

# Defense *advocate*

October is the start of the federal fiscal year, and the beginning of a new era for four Virginia-based military installations. In Arlington County, Fort Myer and Marine Corps Base Henderson Hall have merged, while in Virginia Beach, the Army's Fort Story has joined with Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek.

## Two "new" bases for Virginia

Both moves were part of BRAC 2005's joint basing initiative that will affect 26 installations nationwide with the aim of reducing operation costs and future service contracts. The change will affect support, community, environmental, fire protection, security, emergency and law enforcement services.

Virginia will see one more merger next October as Langley Air Force Base in Hampton and Newport News' Fort Eustis come together as part of the initiative's second round.

The new Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall will also include Fort McNair in the District of Columbia. The Army will take the lead on the combined installation, with Army Col. Carl Coffman in command and Marine Corps Lt. Col. Jim Washburn serving as his deputy. The base provides services to more than 150,000 active-duty personnel, their families, retirees and Department of Defense civilians in the National Capital Region.

Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach combines two locations separated by several miles of developed beach-front. It will be a Navy operated facility, with Navy Capt. Bill Crow commanding and Army Lt. Col. Jayne Jansen as deputy commander. The missions performed on each installation will remain, and will continue to fall under their respective services.

Fort Story was formerly a sub-installation of Fort Eustis, but has long provided training space for Navy and Marine Corps units.



A new logo for the new base.  
U.S. Army graphic

## Coming Events

October 18-20, 2009

[Virginia Municipal League \(VML\) Annual Conference\\*](#)

Roanoke, Va.

Contact: Mary Jo Fields, (804) 523-8524

\*Military Base Encroachment Panel, Oct. 19 (see next page)

October 22, 2009

[Military Job Fair of Virginia](#)

Hampton, Va.

Contact: Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, (757) 262-2000

October 27, 2009

[Community Relations Breakfast](#)

Fort Belvoir, Va.

Contact: (703) 805-2511/[protocol.rsvp@conus.army.mil](mailto:protocol.rsvp@conus.army.mil)

October 27, 2009

[Virginia Military Advisory Council](#)

Norfolk, Va.

Contact: Wendy Hoffman, Office of Commonwealth Preparedness (804) 225-3826

October 28, 2009

[VNDIA Quarterly Meeting](#)

Virginia Beach, Va.

Contact: Patrick Tremblay, (804) 545-5716

[ptremblay@YesVirginia.org](mailto:ptremblay@YesVirginia.org)

November 12, 2009

[Small Business Opportunity Procurement Fair & Conference](#)

Abingdon, Va.

Contact: Southwest Virginia Community College PTAC Office (276) 964-7334



## Encroachment



VNDIA will be sponsoring a panel discussion on encroachment near military bases at the

Virginia Municipal League's Annual Conference, October 18-20 in Roanoke.

The panel will be held on the afternoon of October 19, and will feature speakers from the Department of Defense.

Encroachment is a growing concern for the military, and is expected to be an important factor in future basing and realignment decisions.

Visit the VML website for more information: [www.vml.org](http://www.vml.org)

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## Delegation support for carriers, Langley

The Hampton Roads Congressional delegation sent a joint letter to Secretary of Defense Gates in September to advocate maintaining the permanent force structure of 11 aircraft carriers. Congressmen Wittman, Nye, Scott and Forbes expressed their concern over recent reports suggesting that the Pentagon is contemplating a reduction in the nation's aircraft carrier fleet as part of the upcoming Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR).

Forbes, Nye and Wittman serve on the House Armed Services Committee.

In a visit to Hampton Roads in late September, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said he was confident in the size of the fleet now and in the adequacy of a 10-carrier fleet in the time gap between the decommissioning of the USS Enterprise and the commissioning of the USS Gerald R. Ford (expected 2015).

Congressmen Wittman, Nye and Scott also co-authored a letter to Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, urging the Air Force to take advantage of the "unique capabilities that are currently based at Langley Air Force Base," and to ensure that "those assets are fully utilized."

The letter made the case that Langley would be ideal for an additional squadron of F-22s, as well as a future base for F-35s and other emerging Air Force missions, and cited the recent decline in economic impact from Langley, calling it a "troubling trend" linked to recent personnel and force structure reductions.

The public comment period ended October 7 for the environmental assessment of a proposed \$114 million, 1,000-room hotel at Fort Lee. The facility would be located next to the recently opened Army Logistics University, and if built as planned, would be the largest hotel in the Army and in the Commonwealth.

Local businesses and government officials have expressed concern about the affects the 15-story hotel would have on area hotels, who hope to gain business from the ongoing growth of the base that will include thousands of temporarily assigned soldiers.

The comment period was extended for one month, and the Army denied an additional extension of up to 120-days that was supported by Sens. Jim Webb and Mark Warner and Rep. Randy Forbes.

Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, commanding general of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, said the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have completed their reviews and indicate that no significant environmental impacts are associated with the project. He added, "Lodging soldiers on-post has a positive impact on readiness, force protection, and safety."

Pending approval, Fort Lee officials hope to begin construction this year and open the hotel in 2012.



Navy Secretary Ray Mabus sits in the cockpit of an F/A-18 Hornet from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 15 at Naval Air Station Oceana.  
*U.S. Navy photo, Sept. 29, 2009*

## Fort Lee hotel proposal

## Civilian Defense Leadership

The Senate last month confirmed President Obama's nominee for Secretary of the Army. Below is the current Secretary of Defense and service secretaries, listed in order of confirmation.

### Secretary of Defense

Robert M. Gates was sworn in on Dec. 18, 2006, as the 22nd Secretary of Defense. Gates is the only Secretary of

Defense to be asked to remain in that office by a newly elected president.

Prior to his current position, Gates was the president of Texas A&M University. He was with the Central Intelligence Agency for nearly 27 years as an intelligence professional. During that period, he spent nearly nine years at the National Security Council serving four presidents of both political parties.

A native of Kansas, Gates received his bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary, his master's degree in history from Indiana University, and his doctorate in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown University.



### Secretary of the AF

Michael B. Donley is the 22nd Secretary of the Air Force, confirmed on Oct. 2, 2008.

Donley has 30 years of experience in the national security community, including service with the Senate, White House and the Pentagon. Prior to his current position, he served as the Director of Administration and Management in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Previously, he was a Senior Vice President at Hicks and Associates, Inc., a subsidiary of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

Mr. Donley earned both bachelor's and master's degrees (1977 and 1978, respectively) in international relations from the University of Southern California.



### Secretary of the Navy

Ray Mabus is the 75th Secretary of the Navy, sworn in on June 18, 2009.

Prior to joining the administration of President Obama, Mabus was in a variety of top posts in government and the private sector, including Governor of Mississippi and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Clinton Administration.

Mabus is a native of Ackerman, Miss., and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi, a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University, and a law degree from Harvard Law School.



### Secretary of the Army

John M. McHugh was sworn in as the 21st Secretary of the Army on Sept. 21, 2009.

At the time of his appointment, he was a sitting member of Congress representing Northern and Central New York, a position he held since 1993.

McHugh was born in Watertown, N.Y. and received a bachelor's degree in political science from Utica College of Syracuse University in 1970, and a master's degree in public administration from the State University of New York's Nelson A. Rockefeller Graduate School of Public Affairs in 1977.

