

Minutes from 18 June 2026 HRMFFA Annual Board of Directors Meeting

1. HRMFFA's Annual Board of Directors meeting was held at the Regional Building on 18 June 2026. Public Board members present were Mayors Duman, Dyer, Glover, Gray, Hux, Kaplan, Pons, and West; Supervisors Cornwell, Garner, Hardy, and Shepperd. Private Board members present were Faulkner, Garcia, Klett, Merritt, and Stephens. Mr. David Gray represented the City of Norfolk; Ms. Jerri Wilson represented the City of Newport News. Mr. Bill Brown represented ECPI, and Mr. Barry Duval represented ITA Global Security. Executive Director Dwyer and Deputy Executive Director Nichols were present. Ms. Otesa Mitchell represented Treasurer Hanson. A quorum was achieved.
2. Board Chair Shepperd called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and called upon Mr. Nichols for public comments. There were no public comments, but there was a public service announcement from NASA Langley Research Center Deputy Director Kilgore. Mr. Kilgore announced that NASA recently selected four astronauts for the upcoming Artemis III mission scheduled to launch in 2027. This highly complex mission will involve launching multiple vehicles that will rendezvous in low Earth orbit to practice protocols for a planned lunar landing in 2028. Deputy Director Kilgore highlighted one of the chosen astronauts, Dr. Andre Douglas, has deep local roots, having graduated from Western Branch High School in Chesapeake. Mr. Kilgore noted that Dr. Douglas served as a backup crew member for the Artemis II mission. The Deputy Director expressed great regional pride in having a local graduate represented in the future of space exploration, a sentiment enthusiastically echoed by the HRMFFA Board.
3. Chair Shepperd welcomed former HRMFFA Executive Director Rear Admiral (Ret.) Craig Quigley, noting his enduring influence across the region. RDML Quigley served as Executive Director for 12 years until his retirement in 2022.

Commemorating HRMFFA's 20th anniversary, RDML Quigley detailed the organization's origin in the wake of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process. The potential closure of Naval Air Station Oceana due to encroachment issues served as a wake-up call for local leaders, who realized the region lacked a dedicated entity to manage federal relations. Established in 2006, HRMFFA was designed to protect, retain, and grow federal capabilities. Over two decades, the board evolved from a strictly elected body to a collaborative public-private partnership, incorporating business leaders and regional Chambers of Commerce.

RDML Quigley also recognized HRMFFA's long-time advocacy partners—John Simmons and Chris Goode—who supported the organization's efforts for 20 years through Akin Gump and founding the Roosevelt Group. RDML Quigley attributed the organization's continuing successes to four core pillars: its strictly apolitical nature, its unwavering focus on core mission objectives, its cost-effective operational model, and emphasis on continuous communication. He highlighted how these relationships foster



trust between installation commanders and local leadership, contrasting this model with national examples of failed coordination, such as the water contamination crisis at Red Hill in Hawaii. He further emphasized the Hampton Roads federal presence is more than an economic engine, accounting for nearly 45% of the regional GDP; it is a cultural identity. By integrating service members into the community fabric, the region ensures personnel feel welcome rather than transient.

Reflecting on the organization's "greatest hits," RDML Quigley cited numerous accomplishments, including the successful defense against U.S. Navy aircraft carrier relocation, infrastructure investments such as the Little Creek Fort Story electrical substation, and the recent groundbreaking of Jefferson Lab's high-performance data facility. He also highlighted state-level advocacy successes, such as military spouse licensure compacts and retirees pension tax reductions. Looking ahead, he expressed support for HRMFFA's new initiative to address systemic TRICARE program issues and military healthcare access.

Following his remarks, RDML Quigley participated in a brief Q&A session. He updated the board on his retirement, noting that he and his wife are enjoying their time in Phoenix, AZ., while remaining active travelers. When asked to compare the region to his time as director, he noted that while the military, port, and tourism remain the economic bedrock, he continues to follow regional developments closely and finds the area's commitment to reinvention and innovation to be exceptionally strong. Former Newport News Mayor, Mr. Barry Duvall, added his own commendation, emphasizing HRMFFA is a unique regional model because it prioritizes economic boundaries over political ones.

The meeting concluded with special recognition for U.S. Navy Captain (Ret.) Bob Geis, whom RDML Quigley praised for his leadership during the 2012 Oceana aircraft crash, and Mrs. Quigley for her continued support. On behalf of the 16-member board, Chair Shepperd presented RDML Quigley with a newly designed organization challenge coin.

