

# Defense *advocate*

## The Mayport EIS



USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), shown in this Navy rendering, is to be the lead ship of a new class of Navy aircraft carrier. The Ford is scheduled for completion in 2015. Both the Ford and the new USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77), have the potential to be homeported at Norfolk.

Earlier this year the Navy released an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Naval Station Mayport, Fla. An EIS is a document required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that must be completed before the federal government takes "action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment."

The Mayport EIS includes 13 possible options for the Jacksonville area base, from no change to its current compliment of 21 ships and approximately 11,000 personnel, to the addition of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, several other large ships and more than 7,000 sailors.

With support from VNDIA, Gov. Tim Kaine has submitted Virginia's response, saying the EIS had several shortcomings, such as too narrow a scope and an incomplete and

inaccurate analysis of the true costs and consequences of bringing a carrier to Mayport.

The Commonwealth is watching the process carefully, as the Navy's decision, expected in January 2009, would likely affect Virginia. In addition to a cost to the Navy that could reach \$500 million, a new carrier to Mayport could ultimately mean a loss of a carrier, and related jobs, from Hampton Roads.

## Coming Events

**July 16**  
[VNDIA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting](#)  
George C. Marshall Foundation  
Lexington, Va.  
Contact: Patrick Tremblay  
(804) 545-5716

**July 17**  
[Fort Monroe FADA Meeting](#)  
Fort Monroe, Va.  
Contact: FMFADA  
(757) 637-7778

**August 10-13**  
[Association of Defense Communities \(ADC\) Annual Conference](#)  
Monterey, Calif.  
Contact: (202) 822-5256/  
[lmalov@defensecommunities.org](mailto:lmalov@defensecommunities.org)

**August 21**  
[Fort Monroe FADA Meeting](#)  
Fort Monroe, Va.  
Contact: FMFADA  
(757) 637-7778

Senior leaders in the Department of Defense and Department of Education signed a formal memorandum last week, with a goal of easing the challenges placed on military dependent students. Together the departments will address five specific areas: quality education, student transition and support when a parent is deployed, data sharing, communication and outreach, and resources.

## DoD, DoE Sign Historic Agreement

In the next few years, thousands of military students will relocate as part of BRAC, global rebasing and other changes. 92 percent of the 1.2 million military dependent students attend America's public and private schools, with the remainder attending DoD schools. The work outlined in the memorandum will take place in small working groups made up of representatives from both agencies and the local education community.

"Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines deserve the best educational opportunities for their families," said Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England. "As we look to the future, we need to ensure the promise of quality education is kept; this agreement moves us further in that direction."



## New Navy HQ at NS Norfolk

Ground was broken for a new [Navy Warfare Development Command](#) (NWDC) headquarters at Naval Station Norfolk on June 12. Currently headquartered at Naval Station Newport, R.I., the command is moving to Virginia by order of BRAC 2005, a move the Navy says will tap into a synergy with other key commands in Hampton Roads.



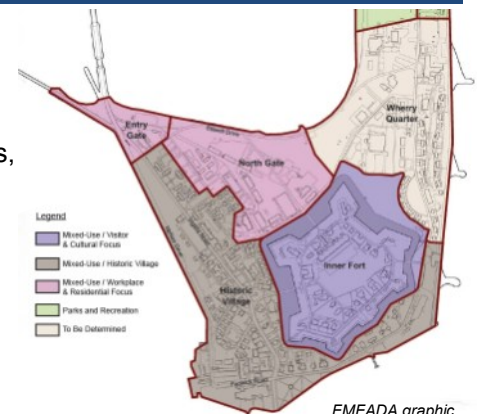
The \$23 million, 85,000 square-foot building will provide office space for 264 people when it opens in March 2010, and will include a 10,000 square-foot modeling and simulation lab.

NWDC was established in 1998 to coordinate the development of concepts of operations doctrine, experimentation, and Navy lessons learned in direct support of the fleet, and to provide modeling and simulation for experiments, training, integration and analysis.

Gov. Tim Kaine recently transferred two grants totaling \$80,000 from the City of Hampton to the [Fort Monroe Federal Area Development Authority](#) (FADA). Both grants were approved by the governor in January 2007 to assist in planning for the reuse of Fort Monroe upon the Army's departure in 2011.

## Grants Transferred to FMFADA

The FADA was established after the grants were first approved, and represents both local and state interests in the property. The governor transferred the awards, part of the state's Military Strategic Response Fund, based on recommendations initiated by VNDIA's Grant Review & Oversight Committee.



FMFADA graphic

The funds will be used for their original purposes, to assist in the development of a form based code and historic management plan for the fort.

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## Defense Growth in Albemarle County

Many may not know that Fort Belvoir has a presence in Albemarle County in north-central Virginia.

Rivanna Station, just north of Charlottesville, is home to the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC). Through the BRAC process, the campus is growing to include 800 additional Defense Intelligence Agency employees at a new \$62 million Joint Use Intelligence Analysis Facility. When complete, Rivanna Station will employ around 2,000 people, primarily mid- and senior-level intelligence officers and civilians, in three main buildings.

### 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 Floor  
 Richmond, VA 23219

Online: [www.VNDIA.org](http://www.VNDIA.org)

In preparation for the growth at Rivanna Station, VNDIA recommended a \$401,000 grant to Albemarle County through Virginia's Military Strategic Response Fund. Approved by Gov. Kaine, the grant will help purchase fire fighting equipment that will better prepare the county to respond to emergencies at these key military facilities.



NGIC, part of Fort Belvoir but located in Albemarle County, provides scientific and technical intelligence to the Army and other defense partners.  
 U.S. Army photo.