Minutes from 17 September 2026
HRMFFA Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

1. HRMFFA's Quarterly Board of Directors meeting was held at the Regional Building on 17 September 2026. Public Board members present were Mayors Duman, Dyer, Glover, Gray, Hux, Kaplan and Pons; Supervisors Garner, Hardy, Icenhour, and Shepperd. Private Board members present were Conley, Klett, Merritt, and Monaco. 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; and Treasurer Hansen. A quorum was achieved.

2. Board Chair Duman opened by expressing his appreciation for the confidence placed in him serving as Chair of the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance. He emphasized the Alliance's mission extends beyond protecting individual installations or the interests of any single locality. Rather, the organization serves to unite Hampton Roads in support of the military and federal presence fundamental to the region's economy, identity, and national security. Chair Duman stated his commitment to building upon the Alliance's established work by protecting existing military and federal assets, pursuing opportunities for regional growth, and ensuring that leaders in Richmond and Washington understand both the strategic importance of Hampton Roads and the region's commitment to the men and women who serve. He emphasized, although the Alliance represents multiple communities, its members share one region, one voice, and one purpose. He then officially called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. He thanked the Board members and regional leaders for attending and welcomed the region's military leaders. He emphasized their participation, input, and perspectives are central to the Alliance's mission and greatly appreciated. The Chair extended a special welcome to two new commanders: Captain Colleen Minahan, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads, and Captain Brett Workman, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Sector Virginia. The Chairman also congratulated Klett Consulting Group, Cox Communications (now Spectrum), and TowneBank on being named to the 2026 *Inside Business* Top Workplaces in Hampton Roads. The Chairman then invited Mr. Nichols to provide any public comment; there were none.

3. Chair Duman introduced Ms. Daniela Hines, Executive Director of the newly established Blue Star Families Hampton Roads chapter. He recognized her three years with Blue Star Families and more than two decades as a Navy spouse, noting her professional and personal experience provided valuable insight into the challenges facing military families in Hampton Roads.

723 WOODLAKE DRIVE . CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 23320 . OFFICE (757) 644-6324 . FAX (757) 523-4881

Ms. Hines described her role in establishing the Hampton Roads chapter, which launched in April, and expressed her commitment to helping military families feel supported and connected to their communities. She explained that Blue Star Families connects military families with resources and relationships while bringing their concerns to policymakers.

Ms. Hines highlighted the organization's Military Family Lifestyle Survey, conducted annually since 2009, which informs national policy discussions and local programming. She noted that approximately 200 additional responses were needed to produce meaningful Hampton Roads-specific findings, emphasizing the importance of understanding the region's unique military population and geographic characteristics.

She reported that the chapter's pre-launch needs assessment identified social isolation, financial stress, spouse employment, mental health care, and access to care as key challenges. These issues often overlap, particularly for families adjusting to a new duty station without established social networks or knowledge of available resources. The chapter seeks to address these challenges by strengthening community connections, increasing resource awareness, and collaborating with existing nonprofits and community organizations to identify unmet needs without duplicating services.

Ms. Hines cited organizational findings that eight out of ten chapter members reported feeling more connected to their communities upon arrival. She emphasized that meaningful connections help families navigate relocation, identify trusted contacts, discover activities for their children, and access needed assistance. She also described Blue Star Families Neighborhood, an online platform that helps families locate resources and build connections before and after relocation.

In closing, Ms. Hines praised Hampton Roads' collaborative approach to supporting military families and emphasized her role in connecting nonprofits, businesses, government agencies, military leaders, educators, and other community partners. She stated the chapter's ultimate goal is to help newly arriving military families establish meaningful connections and a sense of belonging without spending months trying to find their place in the community. She expressed interest in collaborating with HRMFFA and its regional partners and invited questions.

Executive Director Dwyer thanked Ms. Hines for her presentation and asked how military families and community partners could connect with the new Blue Star Families Hampton Roads chapter. Ms. Hines explained that interested individuals could visit the chapter's website, subscribe to its newsletter, contact her directly, or join the secure Blue Star Families Neighborhood online platform. She noted that participants are vetted before joining and that community partners are welcome to share resources and information.

