



Rear Admiral Robert R. Fountain, U.S. Navy (Ret.)  
Chairman

# VNDIA

## VIRGINIA National Defense Industrial Authority



Mr. G. William Beale  
Vice Chairman

### *Supporting Defense Industry Jobs in the Commonwealth*

- VNDIA provides full-time, long-term, state-sponsored monitoring of and insight regarding military and defense issues impacting Virginia. Department of Defense (DoD) spending in the Commonwealth now exceeds \$57 billion annually (\$5,000 for each Virginian) and accounts for 15.6% of the Gross State Product and 18.9% of jobs in Virginia. DoD remains Virginia's number one direct employer (187,000 jobs) and indirectly supports more than 900,000 Virginia jobs.
- VNDIA exists in the Code of Virginia, ensuring that the Authority's work transcends administrations and provides non-partisan continuity for the Commonwealth to identify and respond to military and defense issues and opportunities in Virginia. VNDIA's existence is a statement to the DoD and any future BRAC Commission that Virginia is engaged with, and values greatly, its relationship with defense partners.
- Prior to the 2005 BRAC process, this function simply did not exist. Virginia now has a 'ready response' process in place with updated analyses of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats on hand. "Post-BRAC", impending cuts in defense spending require ever-vigilant attention and careful analysis to support negotiations and mitigate potential adverse impacts on the Virginia economy. The Authority's ongoing work is an essential component of the Commonwealth's competition for future defense dollars.
- VNDIA is governed by an eighteen member board of directors appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the Senate Rules Committee. VNDIA board members provide pro bono, critical executive level work in support of the Commonwealth representing hundreds of hours since inception. VNDIA's board-developed strategic plan to serve Virginia is carried out through the work and oversight of three standing committees:
  - Strategic Planning
  - Grant Review & Oversight
  - Local Coordination, Support and Communication

In addition to attendance at quarterly board meetings, committee members have met more than 30 times, representing hundreds of hours of service, between October 2006 and October 2011.

- Since inception, VNDIA has coordinated a robust schedule of installation tours and visits to receive briefings by top commanding officers (76 visits to date). The high level briefings given to VNDIA's committee members and staff during these briefings allows VNDIA to maintain the most current and comprehensive catalogue of data on defense assets available to policymakers in the Commonwealth. VNDIA has become a respected source of intelligence and information regarding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats inherent in the Commonwealth's defense industry. Visits are conducted by the Local Coordination, Support and Communication Committee chaired by RADM Robert R. Fountain, USN (Ret.)  
*(A current Installation Guide is available upon request.)*

- VNDIA has administered the \$67.0 million Military Strategic Response Fund since inception in FY 2007 with accuracy and exemplary audit results. VNDIA has established policies and procedures to award funding from the “request for proposal” phase to project completion. Grant funding has supported the sustainment or expansion at fifteen Virginia installations and the retention or creation of 175,000 jobs. The Grant Review & Oversight Committee is chaired by Mr. William Welch.  
*(Note: Grants to Virginia Beach have been singled out by the Navy as essential in the retention of Naval Air Station Oceana, whose core missions were nearly lost during the 2005 BRAC. These grants have been, and remain, essential to the retention of 13,000 jobs at Oceana with a \$1 billion annual payroll.)*
- VNDIA is co-located with, and actively supports the recruitment efforts of, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. Staff conducts joint prospect calls and actively supports local/regional economic development efforts to seek and respond to opportunities for defense industry expansion. VNDIA brings valued military and defense expertise to the prospect evaluation and proposal development process.
- VNDIA provides support to local and regional defense community efforts through the coordination of regular roundtable meetings to educate and inform policy makers. VNDIA has provided guidance for the establishment of several regional military affairs groups to promote the sustainment and expansion of defense industry activity. VNDIA serves as a liaison between community officials and installation commanders as issues impacting base operations arise.
- VNDIA has provided briefing information and position papers for submission to the Pentagon on behalf of the Governor as requested. Staff development of white paper briefings on missions being considered for relocation from Virginia to another state, have allowed the Administration to successfully defend the Virginia location and avoid associated job losses and negative economic impact.

*For further information, please contact:*

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