

Defense *advocate*

Military Appreciation Month 2010

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell issued a proclamation recognizing May as Military Appreciation Month in the Commonwealth. McDonnell, himself a veteran with more than 20 years combined active and reserve duty, remarked, "Just last week another military unit stationed in Virginia, U.S. Navy Riverine Squadron 1, deployed from Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Virginia's soldiers continue to serve bravely here at home and around the world in areas facing great conflict. It is because of the sacrifice and service of Virginia's military members and veterans that each of us is able to enjoy the freedoms and opportunities we do each day."

Virginia has one of the largest concentrations nationwide of military personnel, and major installation for each of the service branches and the Coast Guard. In addition, the state has more Defense Department civilian employees than any other state. All told, the Commonwealth has almost 200,000 defense employees, and more than 830,000 veterans call Virginia home. Gov. McDonnell has pledged to make Virginia "the most veteran friendly state in America," and said, "It is critical that we continue to support and recognize our military families, those currently serving and those who formerly served. It is critical that our government better serves those who have voluntarily protected America for generations past and present."

He added, "We're proud of these men and women who are our neighbors, our friends and our family, and pause to pay special recognition this month to their great service to the Commonwealth and the nation."

VNDIA assisted the Office of the Governor in drafting the proclamation and in distributing a presentation copy of the document to each of Virginia's installations.

The full proclamation can be found at the end of this issue, or on Gov. McDonnell's website at <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=169>.



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Gov. Bob McDonnell talks with a member of the 555th Parachute Infantry Association on February 25, 2010. The 555th was an all-black regiment formed during World War II, and was integrated into the 82nd Airborne Division following the war. Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor of Virginia.



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Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, Adjutant General of Virginia, listens as Maj. Gen. James Chambers talks to Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell during an aerial tour of Fort Lee on March 31, 2010. Chambers is Commanding General, U.S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee, and also co-chairs the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC). Fort Lee is one of several defense installations in the Commonwealth that is growing through the federal Base Realignment and Closure process. The Prince George County fort will essentially double in number of workers between 2007 and 2011.

Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor of Virginia.



DoD embracing clean energy

The [Pew Project on National Security, Energy and Climate](#) released a report in April describing efforts by the Department of Defense to reduce dependency on fossil fuels by increasing energy efficiency and using clean energy technologies.

Phyllis Cuttino, director of Pew's climate and energy programs, said, "The military is, in many respects, leading the way and helping to reenergize America's future."

There are two very good reasons for the DoD to take energy issues seriously. First, national security experts have been increasingly vocal that American dependence on foreign energy sources constitutes a military threat. Second, rising energy costs are felt greatly by the military, whose use accounts for nearly 80 percent of the U.S. government's total energy consumption. A report released last year by CNA, non-profit public interest company based

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus speaks with members of the press following a supersonic flight test of the "Green Hornet," an F/A-18 Super Hornet strike fighter jet powered by a 50/50 biofuel blend conducted at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. Mabus has made research, development, and increased use of alternative fuels a priority for the Navy. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kevin S.

in Alexandria, supports the Pew findings, saying that "inefficient use and overreliance on oil burdens the military and exacts a huge price tag – in dollars and lives."

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"The stakes could not be higher," said Navy Secretary Ray Mabus. "In the end, it is a matter of energy independence and it is a matter of national security. The stakes are clear and the stakes are high. Our response has to be equal to that challenge."

Some specific initiatives featured in the Pew report include:

- The Navy is developing a "green" carrier strike group to run completely on alternative fuels by 2016. Last month the Navy performed a demonstration flight of its "Green Hornet", an F/A-18 Super Hornet powered by a 50/50 biofuel blend.
- The Army is developing a 500-megawatt solar power generation plant in Fort Irwin, California that will help power the base. The Army hopes to free the base entirely from reliance on the public electric grid within the next decade.
- The Air Force has a goal of meeting 25 percent of base energy needs with renewable energy sources by 2025.
- The Marine Corps has launched the 10X10 campaign aimed at reducing energy intensity, water consumption and increasing the use of renewable electric energy.

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Founder's Square

VNDIA was briefed on the new Founder's Square in Arlington at the authority's April meeting. The development will center on a new 13-story headquarters for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, better known as DARPA, and will also include leased office space, nearly 27,000 square feet of retail space, plus either residential units or a hotel.



The new DARPA headquarters will allow the organization to grow while meeting federal force protection requirements.
The Shooshan Company rendering.

Architect Brian Scull, a principal with The Shooshan Company, provided details of the site, which was chosen partly because of its proximity to transit and to other federal research and technology agencies. VNDIA is administering a grant of \$10 million in state funds to assist with the "hardening" of the DARPA building, a necessary step in making the building meet federal anti-terrorism force protection requirements.



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of Governor Bob McDonnell

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, since the birth of our nation, Virginians have had a proud history of service in the United States armed forces in both times of peace and times of war, expertly displayed this year through operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti and elsewhere around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth has installations representing all branches of service - Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard – including some of the most significant units, missions and commands of each; and

WHEREAS, nearly 200,000 Virginians are currently active duty, reserve component or civilian federal defense workers employed at installations throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, major research, manufacturing, testing and maintenance facilities for equipment, ships, ammunition and advanced technologies join the workforce base in increasing Virginia's importance to national defense; and

WHEREAS, defense activities have brought hundreds of thousands of family members to our communities and schools, and have resulted in more than 830,000 veterans choosing to stay in Virginia after their service; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Virginia wish to recognize, honor, and show appreciation for all service members, past and present, and their families, and to set aside the month of May to pay tribute to the sacrifices and service of the intrepid men and women of our armed forces;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize May 2010 as Military Appreciation Month in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

Signed May 12, 2010