



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor

Executive Order

NUMBER ELEVEN (2014) (UPDATED April 24, 2015)

CONTINUING THE COMMISSION ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

Importance of the Commission

The Commonwealth of Virginia is proud of its well-documented, distinguished history and unparalleled record of exceptional support for our military services, service members and their families, and the businesses that support our national security. The bond between the Commonwealth and our military services is and will continue to be strong, mutually beneficial, and inextricably linked. While the military recruits soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, it retains families. Virginia is and will remain the preeminent state for military installations and defense activities – and for military personnel, their families, and veterans.

Moreover, Virginia affords a multitude of extraordinary strategic advantages that are widely recognized, such as its designation as the best state for business, economic vibrancy, top-ranked institutions of higher education and medicine, renowned centers of innovative research and development, a diverse and highly educated workforce, international trade and investment, an expansive port, and a solid transportation infrastructure. Centrally located in the mid-Atlantic region, with close proximity to our nation's capital and possessing an extraordinary combination of training sites and ranges with immediate access to unrestricted air-space and maritime operating areas, Virginia also offers high quality and high intensity training areas uniquely capable of preparing both conventional and special operations forces to safeguard our vital interests anywhere in the world. The Commonwealth is resolute in its dedication to ensuring the highest level of steadfast commitment to our military installations, defense activities, and surrounding communities.

In recent years, national security and defense spending have begun a decline. However, Virginia's military and government civilian personnel, defense contractors and suppliers, supporting businesses and local communities are working together and moving forward in this new fiscal climate. The Commonwealth must vigilantly and proactively work to retain and strengthen military and federal facilities as well as continue to seek new opportunities for collaborative partnerships,

innovative initiatives, and economic development and diversification for related operations and facilities that can be located in Virginia.

Continuing the Commission on Military Installations and Defense Activities

On March 1, 2013, the Commission on Military Installations and Defense Activities was established by executive order. The Commission was tasked to identify, review, and recommend actions that the Commonwealth could take in support of our military and defense installations and activities, military services, and surrounding localities. There is more work to be done by the Commission, and there are additional installations and activities requiring visitation by the Commission and retained experts.

Accordingly, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to §§ 2.2-134 and 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby continue the Commission on Military Installations and Defense Activities.

Composition of the Commission

The continued Commission will consist of the Secretaries of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Finance, Commerce and Trade, Technology, and Transportation, the co-chairs of the General Assembly Military and Veteran Caucus, and four (4) citizen members whose background shall include service as a General or Flag Officer in one of the military services, to be appointed by the Governor and serve at his pleasure. The Governor shall designate a Chairman from among the appointed members. The Governor may appoint additional persons to the Commission at his discretion.

Responsibilities of the Commission

The Commission's responsibilities shall include the following:

1. Continue the process of assessing the Commonwealth's military and defense installations and activities and make recommendations for near- and long-term actions that the Commonwealth can take to improve the support for our nation's military services;
2. Obtain data, information, and studies from subject matter experts in order to develop recommendations and plans for improving relationships with federal military and defense installations and activities located in the Commonwealth;
3. Develop and recommend strategies to improve the local support for federal military and defense installations and activities located in Virginia;
4. Develop and recommend strategies designed to identify the economic impact of federal military and defense installations and activities on the localities hosting or surrounding these installations and activities, as well as on the Commonwealth as a whole;
5. Develop and recommend strategies that support and foster collaboration among local and regional entities in identifying appropriate opportunities for the protection of existing federal facilities and the placement of additional federal facilities in the Commonwealth;

6. Determine and recommend the best and most efficient manner to promote business, technology, transportation, education, economic development, and other efforts to support, attract, and retain existing military installations, commands and defense activities in the Commonwealth;
7. Identify all federal military and defense installation and facility construction plans in the Commonwealth, and facilitate ways to assist in those plans;
8. Support the Commonwealth's role in research and development related to or arising out of military missions, contracting, and defense activities;
9. Identify and recommend strategies for expanding collaborative activities related to strategic economic interests of the Commonwealth including, but not limited to, aerospace, cyber-security, modeling and simulation, energy, and unmanned systems;
10. Recommend improvements and resources for service members, military families and their children, veterans, and businesses that bring military and defense-related jobs to the Commonwealth;
11. Cultivate strategies to facilitate the transition from military service to civilian life, and identify barriers to and opportunities for credentialing, licensing and employment for military veterans throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia; and
12. Advance all other prospective opportunities, proactively fostering outreach and good will, in order for the Commonwealth of Virginia to remain the most military-friendly state in the nation.

Commission Staffing and Funding

Necessary staff support for the Commission's work during its continued existence shall be furnished by the Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, and such other agencies and offices as designated by the Governor. An estimated 200 hours of staff time will be required to support the work of the Commission.

Necessary funding to support the Commission and its staff shall be provided from private contributions and state funds appropriated for the same purposes as the Commission, as authorized by § 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, as well as any other private sources of funding that may be identified. Estimated direct costs for this Commission are \$5,000.

Commission members shall serve without compensation and shall receive reimbursement for authorized expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

The Commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman. The chairman shall meet, at least quarterly, with the Governor, or the Governor's designee, to discuss the progress of the Commission and the current impacts of federal budget actions, and shall issue such other reports and recommendations as necessary or as requested by the Governor.

Effective Date of the Executive Order

This Executive Order shall be effective upon signing and, pursuant to §§ 2.2-134 and 2.2-135 of the *Code of Virginia*, shall remain in force and effect for one year from its signing unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 24th day of April, 2015.



Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Attest:

Levar M. Stoney, Secretary of the Commonwealth