

Defense *advocate*

National Defense Authorization Act

President Obama signed the [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010](#) on October 28, calling it “transformational legislation that targets wasteful defense spending.” The act provides \$550.2 billion for normal Department of Defense operations, plus \$130 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The bill is prepared each year by the House and Senate armed services committees with executive branch input. Virginia congressmen Randy Forbes, Glenn Nye and Rob Wittman serve on the House committee, and Sen. Jim Webb serves on the Senate committee.

This year’s bill differs from the past few years in several ways; most notably, funding for the wars is included up front, rather than through supplemental bills. In addition, the act is an attempt by the administration to reign-in wasteful spending. In [announcing the budget’s](#) passing, the DoD cited a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study that found cost overruns totaling \$296 billion across 96 major defense projects over the last year.

The final bill includes a 3.4 percent pay increase for service members, caps production of the F-22 fighter jet at 187, and terminates the new presidential helicopter program.

Two items in particular could affect Virginia in the coming year. First, the bill does not include an amendment offered by Rep. Forbes that would prohibit the Navy from putting an outlying landing field (OLF) anywhere it was opposed by the local government. In August the [Navy tied its OLF search to the F-35C](#) Joint Strike Fighter, further postponing the next steps in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for citing an OLF. Three locations in Virginia and two in North Carolina are under consideration.

Second, the bill includes \$46 million for dredging and \$30 million for wharf improvements at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., a move that Florida officials see as a first step toward aircraft carrier home porting. Putting a carrier at Mayport was recommended by the Navy, but the decision has been pushed back and tied to the [2010 Quadrennial Defense Review](#) (expected early next year).

The authorization act is one of two annual pieces of legislation that provides defense funding. The second, the [appropriations act](#), has been passed in slightly different versions by the House and Senate, and is in conference before final wording is ready for a vote.



President Obama departs Marine Corps One. The VH-3D is operated by [Marine Helicopter Squadron One](#) (HMX-1) headquartered at Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico, Va.
White House photo.

Coming Events

November 11, 2009

[Veterans Day](#)
Nationwide

November 12, 2009

[Small Business Opportunity Procurement Fair & Conference](#)
Abingdon, Va.
Contact: Southwest Virginia Community College PTAC Office
(276) 964-7334

November 19, 2009

[Fort Monroe FADA Meeting](#)
Fort Monroe, Va.
Contact: FMFADA, (757) 637-7778/lbaker@fmfada.com

December 10, 2009

[Radford Army Ammunition Plant Restoration Board](#)
Radford, Va.
Contact: Joy Case, (540) 731-5762

December 18, 2009

[Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facilities Alliance Meeting](#)
Norfolk, Va.
Contact: Dan Abrams, (757) 644-6324

North Elementary



Prince George County opened its newest school on October 18. The \$21 million [North Elementary School](#) is about twice the size of the building it replaces, and was funded partially by a VNDIA-administered grant.

Prince George County is the official school district for students that live on Fort Lee. More than 1,700 of the district's 6,300 students are from the Army post.

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DARPA to stay in Arlington County



Ground was broken on October 28 for a new headquarters for the [Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency](#), better known as DARPA. The agency will relocate all operations to the new facility in the summer of 2012. The facility will be located in [Arlington County's](#) "Science Corridor," near the Ballston Metro and buildings occupied by the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research.

DARPA's current facilities are located in Arlington and other locations, but a new building is required to both meet the Department of Defense's antiterrorism force protection standards and to provide room to move full-time support contractors on-site and accommodate future growth in the agency.

VNDIA is administering a \$10 million state grant to assist with the required additional anti-terrorism "hardening costs" for the new building. "I'm pleased that Virginia is able to retain such a valuable research agency as DARPA," said [Gov. Tim Kaine](#). "With this highly advanced facility, Virginia will retain over 800 people working in the current location. DARPA also works with numerous defense contractors and other private businesses that employ over 1,700 workers in Arlington and Northern Virginia."

As the Defense Department's central research and development organization, DARPA manages and directs projects for DoD and pursues research and technology where success may provide dramatic advances in support of military missions, often leading to significant contributions to the non-military world. It's the very high-tech aspects of the agency's work, and its highly skilled workforce, that makes it an important part of the Northern Virginia landscape.

The agency's ties to the Commonwealth run deep. Before moving to its current location on North Fairfax Drive in 1991, DARPA was located in Rosslyn. Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia and other schools in the state have done well in DARPA-sponsored technology contests like the autonomous vehicle Urban Challenge. And in July the DoD announced Dr. Regina E. Dugan as the 19th director of the agency. Dugan received both her bachelors and masters degrees from Virginia Tech.



VNDIA is administering \$10 million in state grant funds to assist with the construction of the new 350,000 square-foot DARPA headquarters in Arlington County. Construction began in October, and the facility is scheduled to open in 2012. *Rendering courtesy of Arlington County.*