



Defense Affairs Committee (“DAC”) Progress Report

The DAC is the community’s unique conduit for the sharing of information, facilitating opportunities, and expanding relationships in the region’s defense and intelligence sector.

Since its inception, the mission of the DAC has been to foster economic vitality by strengthening the alliance of relationships among the Chamber, the Chamber network, the Central Virginia community, the regional defense & intelligence community, and our veterans. It does this through advocacy, leadership collaboration, resources, communications, and specific subcommittees working across all service lines.

Mindful of external threats to the region’s military assets, and the lack of institutional support to those assets, the DAC has stepped up to fortify foundational needs and provide support to the units and its members. With Albemarle County in the lead, a community investment was made for a program manager which has led to significant strides in the last six months:

- With a significant in-kind donation from UVA Foundation, a DAC office has been established at North Fork (formerly the UVA Research Park) that includes a Welcome/Reception Center for incoming, existing, and transitioning military personnel, local veterans, and families.
- An evolving list of local companies offering military and veteran discounts has been posted on the Chamber website. Also posted are the full range of resources available locally by federal, state, and local organizations (<https://www.cvillechamber.com/dac/>).
- A list of all local companies that are certified through the Virginia Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs, Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program which commits to the hiring of veterans.
- Supported Albemarle County’s Military Welcome Program, Assisted with Daily Progress annual Hometown Heroes publication
- At Rivanna Station:
Established relationships with key players at NGIC, DIA and Ft. Belvoir, the executive agent for Rivanna Station. Quarterly updates are provided to the DAC Leadership Council which includes Trevor Henry, Assistant Albemarle County Executive
- At the National Ground Intelligence Center (“NGIC”):

- While in COVID protocol, in-processing of new active-duty personnel is conducted at the DAC office conference room in lieu of NGIC Nicholson Building.
 - Working with Albemarle County have secured a location for new Army Combat Fitness Test.
 - Chamber volunteer members have developed a “Welcome Packet” complete with community activities and information. This will be templated and added to the website as well as provide to all other military assets in the region.
 - Maintaining visibility on status of Nicholson Building expansion
- Connected a support network to Albemarle County NDCC/JROTC with the SVA at UVA. Discussions ongoing regarding mentorship, activities, and other program support.
 - Communicated relevant information (seminars, events, celebrations, meetings, etc.) to appropriate stakeholders.
 - Working with UVA Alumni Association to establish an Alumni Veteran network.
 - Partnered with local defense firm, Signature Science, and collected used technology equipment for TECH for TROOPS. This non-profit turns the donations into Training, Education and Technology for Veterans and their families in need.

Goals for 2021(not all-inclusive)

- Revise DAC Action Plan: expand on current activities (i.e., adding to discount list), establish programs working group for speakers and events,
- Identify military family challenges and engage community solutions.
 - TriCare, Health Provider issues
 - Spousal employment
 - Child Care
- Workforce Related Activities
 - Work with private sector defense/intel community to establish a pipeline for veteran students into internships and/or employment.
 - Collaborate with PVCC’s Network2Work, EMBARK and CVPED’s Virginia Career Works to determine best practices for unemployed or underemployed veterans.
 - Establish coordinated process for spouses/partners of military and DoD/DA civilians to find worthwhile employment during time in the region.
- Economic Development
 - Complete Economic Impact Study
 - Identify and support the defense industry in the region.