723 WOODLAKE DRIVE . CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 23320 . OFFICE (757) 644-6324 . FAX (757) 523-4881

In response to a question about local activities, Ms. Hines highlighted upcoming events, including Blue Star Welcome Week, participation in the local air show, a family fun day with Tabernacle Church in Norfolk, a social event at Topgolf, and a family day at the Mariners Museum. She emphasized that chapter events are free to military families and often include meals. Mayor Duman then presented Ms. Hines with a HRMFFA donation of $10,000, derived from the proceeds of the Virginia Defense Forum, to support the chapter's mission.

4. Executive Director Dwyer introduced Mr. Chris Sadler, Senior Director of Unmanned Systems and Public Safety at the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation (VIPC), who leads statewide efforts to improve awareness of small, unmanned aircraft systems. Mr. Dwyer explained that HRMFFA had partnered with Mr. Sadler to advance regional collaboration among military installations, government agencies, public safety organizations, and critical infrastructure owners to improve drone detection and airspace awareness.

   Mr. Sadler described Virginia's efforts to integrate unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into low-altitude airspace while addressing safety and security concerns. He cited a statewide economic study projecting $16 billion in new revenue, $2.8 billion in tax revenue, and 17,000 new jobs associated with advanced air mobility and unmanned systems. He outlined state-funded testing at Stafford Regional Airport, where sensors and data-sharing technology were used to coordinate manned and unmanned aircraft. Additional funding supported expansion into Hampton Roads, where complex military and commercial airspace makes regional coordination particularly important.

   Mr. Sadler explained the Virginia Flight Information Exchange (VA-FIX) integrates information from drone detection sensors, radar, aircraft tracking systems, and geographic data to improve flight planning, situational awareness, and collision avoidance. Sensors deployed in York County and Newport News are contributing data, with additional integration efforts underway with NASA Langley, Hampton University, and critical infrastructure partners. He emphasized the importance of coordinating sensor placement and sharing information to avoid duplication, expand geographic coverage, and maximize public and private investments.

   Mr. Sadler noted the rapid growth of public safety drone programs, including drones used by first responders, and explained detection technologies supporting safe commercial drone operations overlap substantially with those used for counter-drone purposes. He reported approximately 95 stakeholders participated in a regional meeting in June, leading to the formation of working groups that meet monthly to coordinate sensor deployment, identify funding opportunities, and plan long-term system sustainment. He explained that validated data collected through VA-FIX could eventually be made available commercially, with potential revenue helping sustain local government and critical infrastructure investments.

723 WOODLAKE DRIVE . CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 23320 . OFFICE (757) 644-6324 . FAX (757) 523-4881

He also described the Governor's executive steering committee for UAS and counter-UAS coordination, which provides guidance and support to local governments and infrastructure operators.

In response to questions from Mr. Gray of the City of Norfolk, Mr. Sadler explained participation in the regional working group was open to local government public safety representatives. He encouraged broader engagement and identified opportunities for collaboration between Norfolk and the Port Authority. Mr. Gray expressed interest in obtaining contact information to help ensure Norfolk's participation in future meetings.

Mr. Bob Crum, Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Planning District, noted Mr. Dwyer had recently briefed regional city managers and county administrators on the initiative, providing a foundation for further local government engagement. Mr. Sadler confirmed that military representatives were involved in related coordination efforts. He emphasized the importance of aligning regional initiatives with military efforts and national approaches to counter-UAS operations. He concluded that regional collaboration was progressing and would be essential to improving airspace awareness, coordinating resources, and addressing emerging drone-related challenges.

5. Mayor Duman introduced Mr. Nate Paukovits of the Roosevelt Group to provide a Washington, D.C. update on federal defense policy, appropriations, and initiatives affecting Hampton Roads.

