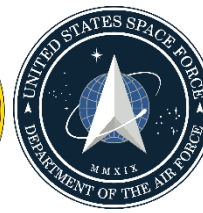


Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Virginia Military Advisory Council 2022 Annual Report



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Preface: The Virginia Military Advisory Council was created by the Code of Virginia through §2.2-2666.1. The legislation requires an annual executive summary of interim activity and work of the Council to be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The General Assembly established the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) as an advisory council to maintain a cooperative and constructive relationship between the Commonwealth and the leadership of the Armed Forces of the United States and the military commanders of such Armed Forces stationed in the Commonwealth, encourage regular communication on continued military facility viability, and encourage the exploration of privatization opportunities and issues affecting preparedness, public safety, and security.

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Craig Crenshaw, served as the VMAC chair. The remainder of the council was composed of 10 members as follows: the Lieutenant Governor, the Attorney General, the Adjutant General, a member from the Senate, member from the House of Delegates, and five Gubernatorial citizen appointments. Over 30 representatives of the major military commands and installations located in the Commonwealth complemented the appointed council.

Under the Secretary's leadership, the VMAC focused on information and discussion in the development of actionable initiatives to advance Virginia's prosperity through investment in competitive military value. The VMAC addressed military installation and defense community issues of compatibility, resilience, and quality of life improvements to ensure best competitiveness for future military investments. Compatibility centered on ensuring that shared space and relationships meet military needs for modern mission sustainment and growth. Resilience focused mutual energy, climate, and security challenges for shared solutions. Quality of life addressed childcare, spouse employment, education, housing, health care, and safe communities for our military members and defense communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The VMAC met three times in 2022 in March, July, and November.

In efforts to improve Virginia's military value a series of presentations and exchanges were conducted to address compatibility, resilience, and quality of life initiatives. The opportunity for federal funding to support Military Installation Resilience Reviews that identify strategies to enhance community and military installation resilience and compatibility was addressed. Defense community representatives and military installation commanders were provided a road map for successful navigation of federal funding opportunities, competitive proposals, and execution of military installation resilience reviews that make them more competitive for further federal funding that will enhance their military value.

The City of Hampton and Joint Base Langley-Eustis provided best in class examples of defense community/military installation resilience partnerships. The examples presented over two decades of partnership were instructive for fellow defense communities and installations, including instruction on their successful \$7M Defense Community Infrastructure Program federal grant award.

Joint Base Langley-Eustis delivered a deep dive on the Air Force Installation Score Card. The score card is a leading Air Force measurement tool for future military mission decisions. Military missions are the currency

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of military investment. The presentation and exchange detailed scorecard elements, including public education and professional licensure portability providing valuable examples for defense communities and installation leaders. It is estimated that DoD will apply the Air Force scorecard across all services and defense communities, increasing the value of the presentation and exchange for the majority of the audience who have not yet been subject to the scoring.

Smart community innovation that increases compatibility, resilience, and quality of life was presented by the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation. Examples of present and future cybersecurity, physical security, communication, and emergency response interoperability between installations and defense communities provided valuable opportunities for collaboration, technological cost savings over economies of scale, and increased security through defense community and military installation interoperability.

Partners in Promise (Protecting the Rights Of Military children In Special Education) provided an inspiring and instructive presentation on the DoD Exceptional Family Member Program. The Partners in Promise mission is to Protect the Rights Of Military children in Special Education by elevating the voices of military family members to educate and advise military service organizations, Department of Defense leaders and public officials. The presentation and exchange enlightened our military commanders and defense community leaders to challenges, opportunities, and specific avenues of engagement to identify and improve services for military special education students and their families as they navigate the DoD EFMP and public school systems.

Blue Star Families addressed the VMAC on means of strengthening transitioning families through early connection to their new communities. The military is suffering significant talent drain due to spouse and family discontent. Much of the cause is the life changing stress that military transfers cause for military spouses families. The Blue Star family presentation and exchange provided military commanders and defense community leaders clear avenues of support for transferring military families, and lines of connection for community leaders to ensure military families are welcomed, quickly rooted, employable, and settled in a manner that promotes military readiness and retention, as well as community prosperity.

Conclusion

The VMAC is a vital advisory council. In 2022 the focus on addressing actionable issues that increase Virginia's military value and make Virginia the best place for military members to live, work, and raise a family contributed directly to increased federal funding awards, more resilient and adaptable defense communities, and improved quality of life for our military and defense community members. Each of those elements increase Virginia's military value and improve our competitiveness for increased military investment. Challenges and avenues for improvement will continue to drive the VMAC. As we remain ever vigilant for growth opportunities, competition from other states for our military missions, and the persistent threat of federal budget cuts, it is critical to maintain this valuable council of military and defense community advocates in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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