

Virginia Beach Military Economic Advisory Committee Meeting  
4525 Main Street, Suite 700, Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
1500, Monday, 22 January 2024

Members Present:

Chair RADM Phil Olson, Vice-Chair RADM Robert Katz, MCPO Lawrence Barbrey, CAPT J.J. Cummings, RADM Mark Gemmill, CAPT Robert (Steve) Herbert, RADM Charles Kubic, RADM Gregory Nosal, RADM Fenton Priest, CAPT Charles Stuppard

Members Present Virtually:

CAPT Christopher (Kit) Chope from VB Neptune Festival Office, Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
CAPT Loren Heckelman from, Bldg NH-32, Norfolk, VA 23551; CDR Kathleen Owens from home, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

Members Absent:

CAPT Bill Curtis, CAPT Louis Schager, CAPT Robert Smith, Councilman Chris Taylor (City Council Liaison)

Guests/Advisors/Staff Present:

Charles Bauman, Sultan Camp, Gene Garland, Mercedes Holland (virtually), Vicki Kelley, John Lauterbach, Irv Lindley, John Uhrin III

Opening Remarks:

- I. Chair Olson welcomed everyone to the meeting and members and guests introduced themselves.
- II. Minutes:
  - a. 10 October 2023 Minutes were unanimously approved.
  - b. 19 December 2023 Minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. There was no City Update due to the absence of Councilman Taylor
- IV. Command Updates
  - a. JEB Little Creek – Mercedes Holland
    - i. Joint use firing range collaboration
  - b. Oceana – John Lauterbach
    - i. Reported on topical updated information on the Naval Air Station.
    - ii. Dominion Energy is making a significant investment in and around Oceana to enhance the electrical grid to accommodate future alternative energy storage.

The audio for the virtual meeting was not working properly. The Chair directed the meeting be paused so that all participating virtually may rejoin.

Attendees rejoined and the audio began working properly.

- V. HRMDDA Update – Rick Dwyer
  - a. Four Bills to be heard at the beginning of March: Veterans Administration, Transportation, Agriculture and Energy.
  - b. Ongoing discussion on appropriations for FY24

- c. We met with Congresswoman Kiggans on January 12<sup>th</sup>. She requested the meeting to find out what she could do to impact infrastructure for Oceana and Little Creek.
      - d. Continue to track other Bills that impact Little Creek and Oceana.
- VI. Economic Development Update – Charles Bauman
  - a. Future Base Design RFP closed January 16<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Economic Development will continue to follow up with Oceana leadership and NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic
  - c. Discussions ongoing with developer entities that responded to the RFP to ensure the support of the City of Virginia Beach.
  - d. City continues meetings with JEB Little Creek and Oceana to share topical information.
- VII. Military Workforce Development Update – Sultan Camp
  - a. [Full presentation attached to these minutes.](#)
  - b. Successful Naval Station Norfolk Summit with 397 attendees.
  - c. Key upcoming events
  - d. Continue Networking
- VIII. Command Visit Program Updates
  - a. No current updates to discuss.
- IX. Special Presentations and Discussions
  - a. Attendance and Meeting frequency
    - i. Chair Olson asked Robert Katz to get a committee together or get a consensus from the group on how often to have meetings.
    - ii. Vice Chair Katz let everyone know that he would be reaching out to all members to get feedback.
    - iii. Goal is to compile data by the second week of February as it will affect our next meeting in February, which is a joint meeting.
  - b. Discussion of command visits to Little Creek and Oceana
    - i. Continue getting the support from City Council.
- X. Announcements
  - a. Chair announced that he and Charlie Bauman met with new member Bill Curtis that has joined MEDAC and shared he was going to be an asset, bringing connections to Richmond.
  - b. Chair Olson presented RADM Fenton Priest a certificate and gift to show appreciation for serving as Chair of MEDAC.
  - c. More discussion on meeting frequency and meetings on the base.
  - d. Kathy Owens stated in the chat that there were several parts of the MEDAC charter that deserve more attention and could justify monthly meetings.
    - i. Business Development
    - ii. More advising on MEDAC to City Council
  - e. Kuddos to Norfolk for such a great job on set up for the families during the Ship returning.
  - f. Next meeting will be determined later.

Meeting adjourned at 1609.