

## Defense Affairs Committee

Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce

### Mission Statement:

- The purpose of the Chamber's Defense Affairs Committee is to foster economic vitality by strengthening the relationships between the Chamber, the Central Virginia community, the local defense community and our veterans.

### Focus Areas:

- Community Engagement – Advocacy and support for the defense industry in our region.
- Government Engagement – Advocate and support the needs of the local defense community with local, state and federal elected officials.
- Education – Identify and facilitate partnerships between the local defense community and local K-12 and higher education institutions for education.
- Research - Identify and facilitate partnerships between the local defense community and higher education institutions for research.
- Military Personnel & Veterans – Advocacy and support for military personnel and veterans and their families.

### Work Plans by Focus Area

- **Community Engagement – Advocacy and support for the defense industry in our region.**  
Sub-Committee Co-Chairs, Faith McLintic, Albemarle County Economic Development Director and Helen Cauthen, Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development
  - Fully ID the defense industry in our area (see Veterans Focus Area – Military Assets Inventory)
    - Rivanna Station, Contractors, UVA ROTC, JAG School, FEI, NEAO, Cyber-Security companies, IT companies, “support systems,” etc.
  - Sponsor small-business meetings at Rivanna Station – help them make connections and increase their chances of securing government contracts.
    - Provide opportunities for Rivanna Station to get a better understanding of the services available to them (e.g. daycare providers, etc.) and
    - Provide procurement workshops hosted by government offices to educate businesses re: how to secure contracts. (Must include community leaders and entrepreneurs – not just academics)
  - Establish a centralized information service:
    - Work with CAAR (Charlottesville Area Association of REALTORS®) to produce “community profile” and other resource materials about the area (e.g. website, social media and digital road shows) (see Government Engagement Focus Area)
    - Develop a “central” calendar to list local activities, events in the area (e.g. non-profit organizations, government, arts/entertainment, higher ed programs, etc.)
  - Collaborate with CAAR and Blue Ridge Apartment Council:
    - to provide updated/formal data on housing in the region
    - to develop a group focused on serving the military community
  - Define some “common language” between defense sector and others

- Work to create a close collaboration between CIC/SBCD/Workforce Development groups to assist Rivanna Station with transitioning military personnel into the Central VA workforce.
- **Government Engagement – Advocate and support the needs of the local defense community with local, state and federal elected officials.**

Sub-Committee Chair, Jeff Thomas, President, Shine Systems & Technologies

- Attract/retain a local volunteer reservist or veteran to serve as a coordinator between Rivanna Station and the community.
- Expose the Chamber businesses to families on Rivanna Station (see Veterans Focus Area)
- Explore ways to engage the JAG (Judge Advocate General) school.
- Highlight Governor’s action items in a report.
- Rita/Pam attend Chamber meetings regularly to provide updates.
- Advocate to increase the Base Allowance for Housing and Quarters (BAH/BAQ) rates
- Assist w/acquisition of more land for Rivanna Station from ULC (United Land Corporation)
- Encourage Albemarle County to include the “needs” of Rivanna Station in its Comprehensive Plan.
- Encourage Albemarle County to hire a PT/FT person to act as a liaison between the community and Rivanna Station acting out of the Economic Development Office.
- Ensure that all local government officials are receiving a DAC e-newsletter.
- Develop a 2-hour “marketing tour” of our area.
- Ask local government officials to convene regular meetings with key community engagement and Rivanna Station officials.
- Monitor potential for next BRAC (Base Relocation and Closure) round.
- Re-engage Fort Belvoir leadership – re-introduce them to our area/showcase Central VA and the advantages of having military presence here.
- Encourage VA Senators and Congressman to visit Rivanna Station and to meet with the DAC.
- Provide/offer political support at all levels (federal/state/local).
- **Education– Identify and facilitate partnerships between the local defense community and local K-12 and higher education institutions for education.**

Sub-Committee Chair, Valerie Palamountain, Dean of Workforce Services, Piedmont VA Community

- Meet with Rivanna Station leadership to define skills needed. Develop curriculum supported at PVCC & UVA.
  - Address educational needs of families
  - Use Research Park for classes/security levels
- Develop a STEM program related to the mission of Rivanna Station (e.g. Spy v. Spy, Model UN)
- Develop a brochure of all educational services available (e.g. online/website/L1 and Single Point (DAC site) and social media)
- Hold a quarterly event to promote educational services

- Connect education to Quality of Life
- Promote teaching opportunities - volunteers
- **Research - Identify and facilitate partnerships between the local defense community, non-profits, and higher education institutions for research.**  
Sub-Committee Chair, Rob Jones, Associate Director, UVA Applied Research Institute
  - Develop a Research capabilities catalog - publicly disclosed infrastructure, subject matter expertise, etc. for member companies to highlight what they bring to team efforts
  - Coordinate with UVA ARI "Grounds on the Go" to highlight research areas at the University of Virginia of interest to members
  - Coordinate with Government Affairs subcommittee to provide current capabilities matrix to Local, State, and Federal entities responsible for technical development
- **Military Personnel & Veterans – Advocacy and support for military personnel and veterans and their families.**  
Sub-Committee Chair, Lettie Bien, US Army Reserve Ambassador
  - Give NGIC/DIA/JAG membership to the Chamber immediately
  - Continue “Serviceperson of the Year Luncheon,” sponsored by the Chamber
    - Improve this year by recognizing someone specifically
  - Develop intentional Leadership/Outreach/Connections volunteer roles
  - Develop a Welcome Package for new military personnel coming to the community
    - ID/Encourage Chamber Members discounts for military related community
      - Develop a survey, get sponsorship for a directory, print and distribute
    - ID all the services available in the community that would be helpful (e.g. job assistance, VSO’s, etc.)
  - Develop and administer a survey that would improve our understanding of military needs in the community.
  - Develop a Military Assets Inventory (including VSO’s) that would improve our understanding of our current military footprint.
  - Enhance our recognition program
  - Develop and administer a “Doing Business with the Military/Federal Government” program, including procurement, vetting process, SBA(9)A/CCR