4. Chair Shepperd introduced Mr. John Simmons of the Roosevelt Group, noting that he has been a foundational partner of HRMFFA since its inception. Highlights included:

Mr. Simmons opened his remarks by acknowledging the historical challenges HRMFFA faced in its early years, specifically the need to address installation encroachment and the pivotal leadership of RDML Quigley, which significantly increased the organization's credibility within the Pentagon and the local community.

Regarding the federal legislative landscape, Mr. Simmons reported that passing a third reconciliation bill—intended to carry \$350 billion for defense—is highly unlikely before the November mid-term elections due to shifting political alignments and complex nature of mandatory entitlement spending. Instead, Congress is expected to pursue a traditional appropriations process, likely involving a supplemental request during a lame-duck session. While the House of Representatives has marked up several appropriation bills, the Senate remains in waiting. Mr. Simmons emphasized the importance of securing the National



Defense Authorization Act and Defense Appropriations Bills by the end of the year to avoid reliance on continuing resolutions, as seen in previous cycles.

In an overview of fiscal priorities for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mr. Simmons highlighted approximately \$1 billion in programmed military construction. However, he cautioned the Navy is under severe budgetary pressure due to Iran and Venezuela operational requirements. Consequently, Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization funds have been swept by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations to cover operations and maintenance costs. This has forced local installations to operate under strict spending constraints for the remainder of the fiscal year, impacting training exercises, permanent change of station funding, and facility maintenance. Naval Station Norfolk Commanding Officer Captain Glenn elaborated on the regional impacts of these funding shortfalls, noting summer conditions with limited resources to address non-emergency infrastructure repairs.

Mr. Dwyer updated the board on the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems working group, which recently met to address sophisticated incursions near Langley and other installations. The working group aims to develop a regional, multi-stakeholder strategy that integrates existing community sensors with military capabilities to ensure better defense in depth.

The discussion turned to Maritime Prosperity Zones (MPZs) and federal Opportunity Zones, with Mr. Simmons noting that while the region is well-positioned for these opportunities, the federal criteria for MPZs remains elusive. In response, regional organizations are collaborating in their engagement of the Defense Industrial Base Institute at Northeastern University to develop a competitive nomination strategy. Chair Shepperd concluded the session by urging regional partners to remain aggressive, noting that while other states are actively vying for these federal designations, a unified regional mobilization remains the best path forward for securing Hampton Roads' economic future.

5. Futures Advisory Committee Update: Chair Shepperd invited Executive Director Dwyer to provide the Futures Committee Update. Mr. Dwyer presented highlights of HRMFFA staff efforts addressing common concerns categorized among Resilience, Compatibility, and Quality of Life.

Reviewing several key focus areas, beginning with climate resilience, HRMFFA continues to work with the Roosevelt Group to secure language in the Water Resources Development Act. The goal is to mandate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers include military and federal properties within their coastal storm risk management studies, an effort currently moving through the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Energy resilience remains a primary regional objective, with a focus on energy dominance and the potential deployment of small modular reactors. Mr. Dwyer noted the Navy has designated Naval Weapons Station Yorktown as a candidate site for these technologies. Regarding quality-of-life matters, the board celebrated the recent Air Force approval of the Langley Air Force Base Child Development Center partnership with Old Dominion University, an innovative national template for future military childcare solutions. Furthermore, HRMFFA reported significant success in state-level



advocacy, noting Virginia joined five additional interstate licensure compacts to expedite the military spouse employment upon transfer.

Addressing regional challenges, Mr. Dwyer provided housing and healthcare updates. HRMFFA is collaborating with the Governor's office to elevate the necessity of affordable, attainable housing for service members at the upcoming Virginia Governor's Housing Conference. Simultaneously, the organization is confronting the military healthcare system's systemic failures. Following the disastrous contract transition in 2025, many providers have opted out of the network, creating a healthcare access crisis. Dwyer emphasized that while HRMFFA is engaged with congressional members and previous roundtables, resolving this issue will likely require additional formal congressional hearings to challenge the status quo.

In the future mission opportunity realm, HRMFFA continues to defend NASA Langley and Wallops against proposed federal budget cuts, successfully sustaining level funding. Mr. Dwyer clarified the scope of the High-Performance Data Facility, noting that despite misconceptions, the facility is a specialized Department of Energy research hub rather than a commercial data center. Mr. Dwyer highlighted ongoing community-military partnerships, including review of several Defense Community Infrastructure Program proposals and continued advocacy for the Virginia Military Community Infrastructure Grant Program. The overview concluded by highlighting an emerging opportunity: the U.S. Coast Guard's search for a host site for its new Remote and Autonomous Systems, Tactics, Training, and Logistics Center. Hampton Roads remains a top-tier candidate, which could serve as a vital mission backfill should the region see a reduction in personnel at the FORCECOM headquarters. The board had no questions regarding the Futures Committee update.

