



City of Virginia Beach Military Economic Development Advisory Committee 2022 – 2023 Annual Report to City Council

Author: RADM Fenton Priest, USN (Ret) Chair

Date: August 31, 2023

Executive Summary

The Military Economic Development Advisory Committee (MEDAC) members, City Council and staff liaisons have worked to compile the FY 2022-2023 Annual Report to City Council covering the period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. MEDAC was established in 2008 as an advisory committee to work cooperatively with City Council, the City Manager's Office and the Department of Economic Development. Their collaborative efforts are to support and strengthen City-Military relations with commanding officers and tenant commands at Virginia Beach military installations; identify economic development opportunities for the City with the various military commands; work with the military to assist private contractors in locating to and conducting business in Virginia Beach; identify military members separating from the Navy and other military branches who may be candidates for employment with businesses in Virginia Beach or other areas within Hampton Roads; and provide information to the Department of Economic Development and the City Manager's Office concerning issues that may be addressed by the City to assist the various commands in carrying out their respective missions. In the past fiscal year, MEDAC met seven times and hosted a joint meeting with the Norfolk MEDAC three of those seven meetings.

As requested, included for your review are:

- Accomplished goals and objectives,
- Membership and attendance,
- Goals and objectives for the coming year, and
- Recommendations to City Council.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Military Economic Development Advisory Committee is to serve as an advisory agency to the Virginia Beach City Council to enhance the coordination efforts with local military base commanders and their various installation tenants.

Accomplishment of Goals and Objectives

Over the past fiscal year, MEDAC, through its appointed committee members and its liaisons, worked on the following key matters in furtherance of its mission under its four primary goals:

1. **Outreach to Navy and other Military Commands** through the support and strengthening of City-Military relations with the various base commanders and tenant commands.

- a. In conjunction with City Council, the Military Economic Development Advisory Committee wrote a letter of support for the move of the USS Iowa Battleship Gun Barrel display adjacent to the Lighthouse at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story.
 - b. Continued command visits.
 - c. Supported the creation of a Portsmouth MEDAC.
2. **Economic Development Opportunities** by identifying opportunities within the various military commands that engage defense contractors in support of their mission. Examples include working with the military to help private contractors locate and conduct business locally.
 - a. Engaged with the Department of Economic Development regarding Naval Air Station Oceana's Future Base Design 2023 RFP.
3. **Workforce Development** as appropriate, and with the support of the military, seeking to identify service members separating from the military who may be candidates for employment by local businesses.
 - a. The City's small business resource center, The HIVE, is located in Town Center and had a remarkable year, now counting more than 900 clients and 80+ business resource partners. Throughout the year, The HIVE conducted 340 trainings and workshops, assisted more than 310 existing Virginia Beach businesses and startups, and helped 160 organizations secure their state SWaM business certifications. The HIVE also has several Veteran Workforce initiatives that the Virginia Beach MEDAC supported and promoted as well.
 - b. MEDAC supported V3 Certification Program support efforts.
 - c. Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Centers job fairs and quarterly event support was promoted and announced.
4. **Virginia Beach Military Affairs**
 - a. Supported Change of Command ceremonies, installation ribbon cuttings, and Veteran Care Center initiatives.

Membership and Attendance

Attached separately

Budget Report

This agency is an advisory committee that does not need nor have a budget.

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

In alignment with MEDAC's missions and goals, the following efforts are ongoing initiatives that the committee intends to stay committed to engaging:

- Continued engagement with Secretary Crenshaw (Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs)

- Engagement and support for Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facility Alliance and the Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Centers
- Command Briefings and Military Outreach (NAS Oceana, JEB Little Creek-Fort Story, Dam Neck Annex, NSW Group 2 (SEAL Teams))

Recommendations to City Council

The Military Economic Development Advisory Committee respectfully requests the continued support of the Virginia Beach City Council on the Committee's strategic military affairs engagement and business community development initiatives and efforts through City Council direction and with the assistance of the City's Department of Economic Development.