   Mr. Paukovits reported that the House had passed a $1.15 trillion defense funding bill, while Senate appropriations remained outstanding. A continuing resolution extended funding through December 11, 2026, at approximately fiscal year 2026 levels, creating financial constraints for the Department of War as it entered fiscal year 2027. He explained the November mid-term elections were delaying congressional action and that lawmakers were expected to prioritize appropriations during the post-election session. He also discussed additional proposed defense funding and the need for agencies to obligate available funds before potential sequestration reductions.

   Mr. Paukovits highlighted the Government Accountability Office's findings regarding the military's substantial shore infrastructure maintenance backlog, estimated at nearly $300 billion. Given competing defense priorities and limited federal resources, he emphasized opportunities for communities to support military installations through intergovernmental agreements, public-private partnerships, and other innovative approaches to infrastructure support and service delivery.

   He provided updates on several initiatives with potential implications for Hampton Roads,

including a proposed fifth Navy shipyard focused on nuclear-powered vessels and a component repair center intended to accelerate submarine maintenance. The Navy's anticipated request for information would clarify requirements and enable communities to assess their ability to support these initiatives. Mr. Paukovits also discussed proposed maritime prosperity zones, noting their legislative framework remained undefined. He recommended monitoring the federal opportunity-zone designation process for potential maritime-related economic development opportunities in the region.

Additional updates included the establishment of a presidential Military Spouse Commission, which would provide monthly briefings to the President and issue an annual report; three Hampton Roads projects selected for Department of War Defense Community Infrastructure Program grant funding; and ongoing efforts to ensure proposed offshore seabed-mining activities do not interfere with Navy training areas. He also noted the importance of continuing regional engagement with federal agencies and military leadership.

Executive Director Dwyer added that HRMFFA and regional partners had begun discussions regarding the potential for Hampton Roads to support the proposed fifth shipyard or component repair center. He noted that the region's existing shipyard capacity and surrounding real estate warranted further consideration once the Navy released its request for information. HRMFFA would continue coordinating with regional stakeholders to evaluate potential opportunities.

6. Chair Duman invited Executive Director Dwyer to present the proposed 2027 Virginia General Assembly legislative priorities. Mr. Dwyer highlighted the Military Community Infrastructure Grant Program, noting that $8 million in state appropriations had leveraged approximately $75 million in federal grants and local funding for infrastructure projects benefiting military installations and surrounding communities. With only $2 million appropriated for the current fiscal year, HRMFFA will advocate for an additional $3 million in the second year of the biennium. Mr. Dwyer noted two proposed Hampton Roads projects—the Portsmouth sewer pump station and the HRSD project—illustrate the region's significant infrastructure needs.

   Mr. Dwyer reviewed continuing priorities for military spouse employment and affordable, quality child care. Following the General Assembly's passage of several additional interstate licensure compacts, the organization will focus on spouse employment toward improving the Virginia Values Veterans Employment Incentive Grant Program. Proposed changes would clarify eligibility so employers hiring military spouses could apply for grants and increase annual program funding from $100,000 to $200,000. HRMFFA will also support broader initiatives to expand child-care capacity, recognizing that military families rely heavily on community-based providers because installation

facilities cannot accommodate all military children.

Mr. Dwyer discussed recurrent flooding as a significant regional concern because many military and federal installations are near water and over 70 percent of personnel working at those installations live in surrounding communities. He described the proposed support for the Commonwealth Flood Prevention Program, initially framed around a $200 million request. Mr. Crum reported the Secretary of Natural Resources recently anticipated approximately $350 million for the community flood-preparedness fund, attributing the increase to Virginia's reentry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and associated proceeds. Mr. Dwyer agreed to coordinate with the Planning District Commission to align the final legislative request with the updated funding outlook.

Other proposed priorities included tying Virginia's military retired-pay income-tax exemption to inflation. Mr. Dwyer explained the state currently exempts up to $40,000 in military retired pay from state income tax, but the exemption is not inflation-adjusted loses value over time. HRMFFA proposes annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). In response to a question from Supervisor Shepperd, Mr. Dwyer clarified the proposal only concerns the state tax exemption, not federal taxation.

