A Message from the Chair


BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) is a process of the United States federal government directed at the administration and operation of the Armed Forces, used by the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and Congress to close excess military installations and realign the total asset inventory to reduce expenditures on operations and maintenance, aimed at achieving increased efficiency in line with Congressional and DoD objectives. (www.wikipedia.org)

These are two terms and definitions that you need to know and probably already do, however if you’re not following the language in the past couple of National Defense Authorization Acts relating to lab and warfare center consolidation, you might not be seeing the whole picture.

If any of these three issues were to go unchecked it could be devastating to our region and industry. SENEDIA has been following all three of these very real and very important issues closely. A recent study on sequestration by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University stated:

“An initial reduction of $45.01 billion in DOD spending for the acquisition of military equipment would generate losses in sales throughout the supply chain and induce sales losses through the broader economy totaling $164,059,027,945; that is, for each $1 in DOD spending reductions for military equipment, an additional $2.64 in sales losses will be experienced by other businesses with 71% of these lost sales occurring as a result of decreased consumer spending by workers directly and indirectly affected by these DOD spending reductions—workers having lost their jobs and/or experienced salary reductions.” Furthermore they project that 75,000 jobs could be lost in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island if the projected cuts are made.

SENEDIA remains closely aligned with our congressional delegation from Southeastern New England as we continue to educate and advocate in support of the defense economy. To that end, we are working through the RI Economic Development Corporation and the Newport County Chamber to support a regional defense economy impact study by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute with the Mass High Tech Council. This study will provide updated and concrete data related to our industry, stay tuned for more this study.

I would be remiss if I didn’t take a moment to thank Dr. Paul Lefebvre for his many years of outstanding service to the nation, most recently as the Division Technical Director (DTD) here in Newport, while also welcoming Mary Wohlge-muth as our new DTD who is no stranger to Newport. Welcome Mary, we look forward to a long and healthy partnership.

In closing, we do have some openings on the Board of Directors; if you’re interested in being more involved please contact any board member or me directly for more information. (Timothy_DelGiudice@Raytheon.com or 401-842-3969).

Thank you and have a wonderful summer.

Best Regards,
Tim DelGiudice
Breakfast Meeting with NUWC Technical Director
Thursday February 2, 2012

On Thursday February 2, 2012 Mr. Donald McCormack, Technical Director of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, addressed the SENEDIA membership at a breakfast meeting at the Mainstay Inn in Newport. Mr. McCormack also took this opportunity to introduce the new Technical Director of NUWC Division Newport, Ms. Mary Wohlgemuth.

Mr. McCormack, a member of the Senior Executive Service since September 2001, was appointed as the Technical Director (TD) for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) in November 2004. As TD, Mr. McCormack directs technical activities at NUWC sites in the United States and at its major test ranges worldwide. He is responsible for the planning and execution of a broad range of technical programs that involve over 4,000 employees and an annual budget of over $1B. Prior to this assignment, Mr. McCormack served as the Director for Undersea Warfare Command and Control (USW CC) Systems Product Area, an assignment he accepted in October 2003. As Director for USW CC, he became the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) focal point, leader, and advocate for all USW CC Systems and represented the product area (PA) to customers. Mr. McCormack had served as Executive Director of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport from May 2002 until his assignment in October 2003 as USW CC PAD. In this position, he was responsible for the overall planning and direction of the scientific and technical activities related to the U.S. Navy’s USW systems.

Ms. Wohlgemuth, a member of the Senior Executive Service since 2004, was appointed Division Technical Director (DTD) in 2012. The DTD is responsible for stewarding NUWC Newport’s technical capabilities to nurture science, technology, and innovation; executing human capital strategies and the business operations of the Division; and providing oversight and liaison to optimize national work alignment decisions. One of the DTD’s primary responsibilities is ensuring the long-term technical health and stability of the organization by defining what the Division will be in the future and how the Division can best fulfill Navy needs through its technical capabilities. Prior to this assignment she held a variety of leadership positions of executive responsibility in engineering and management. Her prior assignments include Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Warfare Centers Corporate Business Executive; Director, Executive Management Program Office, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Civilian Human Resources; NAVSEA, and Assistant Deputy Commander, Fleet Logistics Support. She also previously served in a variety of leadership positions at NUWC Newport, including Head of the Torpedo Systems Department, Acting Director, Weapons Systems Directorate; and Acting Product Area Director for Weapons and Vehicle Systems.

