

Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

Virginia Military Advisory Council

2025 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, relationships, and advocacy to meet military needs for modern mission sustainment and growth. Resilience focused on 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 2025; March, July, and December.

Inter-governmental Service Agreements: The VMAC endorsed acceleration and expansion of inter-governmental service agreements (IGSA). IGAs are agreements between the military and a state or local government that serve the best interests of both parties. As demands increase and available resources decrease for our military installations and supporting defense communities, IGAs are ideal instruments to share cost, resourcing, and administration of services. Through cooperation and economies of scale, IGAs increase efficiency and lower costs for the military and supporting localities. The commitment to leveraging IGSA opportunities continues with great support of the VMAC. Over the course of the Youngkin administration, IGAs tripled. The General Assembly will address VMAC initiated legislation in 2026 that amends the Virginia Procurement Act to alleviate contracting challenges that prevent state/federal IGSA opportunities.

Quality of Life: The VMAC dedicated an entire meeting to quality of life issues including childcare, spouse employment, military connected students, and behavioral health. VMAC collaboration helped identify and

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address weaknesses in military health care insurance billing efficiency that threatens ample provider capacity. The VMAC also supported addition of military spouses to the Virginia Values Veterans program.

Energy Resilience: The VMAC continued to address issues of energy resilience. VMAC participation was again included in Dominion Energy's development of the Energy Integrated Resource plan. The VMAC also partnered for implementation of regulations, enacted last year, that allow emergency engines located on military installations to operate up to 50 hours per year for nonemergency purposes. This change enables DoD to better sustain aging electrical grids.

Economic Development: VMAC advice and partnership was sought and included in development of the Virginia Chamber Blueprint Virginia 2035, a business plan for the Commonwealth presented to the Governor elect.

Conclusion

The VMAC is a vital advisory council. In 2025, continued 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. VMAC partnership is a North star that elevates our competitiveness for increased military investment. The partnership strengthened in 2025 and will continue in 2026