

# Defense *advocate*

## Virginia leads in federal investments

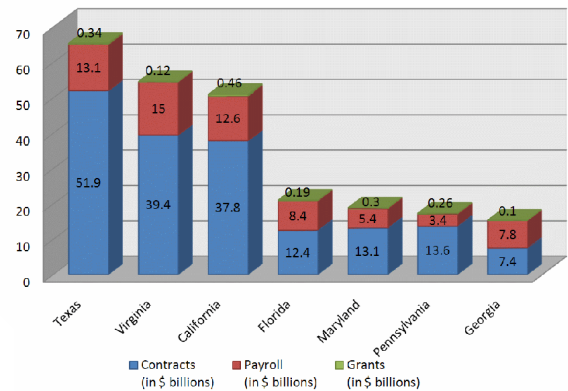
Two separate reports were recently released that show the importance of federal funding to the Commonwealth. The Defense Department's [Fiscal Year 2008 Atlas](#) shows Virginia as second for defense spending with more than \$54.5 billion in direct expenditures. For the past several years Virginia has been a close second to California, but in 2008 Texas pulled into the lead with \$65.4 billion, based on a huge increase in defense contracts (primarily for new construction), and California dropped to third. The three top states all more than doubled fourth place Florida's \$21 billion.

When viewed as per capita expenditure, the DoD's numbers place Virginia far ahead of any other state with just over \$7,000 per person.

In fact, Virginia leads the states in per capita spending for all federal dollars, according to the Census Bureau's [Consolidated Federal Funds Report](#) for fiscal year 2008. The report says Virginia receives \$15,256 per person from federal investment. William Mezger with the Virginia Employment Commission says the primary reason for Virginia's lead is the state's proximity to Washington, D.C. (Maryland was in second place with \$13,829).

DoD: [http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/L03/fy08/atlas\\_2008.pdf](http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/L03/fy08/atlas_2008.pdf)  
 Census: <http://www.census.gov/govs/cffr/>

**Spending by Type**  
States with more than \$15 billion in DoD spending, 2008



## Year of the NCO in Virginia



VNDIA's retired military board members join active duty NCOs as Maj. Gen. Newman presents the governor's proclamation to Sgt. Major Holcomb.

Board members left to right: Vice Adm. Jim McArthur, Maj. Gen. John Knapp, Maj. Gen. Bob Newman, Eddie Moore (president of Virginia State University), Gen. Bob Magnus, Gen. Dick Hawley and Rear Adm. Bob Fountain.  
*VNDIA photo.*

Gov. Tim Kaine has declared 2009 to be the *Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer; Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard*. The governor's proclamation was made in recognition of the Army's year-long celebration of the non-commissioned officer and expanded upon to highlight the robust representation of all of our uniformed services in the Commonwealth.

During VNDIA's July meeting at Virginia State University, board member Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, Jr., Adjutant General for the Commonwealth, presented the proclamation on behalf of Gov. Kaine to Command Sgt. Major Carl Holcomb, the senior non-commissioned officer in the Virginia National Guard, and also to non-commissioned officers representing each of the five branches.

A presentation copy of the resolution has been mailed to the commander at each installation in the Commonwealth.

VNDIA joins Gov. Kaine in recognizing the service and sacrifices made by the "backbone" of our military forces.



Dave Dickson, Jeff Franzen, retired Rear Adm. Bob Fountain and retired Maj. Gen. John Knapp are briefed by John Adams of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District. *VNDIA photo.*

## Building the Commonwealth

In June VNDIA's Local Coordination, Support & Communication committee, led by retired Navy Rear Adm. Bob Fountain, visited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Norfolk District headquarters for a briefing on BRAC and MILCON projects in the Commonwealth.

The district has seen an annual workload growth of around 12 percent since 1998, and expects this trend to continue to 2014.

The Norfolk District directly employs about 500 people, and another 2,100 tradesmen daily, mostly at Fort Belvoir, where it is responsible for construction of a 1.3 million square-foot joint military hospital, and Fort Lee, where about \$2 million a day is being spent on construction of projects worth \$1.2 billion.

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## Gov. Kaine signs military legislation

Gov. Tim Kaine signed several General Assembly bills in June providing assistance to military personnel, their families and veterans.

Among the bills signed was the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact has been signed into law in at least 10 other states, and allows for the uniform treatment of military children transferring between school districts and states. Virginia has 76,352 school-aged children of active duty military, the most of any state.

Other bills signed provide tuition assistance for certain members of the National Guard, increase the homestead exemption for certain disabled veterans, and make it easier for military and overseas voters and their families to vote absentee.

Virginia has one of the nation's highest concentrations of active duty military and more than 800,000 veterans.



Gov. Kaine greets children of service members after signing the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. June 16, 2009. *VNDIA photo.*

## Coming Events

**September 17, 2009**  
**Radford Army Ammunition Plant Restoration Board**  
 Radford, Va. • Contact: Joy Case, (540) 731-5762

**September 24, 2009**  
**Fort Monroe FADA Meeting**  
 Fort Monroe, Va. • Contact: FMFADA, (757) 637-7778 • [jbaker@fmfada.com](mailto:jbaker@fmfada.com)

**October 28, 2009**  
**VNDIA Quarterly Meeting**  
 Virginia Beach, Va. • Contact: Patrick Tremblay, (810) 545-5716 • [ptremblay@YesVirginia.org](mailto:ptremblay@YesVirginia.org)

**October 29, 2009**  
**Virginia Military Advisory Council Meeting**  
 Norfolk, Va. • Contact: Wendy Hoffman, (810) 225-3826



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is officially recognized:*

## **YEAR OF THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER; ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD**

**WHEREAS**, for more than 200 years the U.S. defense branches' Non-Commissioned Officer Corps have distinguished themselves worldwide as dedicated, highly trained and highly motivated organizations of military professionals; and

**WHEREAS**, Non-Commissioned Officers occupy positions of respect and leadership, and have been the guardians of the service branches' standards as trainers, technical experts and small unit leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, many Virginians have answered the call to defend Commonwealth and Country, and our Non-Commissioned Officers have been celebrated for courageous service from yesterday's victories at Yorktown and Normandy to today's fight in Baghdad and Kandahar; and

**WHEREAS**, Non-Commissioned Officers and their families have made daily sacrifices and exemplified courage and patriotism in their commitment to provide continual and invaluable service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to this great Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, in the Commonwealth, Non-Commissioned Officers are the backbone of a defense presence of more than 130,000 active-duty personnel and more than 35,000 citizen-soldiers in our National Guard and Reserve;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize 2009 as the **YEAR OF THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER; ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINE CORPS AND COAST GUARD** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth