

# Defense *advocate*

## *Langley, Eustis become a joint base*

Langley Air Force Base in Hampton and Fort Eustis in Newport News have merged administrative functions, becoming Joint Base Langley-Eustis. A ceremony was held on January 7 to establish the 633rd Air Base Wing, which will support all "garrison" activities, and the base officially became joint during a January 29 ceremony.

Air Force Col. Gene Kirkland is in command of the 633rd, with Army Col. Reggie Austin serving as his vice commander. Under the 633rd are the 633rd Mission Support Group, which covers the Langley portion of administrative activities, and the 733rd Mission Support Group, performing a role similar to the former Eustis garrison command. An Army officer will command the 733rd, allowing the former Fort Eustis to preserve its unique service identity.

Last year Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall and Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story were created from similar unions. All of Virginia's joint basing events are part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) joint basing initiative that will affect support, community, environmental, fire protection, security, emergency and law enforcement services at 26 installations nationwide with the aim of reducing operation costs and future service contracts.



9th Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. William Holland passes the guidon to Col. Gene Kirkland during the 633rd Air Base Wing activation ceremony Jan. 7, 2010, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis. U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Zachary Wolf

## *VNDIA joins Advisory Council*

The VNDIA executive director has been added to the Oceana/Fentress Military Advisory Council effective July 1, 2010, through legislation approved by the 2010 General Assembly and Gov. Bob McDonnell. The council was created in 2006 as a subunit of the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC), and is designed to identify, study and provide advice to VMAC on issues of mutual concern to the Commonwealth and the Navy concerning Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach and Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress in Chesapeake.

General Assembly Delegate John Cosgrove of District 78 sponsored House Bill 295 which made the addition to the council. VNDIA administers state grants to Virginia Beach through the Military Strategic Response Fund that are helping the city meet requirements agreed upon between the Navy and the city in order to keep NAS Oceana a viable location for the East Coast Master Jet Base. Jets from Oceana routinely train in the area, including practicing aircraft carrier landings at Fentress.

## *Coming Events*

**April 20, 2010**

[Virginia Military Advisory Council \(VMAC\)](#) Meeting  
Fort Lee, Va.

Contact: Wendy Hoffman, (804) 225-3826  
[wendy.hoffman@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:wendy.hoffman@governor.virginia.gov)

**April 20, 2010**

[Greater Hampton Roads Chapter of SOLE](#)  
(International Society of Logistics) - Monthly Luncheon  
Defense Distribution Center, Norfolk, Va.

Contact: Charlie Littleton, (757) 217-3575/[clittleton@lce.com](mailto:clittleton@lce.com)

**April 21, 2010**

[VNDIA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting](#)  
10 a.m., [Fairfax County Government Center](#)

12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Va. 22035

Contact: Patrick Tremblay, (804) 545-5716  
[ptremblay@YesVirginia.org](mailto:ptremblay@YesVirginia.org)

No public comment period has been scheduled.

**May 11-13, 2010**

[2010 Joint Warfighting Conference & Exposition](#)  
Virginia Beach, Va.

Contact: AFCEA

# Norfolk Naval Shipyard



Retired Rear Adm. Bob Fountain led a visit to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va. on April 7, joined by VNDIA staff and members of the Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA).

The trip included a briefing from Navy Capt. William Kiestler, shipyard commander, and a tour of several of the yard's working areas.

Dating to 1767, Norfolk is the oldest and largest of the Navy's four shipyards. It is also the fourth largest employer in Hampton Roads, with nearly 10,000 personnel. The yard performs nearly two billion dollars in work each year, including maintenance and repair on the Navy's most complex systems, and its skilled personnel regularly travel to other shipyards and remote locations to get the job done. Or, as the shipyard says, "any ship, any time, any where."

Left: Dan Abrams and Frank Roberts of HRMFFA joined Dave Dickson, Patrick Tremblay, Stan Scott and Rear Adm. Fountain at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, April 7, 2010. *NNSY photo.*

## VNDIA Directors

The Hon. Joe R. Reeder, *Chairman*  
 Gen. Robert Magnus, USMC (Ret.), *Vice-Chair*  
 Gen. John N. Abrams, USA (Ret.)  
 Mr. John B. Adams, Jr.  
 Mr. G. William Beale  
 The Hon. James S. Cheng  
 Rear Adm. Robert R. Fountain, Jr., USN (Ret.)  
 Mr. Jeff B. Franzen  
 Gen. Richard E. Hawley, USAF (Ret.)  
 Rear Adm. John G. Hekman, USN (Ret.)  
 The Hon. John W. Knapp, Sr.  
 Vice Adm. James D. McArthur, Jr. USN (Ret.)  
 Dr. Eddie N. Moore, Jr.  
 Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr., VaNG  
 The Hon. Cord A. Sterling  
 Mr. Kurt H. Tripp  
 Capt. Leonard P. Wales, USN (Ret.)  
 Mr. William L. Welch, Jr.

## VNDIA Staff

David G. Dickson, *Executive Director*  
 (804) 545-5715/[ddickson@YesVirginia.org](mailto:ddickson@YesVirginia.org)  
 R. Stanton Scott, *Military Projects Manager*  
 (804) 545-5717/[sscott@YesVirginia.org](mailto:sscott@YesVirginia.org)  
 Patrick Tremblay, *Communications Manager*  
 (804) 545-5716/[ptremblay@YesVirginia.org](mailto:ptremblay@YesVirginia.org)  
 Mailing: P.O. Box 798  
 Richmond, VA 23218  
 Physical: 901 E. Byrd St., 19th Fl. West  
 Richmond, VA 23219  
 Online: [www.VNDIA.org](http://www.VNDIA.org)

## Defendemos Nuestra Tierra

The *USS New Mexico* (SSN-779) was commissioned on March 27 in Norfolk, becoming the sixth *Virginia*-class submarine and the third delivered by Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding in Newport News. The \$2.25 billion vessel was built in 70 months, the fastest yet of the *Virginia*-class, and delivered four months ahead of the contracted date.

Northrop Grumman shares construction of the *Virginia*-class submarines with General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., and the two companies alternate delivery of the boats.

The *New Mexico* will be home ported in Groton, Conn., at Naval Submarine Base New London.

The Navy announced this month that it will be accepting proposals in a search for a local airfield or airfields for Field Carrier Landing Practice for turbo-prop aircraft.

Access to another field for E-2 Hawkeyes and C-2 Greyhounds will free up the Navy's existing auxiliary field at Fentress for use by jets including the F/A-18 Hornets and Super Hornets of Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach.



The *New Mexico*'s slogan is *Defendemos Nuestra Tierra*, Spanish for "we defend our land." *U.S. Navy Graphic.*

## Navy seeks airfield use



An E-2 Hawkeye from the Norfolk-based Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121 prepares to land on the *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN-69), also Norfolk-based. *U.S. Navy photo.*