility, and alignment of state/federal emergency generator standards.
- Briefed on FY26 federal legislative priorities: increased defense spending, support for junior enlisted quality of life, and installations' infrastructure needs.
- Upcoming ADC conference and D.C. congressional engagements.

IV. Economic Development Updates – Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach

a. Norfolk (Sean Washington):

- Monitoring uncertainties from political and economic forces, particularly around shipbuilding, clean energy, Medicaid, and NIH funding.
- Highlighted over \$300M in capital investment and job growth through the Norfolk Innovation Corridor and projects like the casino and TST Fabrication expansion.

b. Virginia Beach (Ishan Mouak):

- Introduced Christian Green as new VB Economic Development Director.
- Highlighted upcoming defense events: NA Roadshow (Norwegian defense industry) and IPF 2025 (offshore wind forum).

c. Portsmouth (Charlie Bauman):

- Announced \$150M in new investments and redevelopment efforts focused on the waterfront, innovation district, and entertainment district.

V. Guest Presentations

A. RADM Carl Lahti (Navy Region Mid-Atlantic):

- Top challenges: staffing for security and childcare centers. Partnering with universities and exploring new high school hiring pathways.
- Highlighted intergovernmental support agreements (IGSAs) to reduce federal costs through city/state partnerships.
- Emphasized infrastructure investments and DCIP project updates in VB, Norfolk, and Portsmouth.

B. MGEN Thomas Crimmins (Joint Forces Staff College):

- JFSC celebrating 79 years; only NDU college in Hampton Roads.
- Expanding partnerships with William & Mary, ODU, and others.
- Infrastructure projects underway and exploring private funding through NDU Foundation.

C. Scott Jackson (Virginia International Tattoo) and Malia Diaz (Norfolk NATO Festival):

- Tattoo and NATO Fest attract military and international participants; 2024 impact included \$20M in economic activity.
- Events include education programs, international village, student matinees, and partnerships with public schools and NATO commands.

D. Mike Cobb (Coalition for Historic Fort Wool):

- Advocacy for restoring public access to Fort Wool following seabird relocation.
- Coalition requesting MEDAC support letter.
- Estimated \$6M needed for restoration, with Hampton City Council backing and state partnership underway.

E. Force Master Chief Gary McClure (NCOA):

- National NCOA conference relocating to Norfolk; seeking participation and sponsorship.
- Organization supports enlisted through education, advocacy, and recognition events.
- Highlighted Vanguard Awards and Medallion programs.

VI. Discussion

- a. Support expressed for Fort Wool restoration; motion passed for joint MEDAC support letter.
- b. Updates on toll relief programs for military families in Portsmouth and Norfolk.
- c. Memorial Day Parade in Portsmouth (May 26) seeking participation and volunteers.
- d. Childcare pilot programs, partnerships with ODU, and additional housing and workforce initiatives discussed.
- e. Tech Bridge update on Navy defense accelerator with 757 Collaborate.
- f. Announced Gold Star Families Memorial dedication planned for Veterans Day 2025 in Norfolk.

Next Meetings

- Next Norfolk Committee Meeting: April 21, 2025
- Next Joint Committee Meeting: May 19, 2025 (Virginia Beach Host)
- Next Virginia Beach Committee Meeting: July 28, 2025

Adjournment at 1640