6. FY27 Board Meeting Schedule: Mr. Dwyer presented the proposed FY27 HRMFFA Board meeting schedule coordinated with HRTPO, HRPDC and HRTAC's meeting schedule, pointing out the Annual Board meeting date was moved to 10 June 2027 to deconflict with the Juneteenth holiday weekend. There were no questions or comments on the proposed schedule. Mayor Dyer motioned to approve the FY27 Board Meeting Schedule, with a second from Mayor West. The Board Meeting Schedule unanimously passed.
7. Monthly Financial Statements, FY26 Audit Schedule: Mr. Dwyer presented the May 2026 and estimated end of June 2026 financial reports. All FY26 revenues were received other than the expected Newport News end-of-year installment. Budgetary expenses met forecasts with the exception of the annual travel budget due to some unplanned trips and general increases in travel costs. Mr. Dwyer stated HRMFFA's annual financial audit is scheduled for the week of 3 August 2026. The Board had no questions or comments.
8. Budget & Finance Committee: Chair Shepperd invited Mayor Duman to present the Budget and Finance (B&F) Committee Report. Mayor Duman presented minutes from the virtual Budget and Finance Committee meeting held on June 9, 2026, which focused on a final review of the draft FY27 budget. Key adjustments to the budget parameters since the April review include updating the municipal revenue projections to



align with approved funding levels from adopted FY27 budgets. Labor expenses still reflect a 3.5% cost-of-living adjustment. While overall non-labor expense projections were unchanged, internal line items were adjusted to increase the travel budget by \$6,650, which was fully offset by a reduction in HRPDC expenses to ensure a budget-neutral impact. Investment income projections also maintained a 3.5% interest rate planning figure for the upcoming fiscal year. With no further questions or comments, the Committee recommended the draft FY27 budget to the Board for formal approval and vote. Mayor Kaplan seconded the motion; the Board unanimously approved the budget.

The B&F report concluded with a financial summary of the Virginia Defense Forum. Final event figures indicated revenues of \$86,850 against expenses of \$76,303, resulting in a final surplus of \$10,546. In alignment with a prior vote by the Board, this surplus will be contributed to the Hampton Roads Chapter of Blue Star Families. Mayor Duman invited questions and comments; the Board had none.

9. Nominating Committee Report: Chair Shepperd invited Mayor Duman to present the Nominating Committee Report, who outlined the committee's recommendations for HRMFFA Board membership and B&F Committee leadership changes for the upcoming term. Mayor Duman noted that a new Board Vice Chair from the peninsula municipalities was required for the next two-year term, and Mayor David Hux expressed his willingness to serve. Mayor Duman noted his transition to Board Chair, creating a B&F Committee chair vacancy. Mayor Glover expressed his willingness to serve as the next B&F Committee chair. Additionally, Mayor Kaplan expressed his willingness to serve as the third elected official on the B&F Committee. The Nominating Committee formally recommended to the Board Mayor Hux as the new board Vice Chair, Mayor Glover as B&F Committee Chair, and Mayor Kaplan as B&F Committee member. Following the committee's recommendation, Chair Shepperd called for comments; hearing none, Mayor Pons seconded the motion to approve the nominations, which was unanimously approved by the board.

Mayor Duman then presented the committee's recommendations regarding private sector board members two-year term renewals: Mr. Eric Conley of Sentara Health; Mr. Tim Faulkner of The Breeden Company; Dr. Lisa Monaco of Amentum Tidewater Operations, and Mr. Drew Warren of Dominion Energy. Mayor Duman confirmed the four members are in good standing and desired to continue their service on the HRMFFA board. The Nominating Committee recommended these members to the board for term renewals. Chair Shepperd called for a second to accept the renewals; Mayor Dyer seconded the motion, and the board voted unanimously in favor of the renewals.

10. HRMFFA Board Trip to Pentagon: Mr. Dwyer reminded Board members of the Pentagon trip scheduled for September 24, 2026.
11. Pass the Gavel: The Board celebrated HRMFFA's 20th anniversary as an organization with a ceremonial cake cutting. This was followed by Mayor Michael D. Duman relieving Supervisor Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr. as HRMFFA Chairman.
12. Mayor Duman adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

