

Defense *advocate*

Navy easements in Va. Beach

Oceana and Virginia Beach took another step in June to ensure that the Master Jet Base has a secure future. An agreement was signed by Oceana's commander Navy Capt. Mark Rich and Mayor Will Sessoms that allows the Navy to purchase restrictive easements on 212 acres that the city owns between the base and its auxiliary field at Fentress. The land has been purchased over the past two years using a combination of city and state funds.

The Navy has obligated about \$5.6 million of DoD Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) money toward encroachment partnering in Virginia Beach and another \$750,000 in the city of Chesapeake, where Fentress is located. The Commonwealth has agreed to match \$7.5 million a year of Virginia Beach's money with VNDIA-administered grants to purchase land around the installation.



VNDIA staff member Stan Scott watches as Navy Capt. Mark Rich gives Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms a \$2.7 million check to restrict development between Oceana and Fentress. An additional \$1 million will be given to the city later this year. June 3, 2009.

Photo courtesy of the City of Virginia Beach (Craig McClure).

Stimulus funds for transportation projects

The federal government will invest nearly \$360 million in Virginia's military installations through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Most of these funds will be used for restoration and sustainability projects, and the rest will go to "shovel-ready" military construction projects.



In addition to federal investment of stimulus money at installations, the Commonwealth will use \$96 million of its stimulus allocation for BRAC-related transportation projects.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board has approved:

- **\$24.5 million** for Route 105 near Fort Eustis (York County and the City of Newport News) in VDOT's Hampton Roads district.
- **\$60.1 million** for two phases of the Fairfax County Parkway near Fort Belvoir in VDOT's Northern Virginia district.
- **\$11.4 million** for several projects related to Route 36 near Fort Lee (Prince George County and the City of Hopewell) in VDOT's Richmond district.

Coming Events

July 15, 2009

[VNDIA Quarterly Meeting](#)

Ettrick, Va.

Contact: Patrick Tremblay, (810) 545-5716
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July 16, 2009

[Fort Monroe FADA Meeting](#)

Fort Monroe, Va.

Contact: FMFADA, (757) 637-7778
jbaker@fmfada.com

July 22, 2009

[Virginia Military Advisory Council \(VMAC\)](#)

Langley AFB, Hampton, Va.

Contact: Wendy Hoffman
Office of Commonwealth Preparedness
(804) 225-3826

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

Naval Medical Center Portsmouth



Retired Rear Adm. Fountain and Rear Adm. Kiser at the NMCP.
VNDIA photo.

On June 17 VNDIA board members led by retired Rear Adm. Bob Fountain visited the [Naval Medical Center Portsmouth](#) (NMCP) for a meeting with the commander, Rear Adm. William Kiser, and a tour of the installation. The 256-bed center is the oldest and largest hospital in the U.S. Navy, employing around 6,000 people in Portsmouth and at other regional locations. The staff performs 40 to 50 major surgeries a day, and delivers around 300 babies each month.

The war in Iraq and Afghanistan have been a staffing consideration for the center, as up to 10 percent of the uniformed personnel are deployed at any given time. The reality of these deployments was made evident as VNDIA's visit included observing as Rear Adm. Kiser presented a Bronze Star to a recently returned service member.

In addition to serving a typical hospital function, NMCP has a significant academic mission, with residency in 14 disciplines, nursing students from several local programs, and medical students from all over the country. Rear Adm. Kiser calls the center a "DoD-wide leader in academic medicine."

In the near future the hospital expects to expand its civilian staff and perform nearly \$30 million in upgrades through DoD stimulus money.

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Senator Jim Webb announced last week that the Senate Armed Services committee has reported out the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010. Senate leaders hope to vote on the bill as early as the week of July 13. The bill includes \$476.1 million for Virginia military construction projects, full funding for most shipbuilding programs and \$5.5 million for military research and science outreach programs for colleges in Virginia. The House passed its version of the bill in late June.

More details, including a full list proposed funded Virginia MILCON projects, are available at [Sen. Webb's website](#), www.webb.senate.gov.

On July 1 the Commonwealth's Secretary of Commerce & Trade became part of the VNDIA board through action of the Virginia General Assembly. The move codifies an already important and successful relationship between VNDIA and the governor's cabinet.

Pat Gottschalk was appointed Secretary of Commerce & Trade by Gov. Tim Kaine in January 2006. His office includes 13 government agencies dealing with a variety of economic issues from tourism to administering the State's unemployment compensation program.

Secretary Gottschalk was formerly a partner in the law firm of Cantor Arkema, P.C. in Richmond, and is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and the University of Virginia School of Law.

2010 Defense Authorization

Welcome aboard!



The Hon. Patrick O. Gottschalk,
Secretary of Commerce & Trade.