

Virginia Beach Military Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting

27 March 2023

1500 - 1630

Members Present:

Chair RADM Fenton Priest, Vice-Chair RADM Gregory Nosal, Former Command Master Chief Lawrence "Lee" Barbrey, CAPT Christopher "Kit" Chope, RADM Kevin Cook, CAPT J.J. Cummings, RADM Mark Gemmil, RADM Robert "Bob" Katz, RADM Phillip Olson, CAPT Charles Stuppard

Members/Guests Present via Phone:

CAPT Loren Heckelman, CDR Kathleen Owens

Guests/Advisors/Staff Present:

Charles Bauman III, Nolan Birsh, Sultan Camp, Rick Dwyer, John Lauterbach, Jack Livingston, Ihsane Mouak, Todd Nichols, Elisabeth Parker, Charles Rigney, John Uhrin

- I. Chair Fenton Priest called the meeting to order at 1502.
 - a. Chair Fenton Priest welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - b. General Introductions were made around the room for all those present.

- II. Chair Fenton Priest welcomed and introduced new members CAPT Lawrence "Lee" Barbrey, Robert Katz and CAPT Robert "Bob" Smith. CAPT Smith was unable to attend. RADM Charles Kubic was just appointed by City Council on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 and will be formally introduced at the next meeting.

- III. Approval of 23 January 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion: Phillip Olson
 - b. Second: Christopher Chope
 - c. Minutes approved unanimously

- IV. City Update – City Council Liaisons
 - a. No report out. Both City Councilmembers were unable to attend.

- V. HRMFFA Update – Rick Dwyer
 - a. The General Assembly is in support of the Jefferson Lab being in the running for a high performance data facility or "supercomputer" that the Department of Energy is looking to build. The RFP just went out and the state has set aside \$43M to help build it with a \$350M investment. The RFP closes in May with a decision this summer.
 - b. The House passed the bill removing the age restriction (55) on the military retiree pension state tax exemption but died in the Senate.
 - c. The Universal License Recognition that will benefit military spouses was passed and has already been signed by the Governor. Virginia joined the interstate licensure compacts, benefitting military spouses who are Audiologists/Speech Pathologists, and Licensed Professional Counselors.

- d. The Virginia Values Veterans Employment Tax Credit was passed from \$1,250 to \$2,500 per veteran hired up to a total of \$25,000.
- e. On the Federal side, the President's budget request was rolled out a few weeks ago and the top line for the Department of Defense is \$842B which is a 3.2% increase over what was enacted in the FY23 budget year. Within that, there is a 5.2% pay rate increase which is the largest since 2002.
- f. There is a healthy request for military construction in the region. There is \$780M in MILCON projects in the region with the majority being Navy Op projects. Some project highlights include a new Child Development Center at JEB Little Creek, Fort Story Soft Operations Support Facility also at Little Creek, and a few special projects at Dam Neck MWR Support Facility.
- g. A few battleships are being decommissioned and three are homeported here.
- h. The first week in March, Mr. Dwyer and Todd Nichols met with five of the six members of the Congressional Delegation to review the draft FY24 Federal Legislative priorities. Highlights include the SIOP (Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program) as well as homeporting additional ships here, mental health priorities, and TriCare insurance improvements. TriCare has the lowest reimbursable rates in the health insurance industry and want to work with Congressional Delegation to change some language in their program to increase their acceptance rates.

VI. NAS Oceana/JEB Little Creek Fort Story – John Lauterbach, Charles Stuppard

- a. Chair Fenton Priest shared that he attended Captain Robert Holmes' retirement ceremony which was a first class affair. Capt. Holmes did inform Mr. Priest that he would be staying in the area locally and was currently on terminal leave.
- b. Tomorrow, 28 March 2023, the kickoff announcement for this year's Air Show will be made. The Skipper and Mayor Bobby Dyer will be recorded together by the media at 8a and will be aired on the afternoon news. The Air Show will be held 16-17 September 2023.
- c. Thursday, March 30, 2023 is the Virginia Military Advisory Committee meeting in Richmond, VA. Executive Officer of NAS Oceana, Captain Josh Appezzato will be in attendance as well.
- d. 6 April 2023 is the quarterly meeting with the Mayor's Veterans Committee and staff.
- e. The NAS Oceana Future Base Design RFP will close on 1 May 2023. There have been various questions and expressed interest. Contract staff are not allowed to answer individual questions. Please see the NAS Oceana website for RFP details.
- f. Offshore Wind Project with Dominion Power will begin in August 2023 from Oceana Blvd to Harper Road for substation connectivity.
- g. Charles Stuppard shared that he met the new Skipper. Former Command Officer, Captain Michael Witherspoon will be taking over an ROTC program.

