

Virginia Military Advisory Council Notes

4 December 2025

Intentions for Meeting:

- Strengthening collaboration between military installations and the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Review progress made over the past four years in infrastructure, resilience, and quality of life initiatives.
- Prepare for administrative transition, ensuring continuity of operations and support for military communities.
- Share installation updates and identify common challenges and opportunities.
- Recognize leadership contributions and express appreciation for service and partnerships.

Key Updates:

Governor Glenn Youngkin's Remarks & Commonwealth Updates

- Virginia reaffirmed its position as the most military friendly state, with top rankings in veteran services, education, healthcare, and workforce development.
- \$38M in federal funding secured through the Virginia Military Community Grant Program, resulting in \$74M in infrastructure projects.
- Establishment of two Department of War Sentinel Landscapes: Potomac and Tidewater.
- Ongoing efforts to reduce overregulation and promote energy choice and resilience.
- Creation of the Virginia Office of Resilience, led by a former Army Corps of Engineers officer, focusing on flooding, energy reliability, and community-military alignment.

Legislative & Transition Planning

- 17 legislative initiatives proposed for the upcoming General Assembly session, including:
 - Expansion of tax relief for transitioning service members.

- Suicide prevention and opioid response programs.
- Strategic planning mandates for the Department of Veterans Services.
- Enhancements to National Guard readiness and emergency response capabilities.
- Emphasis on continuity of operations and educating incoming administration on military-community partnerships.

Installation-Level Highlights

- Childcare remains a top concern; multiple installations reported progress on CDC construction and partnerships (e.g., Langley with Old Dominion University).
- Barracks renovations and housing improvements underway at Quantico, Fort Lee, and others.
- Energy resilience projects include partnerships with Dominion Energy and exploration of SMRs.
- Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grants successfully awarded to Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Portsmouth.
- Law enforcement and civilian workforce shortages reported across installations.
- Encroachment mitigation and land acquisition efforts progressing (e.g., Fort Pickett)
- Wi-Fi and cell coverage improvements through partnerships with AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile.

Community Engagement

- Encouragement to participate in Military Appreciation Days and local events (e.g., Colonial Downs).
- Emphasis on community integration to support morale and visibility of military installations.

Follow-ups and Action Items:

Installations

- Continue developing and submitting DCIP grant applications with local partners.

- Expand childcare capacity through CDC construction and community partnerships.
- Address law enforcement and civilian hiring challenges through targeted recruitment and benefit promotion.
- Engage with Dominion Energy and other utilities to advance energy resilience projects.
- Explore IGSA opportunities, especially pending changes to the Public Procurement Act.
- Improve Wi-Fi and cell coverage by engaging directly with service providers.

Commonwealth Leadership

- Advance proposed legislative initiatives in the General Assembly.
- Ensure smooth transition to new administration with briefings and continuity planning.
- Support installations in grant writing and funding alignment.
- Promote Virginia Military Friendly Guide and Virginia Veterans Network.

Closing Remarks:

- Secretary Crenshaw emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum and collaboration beyond individual leadership transitions.
- The VMAC has become a model for military community partnerships nationwide.
- Leaders were encouraged to continue raising the bar, sharing best practices, and advocating for service members and their families.