

(REVISED)

## VIRGINIA PENINSULA CHAPTER (VIPMOAA)

2025

### 1st Semi-Annual Report 1 July 2024 - 31 December 2024

<b>I. <u>Membership:</u></b>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Surviving Spouse</u>	<u>Total</u>
As of 30 Jun:	170	57	227
Gains:			
Losses:			
As of 30 Dec:	178	61	239

### **II. Legislative Affairs:**

- A number of years ago we established an “E-Mail Net” which enables the chapter to communicate with chapter members about significant issues quickly and effectively. We used it quite effectively this year to inform them about the on-going struggle between the Governor and the VA Legislature regarding changes to the Virginia Military Survivor Dependent & Education Program (VMSDEP) and urging them to interact with their appropriate State elected representatives!

### **III. Community Affairs:**

- JROTC Involvement: Our chapter engages with 11 JROTC units that operate in our geographic area. We participated in each of their annual “Awards” programs and presented a \$500 “Scholarship” to a Cadet at each of the schools who was selected by the JROTC Senior Instructor. We also present a Special “Certificate of Merit” and a \$50 “Gift Card” to a Junior Cadet at each of the schools.
- We also actively interact with the ROTC programs at the College of William & Mary, Christopher Newport University, and Hampton University. During the course of the year, we invite the PMS from the schools and selected Cadets to be our guests at a Chapter function to make a presentation about their particular program. We also participate in the various annual “Awards” programs at each of the schools and present a \$500 “stipend” to a designated Junior Cadet. We also attend a participate in each of the school’s “Commissioning” ceremonies.
- Other: Each year we identify and present a “Contribution” to selected organizations in our geographic region. This year we presented a \$500 donation the “Old Dominion Honor Flight, the Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce’s “Home for the Holidays” fund which provides travel assistance for young Military members at to get home for the Holidays, the Williamsburg House of Mercy, and the USO of Southern Virginia.

- Over the last ten years, the chapter has contributed over \$19,000 to support non-profit community organizations, provided \$56,000 for College scholarships to outstanding JROTC Cadets, and over \$3800 in JROTC “Leadership” awards to JROTC Junior Cadets. We have also provided over \$6000 “Leadership” awards to ROTC cadets during this time period!

#### **IV. Levels of Excellence/Communication Awards:**

- Our chapter was selected for a “5 Star” Award for 2023 and has received “5 Star” recognition for 18 of the last 19 years!
- The chapter was also selected for a “5 Star” Communication Award and received special recognition for our “E-Mail Net!”

#### **V. Significant Chapter Events (Speakers, social activities, etc.):**

- The chapter began the year at a “cross-roads!”. We were unable to fill some of our “key” leadership positions and, as a result, we decided to reduce the number of formal activities for the year from one every month, except July, to one every other month. We agreed, however, to continue to support the Annual “Tri-Chapter” activity (which includes our chapter and the Hampton Roads and Portsmouth Chapters) in July.
- In August, the chapter was most pleased to listen to a special presentation by a local citizen, Dr John Delano, on the “Artemis” space initiative which is a multinational effort to return astronauts to the Lunar surface in 2006 with the goal of establishing a permanent base on the Moon’s south polar region. Dr. Delano has a PhD in Chemistry and has served on Scientific Advisory Panels for both NASA the National Science Foundation.
- In 1824 President James Monroe invited the Marquis de Lafayette to visit the United States to participate in ceremonies which were going to be held throughout the US to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nation’s “Independence!” Lafayette accepted the invitation and visited all 24 states which existed at the time during a 16-month visit! In October, the Chapter agreed to participate in and be a sponsor of a special event commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lafayette’s visit hosted by the “American Friends of Lafayette” which was held in the Ballroom of the Chamberlin Hotel located at Ft Monroe. 30 chapter members and their spouses attended the event.
- Our annual December “Holiday Party” was held at the historic and lovely James River Country Club located on the James River in Newport News, VA. Over 60 members and their spouses attended for what has become our largest attended event of the year.

Submitted by: Col Jim Pauls, 1/15/2025