Should you have any questions or require a formal City Council briefing on the work of this team, please feel free to reach out to Fenton Priest, MEDAC Chair at fentonpriest@iCloud.com and or the City Staff Liaison, Charles Bauman at cbauman@vbgov.com.

City of Virginia Beach
Military Economic Development Advisory Committee
2022 Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires on:	Jul 25th	Aug 22nd	Oct 24th	Nov 28th	Total Present
Stephen Brennan, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	R	R	1/3
Christopher Chope, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	N/A	C	P	P	2/2
Kevin Cook, RADM, USCG (Ret)	2/28/2026	A	C	A	A	0/3
Elizabeth Dietzmann	2/28/2025	A	C	P/V	A	1/3
Richard Dunleavy, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	A	C	A	P	1/3
Mark Gemmill, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	P	P	3/3
Loren Heckelman, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	P	P	3/3
Robert Herbert, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	A	A	1/3
Gregory Nosal, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2027	P	C	P	P	3/3
Phillip Olson, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	A	P	2/3
Kathleen Owens, CDR, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	P	P	3/3
Fenton Priest, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	P	P	3/3
Robert Rieve, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	P	P	3/3
Louis Schager, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2025	A	C	P	P	2/3
Joseph Strange, VBDA Liaison	2/28/2023	A	C	P	P	2/3
Charles Stuppard, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2027	P	C	P	A	2/3
Richard Trowbridge, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	C	P	P	3/3
Frances Wilson, LT GEN, USMC (Ret)	2/28/2023	A	C	P	P	2/3
This row indicates if there was a quorum; total number of members in person/ total number of appointed members		10/18	C	13/18	13/18	
City Councilman John Moss			C		R	0
City Councilman N.D. Rocky Holcomb		N/A	C		P	1
Staff Liaison – Ray White		P	C		R	1
Staff Liaison – Charles Bauman		N/A	C	P		1
Staff Liaison – Vicki Kelley		P	C	P	P	3

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2022 Attendance Record

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Cancelled (C)

City of Virginia Beach
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2023 Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 23rd	Mar 27th	Apr 24th	May 22nd	Total Present
Lawrence L. Barbrey, MCPO, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	N/A	P	P	P/V	3/3
Christopher W. Chope, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P/V	P	P	A	3/4
Kevin Cook, RADM, USCG (Ret)	2/28/2026	A	P	A	A	1/4
John J. Cummings, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2026	P	P	P	P	4/4
Elizabeth Dietzmann	2/28/2025	P/V	A	P/V	A	2/4
Richard Dunleavy, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	R	R	R	1
Mark Gemmill, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	P/V	P	4/4
Loren V. Heckelman, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	E	P/V	P/V	P	3/4
Robert Herbert, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	A	E	P	2/4
Robert D. Katz, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	N/A	P	P	P	3/3
Charles R. Kubic, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	N/A	E	P	P	2/4
Gregory Nosal, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/28/2027	P	P	P	P	4/4
Phillip Olson, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	P	P	4/4
Kathleen Owens, CDR, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P/V	P	P/V	4/4
Fenton Priest, RADM, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	P	P	P	P	4/4
Robert Rieve, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	R	R	R	1
Louis J. Schager, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2025	P	A	A	P	2/4
Robert E. Smith, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/29/2028	N/A	E	A	A	0/4
Joseph Strange, VBDA Liaison	2/29/2028	A	A	A	P	1/4
Charles Stuppard, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2027	A	P	P	P	3/4
Richard Trowbridge, CAPT, USN (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	R	R	R	1
Frances Wilson, LTGEN, USMC (Ret)	2/28/2023	P	R	R	R	1
This row indicates if there was a quorum; total number of members in person/ total number of appointed members		14/18	12/18	12/18	13/18	
City Councilman N.D. Rocky Holcomb						0

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City Councilman Christopher Taylor	P			P	2
Staff Liaison – Charles Bauman	P	P		P	3
Staff Liaison – Elisabeth Parker	P	P		P	3

Key: Present (P) Present/Virtually (P/V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Cancelled (C)