
Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority



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Additional Information and high-resolution images are available.

A Strategic Plan for Supporting Virginia's Defense Industry

The Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority (VNDIA) is pleased to announce that its Fiscal Year 2009 Strategic Plan is underway.

Last year, VNDIA's Strategic Planning Committee was charged with creating a strategic plan for fiscal year 2009. The committee, chaired by retired Army Gen. John Abrams, used the combined resources of the authority, input from localities and a specially commissioned study to identify five issues essential to the continued success of VNDIA's mission. For each of these critical issues, a subset of goals and strategies was designed to move the authority ahead in a thoughtful and productive manner.

A "living document," the Strategic Plan was adopted by the VNDIA board at their July meeting. Many of the strategies have already been put into place, including initiating an inter-agency task force on BRAC and other issues with the support of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade. Additional strategies include regular round table meetings with localities, developing educational tools for military host communities and continuing the installation visitation program.

In addition to Gen. Abrams, the committee consists of Jay Adams, Jr. of The Plains, retired Air Force Gen. Dick Hawley of Newport News, retired Navy Vice Adm. Jim McArthur, Jr. of Suffolk and the Hon. Cord Sterling of Stafford.

VNDIA was created during the 2005 Session of the Virginia General Assembly, as the assembly sensed *"that a need exists for the provision of technical assistance and coordination between the Commonwealth, its political subdivisions and the United States military."*



VNDIA committee chair retired Army Gen. John Abrams at his ALIS, Inc. office in Shirlington.

Photo courtesy of Abrams Learning & Information Systems, Inc.

Although not mentioned specifically in the enabling legislation, part of VNDIA's early focus has been on supporting BRAC actions in the Commonwealth. The remainder of the authority's energies have been dedicated to identifying issues necessary to maintaining and growing the positive presence of the Department of Defense in Virginia; to building and sharing knowledge of the state's installations through a comprehensive base visitation program and regular contact with their surrounding localities; and to managing the Military Strategic Response Fund grant program, now entering its third round.

VNDIA Strategic Plan FY2009 Critical Issues

Critical Issue 1: The Commonwealth's leadership needs to fully understand the importance of DoD's presence in Virginia and make necessary resources available and organize appropriately.

Critical Issue 2: The Commonwealth must not take for granted DoD's considerable investment in Virginia. Instead, Virginia must develop a deliberate set of strategies that promote both "on-post" tenant growth and "off-post" business & industry growth.

Critical Issue 3: Executive level state officials as well as local and regional allies have a continuous need for a clearing house of information regarding the U.S Military's presence in Virginia as well as access to archival materials such as Virginia's preparation for and response to BRAC 2005.

Critical Issue 4: Provide educational forums and materials for "military host communities" to learn about tools and specific approaches from which they can use to preserve and grow their respective installation(s).

Critical Issue 5: The governor and the General Assembly have seen a need to assist communities and regions in military matters by establishing VNDIA in state code and funding a grant program entitled the "Military Strategic Response Fund."

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