Finally, Mr. Dwyer presented a Defense State Liaison Office priority supporting access to interscholastic sports for homeschooled students. He noted that Virginia is among 21 states that do not permit such participation and military families homeschool at approximately twice the rate of civilian families, often to maintain educational continuity during relocations. In response to Mayor Duman's question about whether the proposal would apply to all homeschooled students or only military families, Mr. Dwyer said the initiative could be narrowed to military families if broader eligibility proved difficult to advance. Chair Duman recommended considering that narrower approach. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mayor Glover and seconded by Supervisor Shepperd to approve the proposed 2027 legislative priorities, incorporating Mr. Crum's suggested amendment to the flooding-related priority. The motion unanimously passed.

7. Executive Director Dwyer presented the monthly financial report through the end of August. He noted that, because the fiscal year had only recently begun, some expenses appeared proportionally high due to bills paid early in the year but were expected to normalize over time. Revenues were being received as anticipated, and overall, the organization's finances remained on track, with no significant concerns identified. The Board had no questions or comments.

8. Chair Duman invited Mayor Glover to present the Budget and Finance Committee report. Mayor Glover noted the committee met on September 8, 2026, and reviewed the July revenue and expense statements. Municipal revenues and most private-sector dues had been received, and expenses remained on track.

   The committee reviewed the FY 2026 annual audit, financial statements, and management letter. Mayor Glover reported that HRMFFA received another clean audit, with no issues, corrective entries, or material weaknesses identified. Note 8 of the financial statements provides details on revenues and expenses associated with the Virginia Defense Forum, including HRMFFA's sponsorship and the contribution of excess funds to the Hampton Roads chapter of Blue Star Families. Treasurer Hansen confirmed no changes to the audit results or financial statements were anticipated. Mayor Glover thanked Treasurer Hansen and HRPDC finance staff, Ms. Jenny Ma and Ms. Otesa Mitchell, for their work maintaining the organization's financial records and supporting the audit process. With no questions raised, the board approved the FY 2026 audit results and financial statements following a motion by Mayor Kaplan and a second by Mayor Dyer.

   Mayor Glover next reported the annual financial statement showed $3,024 in funds above the established reserve requirement. The committee recommended retaining the excess in HRMFFA's reserves rather than distributing the relatively small amount among municipal and private-sector members. With no questions or discussion, the board unanimously voted to retain the funds in reserve.

   Finally, Mayor Glover reported that the committee discussed a potential upgrade to HRMFFA's website, which had not been substantially updated in approximately 20 years. Preliminary estimates placed the upgrade at approximately $7,000, with ongoing maintenance costs of about $375 per quarter. The proposed modernization would bring the website into compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. No action was requested; the committee will revisit the proposal closer to the end of the fiscal year, when the availability of funds above required reserves is clearer. The Board had no questions or comments.

9. Executive Director Dwyer provided an update on HRMFFA's planned Pentagon visit on October 22, 2026. The trip was rescheduled from September 24 because Pentagon conference space was unavailable. The Navy subsequently secured a conference room inside the Pentagon for the full day. Mr. Dwyer reviewed the proposed itinerary and reported that HRMFFA is coordinating with the Roosevelt Group and Pentagon legislative affairs staff to arrange meetings with military service and installation representatives, as well as officials focused on air space, naval aviation, and quality of life issues. Coast Guard representatives are also expected to participate. Attendees were asked to respond to the calendar invitation

723 WOODLAKE DRIVE . CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 23320 . OFFICE (757) 644-6324 . FAX (757) 523-4881

to confirm participation and support logistical and security planning. Mr. Nichols explained that confirmed attendees would receive access instructions directly from the Pentagon Security Office after their names were submitted for processing.

10. Before adjournment, Mayor Duman recognized Jeff Merrick for his service on the HRMFFA Board of Directors, where he represented Cox Communications for the past several years. Mayor Duman thanked him for his engagement and contributions to the board and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

11. Mayor Duman adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

723 WOODLAKE DRIVE . CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 23320 . OFFICE (757) 644-6324 . FAX (757) 523-4881