

Defense advocate

August 2011

Executive Director's Message

The 2005 BRAC process gave the Commonwealth a vital wake-up call: officials could no longer take defense investment in Virginia – critical on both national security and economic grounds – for granted. As the 2005 BRAC process nears completion this month, the U.S. Department of Defense cost reduction and efficiency efforts become the new reality for Virginia installations. Virginia must proactively seek ways to protect military investment and the tens of thousands of jobs it brings to the Commonwealth.

The Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority (VNDIA) has conducted dozens of visits to military installations in Virginia and constructed an invaluable communication network between military leaders, the Authority Board, and Commonwealth officials at all levels. With this information, and invaluable assistance from local allies across the Commonwealth, we will continue assisting Virginia's Defense Communities with technical support and grant funds – over \$60 million since 2007. The real work is just beginning. We thank our existing partners and welcome new allies to this important effort.



R. Stanton Scott

Rear Admiral Carter Briefs VNDIA Board on USJFCOM Disestablishment



Rear Adm. Walter E. Carter, Jr.
USN

SUFFOLK - The Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority board of directors received a briefing on the impact of the U. S. Joint Forces Command disestablishment at its quarterly meeting held at the Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center in Suffolk. In prepared remarks, Rear Admiral Walter E. Carter, Jr. USN, discussed the events to-date surrounding the process of disestablishment first announced by the Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in August of 2010. With a completion date of August 31, 2011, which includes both planning and implementation, the process has been a significant effort for those involved, but the command is focused on ensuring the smooth transition of the core joint missions which remain. Key functions, such as joint force provider, joint trainer and joint integrator are being realigned and reorganized under the Joint Staff. The 'endstate' will include a reduction in total personnel from 5,700 to approximately 3,200. In Hampton Roads, more than 50 percent of the roughly 3,900 personnel will remain as well as 29 foreign liaison officers and several interagency personnel. The organizations remaining in Hampton Roads will occupy four buildings as opposed to twenty-one. This includes the elimination of the 4-star headquarters site. On a positive note, all vacated building space has been leased and six flag officers will remain. The Joint Staff Deputy Director for Joint and Coalition Warfighting will continue partnerships with industry and the modeling and simulation community.

Board News

New Appointments:

Major General John P. McLaren of Virginia Beach - Commanding General, 80th Training Command. Former Vice Commander of the Joint War Fighting Center and Deputy Joint Force Trainer at U.S. Joint Forces Command in Suffolk.

The Honorable Mark A. Caruso of Norton - City Council Member for the City of Norton, Virginia. Retired Lieutenant Colonel USA.

Mr. Taylor Franklin of Norfolk - Vice President Multi-Family Development S.L. Nusbaum Realty.

Reappointment:

Rear Admiral John G. Hekman of Richmond - Former Chief Executive Officer and Commander of the Navy Information Systems Management Center and the Defense Supply Center -Richmond; Chairman of the Port of Richmond Commission and the Virginia War Memorial Education Foundation.



Thomas A. Waterworth

Staff News

Staff Addition: Defense Research Manager

Thomas Waterworth - A native of Richmond, Virginia and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University's Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness program, Thomas Waterworth is a former U.S. Army Sergeant, Bronze Star Medal recipient and Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. Following his service in the Army, he worked as an Account Executive for E4 Design, an Atlanta based event marketing design firm. Tom will conduct VNDIA's military research and analysis effort, support the Local Coordination, Support & Communications Committee's installation visit program and serve as VNDIA's representative to local and regional defense community organizations.

Local Coordination, Support & Communication Committee conducts Dahlgren Visit



Mark Safferstone (l.), executive director of the University of Mary Washington Dahlgren Campus, points out a feature of the new facility to members of the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority during a tour of the campus.

U.S. Navy photo by Andrew Revelos

By Andrew Revelos
NSASP Staff Writer

Members of the Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority (VNDIA) visited Naval Support Facility (NSF) Dahlgren July 12 as part of their state-mandated mission "to promote the health, safety, welfare, convenience, and prosperity of the people of the Commonwealth in support of national defense."

The tour began with a stop at the University of Mary Washington (UMW) Dahlgren Campus, where VNDIA members were treated to an inside look at the 42,000 square foot facility's high-tech construction. The short list of the building features include geothermal wells, satellite video-enhanced classrooms and a green, vegetative roof intended to prevent environmentally damaging runoff.

Intended to address a lack of advanced education in the area surrounding Dahlgren, the campus is part of a 150-acre off-base development that will also include retail, hospitality and workforce housing areas.

VNDIA member and retired Rear Adm. Robert Fountain commented on just how much the Dahlgren area has changed over the years. "Thirty-five to 40 years ago, [Dahlgren] was fundamentally a gun range," he said. "The [UMW Dahlgren Campus] is a testimony to the highly technical work done here now. It shows you that Dahlgren has become a center of growth."

The facility will be more than just an educational space, according to Dr. Mark Safferstone, executive director for the UMW Dahlgren Campus, who guided the VNDIA delegation through the construction site. The campus will also coordinate with the Dahlgren Heritage Museum as a site for a permanent or rotating display, one of which will include how UMW students supported Dahlgren during World War 2.

"I share that as an example of how we're going to be part of the community," Safferstone told the VNDIA delegation.

From the UMW Dahlgren Campus, the group moved onto to the heart and soul of Dahlgren, the gun range. "The work we do here is absolutely critical to the Navy," said Capt. Michael Smith, commanding officer of Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD). "The facilities here are absolutely unique."

Smith briefed the delegation on the finer points of his organization's working capital fund structure, as well as an update on the project to replace Building 1200 and how the Gov. Harry Nice Bridge expansion will not affect range operations.

Smith stressed the importance of community relations in maintaining the Navy's premier overwater testing site. "We're good neighbors," Smith told VNDIA. "We tell people when we're going to be noisy."

Fountain remarked about the range's central role aboard Dahlgren. "It's always been the anchor point," he said. "There are facilities here that would be very hard to duplicate. [The range] represents the birthplace of Dahlgren and we can see its still in use."

Stops at Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, NSWCDD's Directed Energy Warfare Center and the Joint Warfare Analysis Center (JWAC) completed the Dahlgren tour. VNDIA members expressed concern at JWAC's recent reduction in force as part of a DOD-mandated efficiency initiative.

"[JWAC] is where the rubber meets the road," Fountain told the rest of the group. While Col. Michael Orr, commanding officer of JWAC, was necessarily vague about the details of his organization's vital, operational mission during his briefing, VNDIA members left impressed with the level of knowledge and skills possessed by JWAC personnel.

VNDIA member Kurt Tripp wondered how many resources went into creating and sustaining the expertise of highly-trained personnel like those at JWAC. He hoped those individuals would be able to keep that expertise in Virginia as they pursued other professional opportunities.

Fountain too, though dismayed by JWAC's reduction in force, said he would continue to stress Dahlgren's importance at the state level.

"We need to recognize that NSF Dahlgren is a major employer in the state of Virginia" said Fountain. "We need to maintain an interface with the military, the local community and the state."

But VNDIA's tour of Dahlgren did more than just show members around a base; it demonstrated the installation's sense of community that doesn't stop at the wire.

"It's a great town," said Tripp of Dahlgren. "[The tour] will help us keep in line the goals of the governor and the legislature and that's our purpose."



A ScanEagle unmanned aerial vehicle launches from the Navy Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren test range in Dahlgren,

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