Mr. McCormack addressed the outlook for the Navy’s budget, commenting that the importance of the Persian Gulf and the associated Undersea Warfare (USW) forward presence is reflected in the budget. He also discussed NAVSEA’s contracting focus and the responsibilities of NAVSEA’s leadership in ensuring an effective and efficient contracting strategy. He emphasized the need for competition, for post award review of performance including bid rates versus actual rates, and the revitalized Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) role. NAVSEA will be issuing new policies and procedures with respect to service contracting. It was noted that NUWC Division Newport had approximately $1.2B in revenue in fiscal year 2011 of which approximately 50% was contracted out.

Mr. McCormack discussed the status of the NAVSEA Warfare Centers’ transition to the Navy Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. In discussing NUWC’s outreach programs, he solicited industry to partner on outreach initiatives as this effort is critical to ensuring the next generation of engineers and scientists. From a technical perspective, Mr. McCormack discussed the renewed emphasis on systems reliability as well as the Cyber and Information Dominance roles for Undersea Warfare platforms.

Save the Date
SENEDIA 10th Annual Golf Tournament

The 10th Annual Golf Tournament of the Southeastern Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA) is scheduled to take place at the Fenner Hill Golf Club on Friday, September 7th. This tournament is always a great event and a way for all SENEDIA members to get to know each other in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. The Shotgun start will be a little earlier this year at 8:30 A.M. Registration will be open at 7:30 A.M.

The cost for a Foursome will be $440.00, but any team registering by 24 August will be eligible for the early bird price of $360.00. All teams will receive a cart, 18-holes of golf, a boxed lunch, and hamburgers/hot dogs after the tournament. Teams wishing to purchase a Gold Sponsorship for $650.00 will receive a free foursome, tee box signage, and a special gift for everyone in your foursome. Teams will be able to purchase raffle tickets and mulligans prior to the start of play.

Prizes will be given to the top 5 teams, and there will be many raffle opportunities. For more information, please contact Conn Kelly or Domenic Gargano at 849-4010 or Kathy Pazera at 849-8900. Tournament entry forms will be available on the SENEDIA website and there will be an option to register using PayPal or via check made out to SENEDIA. We look forward to seeing you there!
RI Defense Economy Planning Commission and NUWC Visit

In the 2010 RI General Assembly session, the Legislature created a special legislative commission to study the defense economy and its impacts to our State and its people. The Commission consists of RI Senate and House members, State Government, SENEDIA members, private sector businesses, and several private, non-profit organizations, such as the Newport County Chamber of Commerce, for a total of 25 Commissioners. On February 14, 2011, the RI Defense Economy Planning Commission held its first meeting, co-chaired by Senator Teresa Paiva Weed and Representative Raymond Gallison, at the RI State House. The Chairs outlined the basic purpose of the said commission, which was to discuss issues pertaining to the state’s defense economy and propose initiatives to sustain and enhance the defense economy in Rhode Island.

Additional public meetings were held in 2011 that included visits and tours of the RI National Guard facilities at the Quonset Air Base, General Dynamics Electric Boat Quonset Facility, Naval Station Newport and the Raytheon Seapower Capabilities Center.

On Monday, March 12, 2012, the Commission was hosted by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) HQ and Division Newport to hear from Captain Todd Cramer, Donald McCormack and Mary Wohlgemuth about the DoD Working Capital Fund Model used to fund NUWC operations plus an overall Operational Overview. Tours were held of the USW Launchers Laboratory, Combat Systems Laboratory and the Periscope Repair Facility located on Pier 2. It was a great opportunity for Commissioners to assess the operational missions of NUWC and view several of its key labs.

The Commission is managing all data collection associated with post BRAC 2005 activities, assessing the talks from Washington DC of the proposed future BRAC rounds, as well as the impacts Sequestration would have on area businesses.

SENEDIA Will Play an Important Role in Preparing for a NEW BRAC Review

As has been discussed in the press, the Department of Defense (DoD) is examining the need for a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) reviews of all existing military installations for possible cost cutting measures. Additionally, the DoD has the powers of internal reorganization that can greatly reduce the footprint of DoD support in South- eastern New England.

All SENEDIA members are keenly aware of the continuing downward fiscal pressure being exerted on DoD by events both in the US and abroad. SENEDIA is well positioned to play a key role in preparing for the next round of BRAC reviews and/or consolidation efforts should they occur. We are in the unique position of being intimately aware of DoD events and trends both here in Southeastern New England and across the country as well as having deep collaborative relationships with Federal, State, and local leadership.

