

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM #16: JOINT FORCES COMMAND ANALYSIS AND RESOLUTION

SUBJECT:

Secretary of Defense Gates has proposed the closing of the Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) presence on the Hampton Roads Region.

BACKGROUND:

On August 9, 2010, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates recommended the closure of the Joint Forces Command, headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia. JFCOM is one of ten U.S. Department of Defense combatant commands, and one of five major DOD commands headquartered in Hampton Roads.

JFCOM maintains facilities in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Newport News and employs numerous contractors throughout the region. The command plays an extremely important role in the regional economy. In addition to the 5,650 military, civilian, and contract employees, HRPDC analysis has determined that approximately 5,150 additional jobs are generated through both indirect and induced effects. The presence of JFCOM and NATO's Allied Command Transformation contributes over \$900 million to the region's gross regional product (1.2%), with over \$500 million in contracts awarded on an annual basis.

Based on the ongoing discussions among the region's localities and others and the HRPDC staff analysis of the economic impacts of JFCOM on Hampton Roads, the HRPDC has drafted the attached Resolution, supporting retention of JFCOM, for consideration by the HRPDC.

Greg Grootendorst, Chief Economist, will provide a brief presentation on the economic impact that the JFCOM presence has on the region.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Resolution supporting retention of JFCOM in Hampton Roads and authorize the Chairman to communicate the HRPDC resolution to the President, Congressional Delegation, Governor and others.

Attachment



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2010-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION PROTESTING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF UNITED STATES JOINT FORCES COMMAND (JFCOM) AND REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT, VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND GOVERNOR MCDONNELL TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN JFCOM'S PRESENCE IN HAMPTON ROADS

WHEREAS, the Joint Forces Command (JFCOM) originated in 1947 and was formally established in 1997 to provide ready capable joint forces to support the development and integration of joint, interagency and multi-national capabilities to meet the present and future operational needs of the military, as well as to anticipate and prepare for the future demands of the National Defense Strategy; and

WHEREAS, JFCOM currently employs over 6,324 people in Norfolk, Suffolk and elsewhere, including more than 5,600 in Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, total employment in Hampton Roads, which is attributable to JFCOM and its activities is roughly 10,800 and these employees reside throughout Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, JFCOM has an annual budget of \$704 million, which contributes more than \$901 million to Gross Regional Product and more than \$560 million to Personal Income in Hampton Roads; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Business Board, a Pentagon Advisory Board, presented a report to the Secretary of Defense, making recommendations to: i) address unsustainable trends associated with military entitlements; ii) reduce the number of military personnel serving in commercial, non-government activities; iii) eliminate uniformed military personnel in governmental functions that should be occupied by civilian personnel of the U.S. Department of Defense; and iv) streamline and reduce the number and size of combatant commands beginning with the elimination of JFCOM; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Business Board also stated a need to perform more in-depth study of the JFCOM issue, which has not yet been undertaken; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Defense Gates, on August 9, 2010, officially recommended to the President of the United States that JFCOM be closed; and

WHEREAS, the closure of JFCOM would have an immediate and continuing severe detrimental effect on the military's ability to jointly address threats to national security and would greatly weaken the effectiveness and efficiency of the individual uniformed services to function as one cohesive and joint military force to counter, among other things, worldwide terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the existence and location of JFCOM played the definitive role in the establishment and continuation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO's) Supreme Allied Command – Transformation (SAC-T) component, as the only United States-based NATO command, co-located adjacent to JFCOM headquarters, the impact of which is not included in the economic impacts discussed above; and

WHEREAS, if JFCOM is closed the continued operation of NATO's SAC-T command in the Hampton Roads region may also be placed at risk; and

WHEREAS, the proposed closure of JFCOM is not being carried out in accordance with Federal law, particularly Title 10 of the U.S. Code, Section 2687, which was established to ensure that Congress has sufficient time and opportunity to review DOD proposals that result in the closure or realignment of significant military facilities, which JFCOM surely is; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Region, including the Cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg and the Counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York County, is united in the effort to maintain JFCOM and the preparedness of our military; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission hereby requests that the Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation and all elements of the government of the Commonwealth of Virginia are requested to urgently do all things necessary to maintain the current level of JFCOM activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that maintaining JFCOM activities at the current level will not only be beneficial for the economy of Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth, but also critical to support our military men and women who are fighting wars on two different fronts, while also being called upon to, along with our allies, jointly address threats throughout the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proposed closure should be undertaken either as part of a base realignment and closure process as established within the strict intent and impact of 10 USC 260-2687.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission this 15th day of September, 2010.

Dr. Alan P. Krasnoff
Mayor, City of Chesapeake

Gordon C. Hesel
Mayor, City of Poquoson

James P. Council III
Mayor, City of Franklin

Bernard D. Griffin, Sr.
Mayor, City of Portsmouth

Louise D. Theberge
Chair, Gloucester County

Dallas. O. Jones
Chairman, Southampton County

Molly J. Ward
Mayor, City of Hampton

Linda T. Johnson
Mayor, City of Suffolk

Phillip A. Bradshaw
Chairman, Isle of Wight County

Reginald O. Harrison
Chairman, Surry County

James G. Kennedy
Chairman, James City County

William D. Sessoms
Mayor, City of Virginia Beach

Dr. McKinley L. Price
Mayor, City of Newport News

Clyde A. Haulman
Mayor, City of Williamsburg

Paul D. Fraim
Mayor, City of Norfolk

Donald E. Wiggins
Chairman, York County