

Defense *advocate*

About VNDIA



The Honorable Joe Reeder,
VNDIA Chairman

The Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority (VNDIA) was created during the Virginia General Assembly's 2005 session to provide "technical assistance and coordination between the Commonwealth, its political subdivisions, and the United States government military and national defense activities located within the Commonwealth." Code of Virginia § [2.2-2328](#).

The authority includes 17 members appointed by the Governor (10), Speaker of the House (4), and Senate Rules Committee (2). The Adjutant General serves on the board by nature of his position. VNDIA's work is conducted through three committees – Local Coordination, Support & Communication; Strategic Planning; and Grant Review & Oversight.

The authority operates with a two-fold mission:

- Assist communities in effectively responding to BRAC-related challenges.
- Anticipate and exploit opportunities and threats stemming from Virginia-based DoD investments.

Community Roundtable

In November 2007 VNDIA hosted the first "Community Roundtable" discussion of military and BRAC

related community issues in Virginia. Twenty-three participants representing virtually all of the communities hosting military activities gathered in Richmond to participate. Specific points of discussion included both short-term (now through 2011 BRAC implementation) and long-term (2011 - 2020) issues facing our local and regional allies.

A follow-on roundtable will be held after the 2008 session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Online Resources

VNDIA's comprehensive website contains information on Department of Defense spending

in Virginia, the BRAC process and its affects on the Commonwealth, plus links to dozens of in- and out-of-state resources and defense related events.

The site is a clearinghouse for information related to the DoD and related industries economic importance to Virginia. Content suggestions are welcome, as are entries for the events calendar. www.VNDIA.org



Coming Events

February 11-13

Association of Defense Communities (ADC)
Winter Forum
New Orleans, La.
Contact: (202) 822-5256/
imaloy@defensecommunities.org

March 5-7

BRAC Workforce Summit 2008
Tampa, Fl.
Contact: Jennifer Landsman-Ayres,
(703) 921-1722/jlandsman-ayers@mcneiltech.com

March 21

Virginia Military Advisory Council meeting
Richmond, Va.
Contact: The Office of Commonwealth
Preparedness, (804) 225-3826

April 16

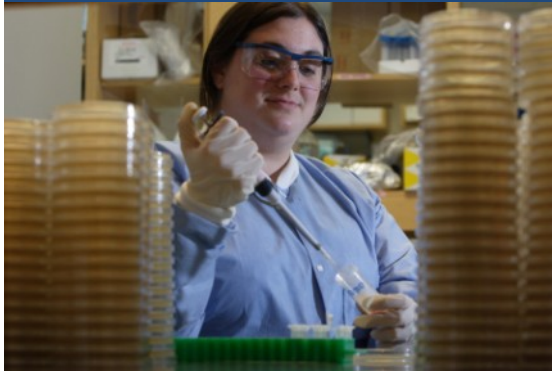
VNDIA Quarterly Board Meeting
Arlington County, Va.
Contact: (804) 545-5716/
ptremblay@YesVirginia.org

August 10-13

Association of Defense Communities (ADC)
Annual Conference
Monterey, Calif.
Contact: (202) 822-5256/
imaloy@defensecommunities.org

Visit www.VNDIA.org for more details on these and other defense-related events.

Defense Jobs in VA



A Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren lab.
Image courtesy of Naval Support Activity South Potomac.

VNDIA Directors

The Hon. Joe R. Reeder, *Chairman*

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Mr. Cord A. Sterling

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Mr. William L. Welch, Jr.

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More than 11 percent of all Department of Defense employees in the U.S. work in Virginia. That's more than 240,000 people or roughly 6 percent of the state's workforce, but a closer look reveals a deeper importance to the Commonwealth. More than any other state, Virginia has amassed a technically proficient, well educated and highly experienced civilian workforce.

A prime example of Virginia's strong civilian workforce is found at King George County's Naval Support Facility Dahlgren. Anchored by the Naval Surface Warfare Center, NSF Dahlgren employs around 8,000 people, a majority of them civilians, and has attracted another 4,000 contractors just outside the gates.

Dahlgren's concentration of experienced workers is so strong that the installation is partnering with the University of Mary Washington, the Fredericksburg Military Affairs Council and others to create the Dahlgren Research and Education Institute (DREI). The proposed institute will consist of 50,000 square-feet of classroom and research space that will offer post-grad and doctorate level courses.

In December 2007, Governor Kaine announced that he has included \$23 million for the DREI in an education bond package. Local civilian and military leaders agree that the institute will play an important role in recruiting and retaining top scientist and engineers to the area.

BRAC Center in NOVA

On November 16, 2007 a new workforce development

tool was opened in Arlington. The BRAC Transition Center will offer assistance programs and guide affected workers and businesses during BRAC implementation. This includes helping workers find new jobs, linking employers with available workers, and assisting with business plans.

VNDIA is administering a grant through Virginia's Military Strategic Response fund to assist in the creation and operations of the center. The \$420,000 grant will be matched by more than \$1 million in local and other funds.

With DoD's departure from leased space in the area, nearly 6 million square feet of office space will be vacated and more than 24,000 jobs are expected to be lost. Roughly 10,000 of these jobs will transition to outside of Virginia.



Virginia Sen. Patsy Ticer, VNDIA chair Joe Reeder, Arlington County Board member Barbara Favola and Virginia Delegate Bob Brink at Arlington's BRAC Transition Center opening.