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VNDIA Board Briefed on USJFCOM Disestablishment

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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.

The state’s efforts to mitigate the impact of the disestablishment have included the establishment of the Regional Center for USJFCOM Workforce Transition and Business Development. Funded through grants from the Office of Economic Adjustment, the Center represents a partnership including the City of Suffolk, Opportunity Inc., the Virginia Employment Commission, the Small Business Development Center, Tidewater Community College and the Paul D. Camp Community College. The Center is working to train and place individuals in jobs, as well as to provide entrepreneurial training for those starting businesses. Efforts are being made to diversify the regional economy and reduce dependence on defense operations. The region is gaining prominence in the field of modeling and simulation with the

expanding programs of the Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center (VMASC) in the fields of medicine and non-defense engineering. Joining Rear Admiral Carter in the briefing were Dr. John Sokolowski, Executive Director of VMASC and Julie Gifford, the Governor's Regional Military Liaison for Hampton Roads. Rear Admiral Carter will remain in the area with his assignment to Joint Enabling Capabilities Command (JECC) which has been reassigned to U.S. Transportation Command as part of the USJFCOM disestablishment. "Admiral Carter's candid discussion with the VNDIA board of directors was extremely helpful as Virginia seeks every opportunity to sustain and grow defense investment in the Commonwealth," says R. Stanton Scott, VNDIA Executive Director.

The Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority was established by the Virginia general Assembly in 2005 with a mission to maintain a comprehensive understanding of defense investment in Virginia and to advocate for U.S. Department of Defense operations in the Commonwealth. The eighteen-member board of directors, comprised of retired military leaders and business executives, advises State and Federal legislative staffs, state agencies and cabinet members.

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