VII. Economic Development Update – Charlie Bauman

- a. Charlie Bauman introduced Economic Development's new Business Attractions Administrator, Charles Rigney. Mr. Rigney was the former Director of the Hampton DED.
- b. Last weekend, the Virginia Beach Department of Economic Development met with over 60 international executives for the Offshore Wind Conference that was held in Baltimore, MD.

- c. Deputy City Manager Taylor Adams and Deputy Director Laura Chalk will be attending the Site Selectors Guild occurring in San Antonio, TX for the IPF Site Selectors Guild next week.
- d. In the first two months of this year we have had 103 visits or business contacts through our Business Retention and Expansion programs.
- e. Len Remias brought to the VB MEDAC's attention an ODU event happening in Portsmouth on 12 and 13 of April 2023 the first annual Maritime Symposium. All are welcome to attend.
- f. Chair Priest asked for an update on the State of the City Address. Mr. Bauman apologized for not extending an invitation to the VB MEDAC board but was happy to ensure an invitation at next year's event and expressed a press release was forthcoming.

VIII. Military Workforce Development Update – Sultan Camp, Ihsane Mouak

- a. Sultan Camp gave highlight updates regarding veteran workforce development events. The first quarterly Workforce Career Summit was held in February 2023 at Joint Base Langley-Eustis formerly known as Langley Air Force Base and it was a phenomenal event. There was a social network event in the evening, LinkedIn headshots were offered and taken on the morning of, four industry panel discussions and then in the afternoon there was a traditional career fair. The next Career Summit will be on the 16th and 17th of May at Naval Air Station Oceana in the Officers Club. Eventually, the desired goal is to move these to Convention Centers regionally to better accommodate a larger attendance.
- b. The next Skillbridge Expo will be in June 2023. We are having a phenomenal turn out with these events as well. There were 310 people registered for the last Expo that was just held in Norfolk, VA.
- c. The next Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meeting will be held in April 2023 at the HIVE Resource Center.
- d. Ihsane Mouak gave a detailed presentation. Please see the attached presentation for full presentation details. Highlights include: six military events were held at the HIVE in February 2023 alone, ScaleUp USA has been launched, temporary office space is being offered to startups, homebased businesses and military spouse entrepreneurs at the HIVE at no cost, and Amplify Hampton Roads will be held at the HIVE as well on 20 and 21 of September 2023 which is a two day workshop focused on supporting career development for the military spouse community.

IX. Command Visit Program – RADM (Ret) Greg Nosal, CAPT (Ret) Charles Stuppard

- a. Nothing scheduled at this time with NAS Oceana per Mr. Nosal. He has asked Mr. Kit Chope to take over that due to his relationship and Mr. Chope has accepted and agreed.
- b. Chair Priest informed everyone that we are still working on FOIA issues regarding command issues and Deputy City Manager Taylor Adams is assisting with a solid workaround. More to come on that based on legal advise from the City Attorney's office. A reverse command visit may be a possibility where they all come to us.
- c. CAPT (Ret) Charles Stuppard announced Capt. Witherspoon's ceremony will be 1 June 2023.

X. Special Presentations and Discussions

- a. Kenny Miller, USO Center Operations and Program Manager of Hampton Roads/Central was unable to attend the meeting but Chair Fenton Priest shared the detailed presentation

on his behalf on the USO 2023 Experience scheduled this year for 1-4 June. Please see attached for the full detailed presentation. Highlights include: morning fitness, yoga, military statue displays, movies and skydiving opportunities! Jumping for a Purpose is the highlighted special program within the event that will allow Wounded Warriors to honor fallen military heroes.

XI. Announcements

- a.** CAPT (Ret) J.J. Cummings asked for expedited follow-up regarding the legal bureaucracy limiting the command visits to no more than three people from the VB MEDAC. Chair Priest ensured he would follow-up with Deputy City Manager Taylor Adams since he learned that the former legal aid working with him on this issue was no longer with the City of Virginia Beach.
- b.** Elisabeth Parker announced the next scheduled joint meeting which will be hosted by Virginia Beach on 24 April 2023 and orientation for new members will be scheduled.
- c.** Admiral Gray has been invited to the next joint meeting. His Change of Command ceremony is scheduled for 11 or 12 May 2023.
- d.** Vietnam Veterans Day is 29 March 2023 and the Naval Museum is hosting a ceremony at 1300.

Adjourned at 1635

Next Scheduled Virginia Beach Meeting: 22 May 2023

Next Joint Committee Meeting: 24 April 2023 (Virginia Beach Hosting at Economic Development)