SENEDIA actively participated in preparations for the 2005 BRAC reviews. This effort included our members preparing white papers and briefs helping our elected leaders organize and understand the issues that would affect Southeastern New England. Members also served on the RI BRAC Commission established by then Governor Donald Carcieri and RI House Defense Economy Planning Commission. The results were a net gain in DoD employment in the state of RI and helped secure the future of SUBASE Groton.

Consider this as a call to action for you all who are members or considering becoming one. The SENEDIA Board of Directors continuously monitors DoD organizational strategies and is currently organizing for the next possible round of BRAC and/or consolidation activity. Please contact us if you are willing to participate in our efforts. Please join SENEDIA if you are not a member. We will ensure that you have the latest information on BRAC and other emerging issues that may affect your company.

Congressman Keating Presentation to SENEDIA

SENEDIA hosted a meeting with Congressman Bill Keating from Massachusetts’s 10th congressional district for our members and other individuals from Southern New England on April 10th at the UMASS Dartmouth Advanced Technology & Manufacturing Center in Fall River. Over 40 people were in attendance. His optimism on the growth of new businesses and technologies in this Southern New England area was very well received. His display of a “can do” attitude will hopefully permeate through this area and provide another foundation block for business growth.

Congressman Keating discussed the U.S. Coast Guard’s new General Dynamics C4 Systems-built Rescue 21 Search and Rescue communications system that he had just seen. He made a strong argument for lessening “security licensing” restrictions for companies in this area. His comments on “perimeter security at airports”, ocean technology, and energy initiatives as technology areas that need focus were excellent. Congressman Keating recognizes that SBIR’s are a key business element for many companies in this area and the news that both Phase I and Phase II award amounts are increasing is good news.
RI STEM Center Hosts Statewide Conference

On Friday, May 4th, the RI STEM Center at Rhode Island College hosted its second statewide conference, “EmpowerRIng the Future.” The primary outcome of the conference was to bring together business leaders, educators and community organizations for the purpose of forming a coalition to address the needs for a skilled workforce in Rhode Island. Mary Sullivan, director of the STEM Center, stated, “The goal is to work together to develop solutions to close the skills gap so that Rhode Islanders are equipped to fill job openings which require knowledge in STEM fields and can take their place in the innovation economy.” The RI STEM Center is a member of the Defense Industry Partnership that funded the Rhode Island Defense Industry Skill Gap Study conducted by Ninigret Partners in 2012. The Defense Industry Partnership, which includes SENEDIA as the lead partner, was the conference’s major sponsor.

Lou Mazzucchelli, Director of InRule Technology, visiting scholar at the Brown University School of Engineering and director of the Slater Technology Fund Fellows Program, provided a thought-provoking keynote address, “Rethinking the Rhode Island Economy.” A panel discussion, “What Businesses Are Looking For?,” was moderated by Timothy DelGiudice of Raytheon, chair of the SENEDIA Board of Directors, and included SENEDIA member Karen Conti of RITE Solutions. Two breakout sessions, “Recruiting Generation Z” and “A Foot in the Door is only the Beginning” addressed skills businesses need and the employment process, from first interview through first year. Other breakout sessions focused on the contribution of student internships and teacher experiences in business to workforce development and presented STEM programs that currently serve K-12 students. The overall program provided information about gaps in workforce skills from the business perspective as background for the coalition formation.

A Business Symposium followed the conference on May 22 to begin to develop a program of summer teacher fellowships in businesses thorough which teachers gain experiences to bring back to the classroom and incorporate into their instruction. In addition, the STEM Center is working with businesses and higher education institutions to increase the number of student internships as a means to address the skills gap identified by potential employers.

The RI STEM Center at Rhode Island College opened in February 2009, with funding for the facility provided by a mix of state and federal sources. The purpose of the STEM Center is to improve STEM literacy and the quality of STEM education throughout the state of Rhode Island. Sullivan stated that the Center recognizes that the future economic health of Rhode Island requires workers who have the range of skills that include STEM content, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. Toward that end, the STEM Center is committed to facilitating professional development, research, and collaborative partnerships among educators, teacher candidates, students, and business and community stakeholders to advance STEM education and workforce development.

For more information about involvement with the coalition, contact RI STEM Center Director, Mary Sullivan.

SENEDIA 2012-2013 Scholarships

On May 11, 2012, the Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA) Board of Directors voted to support 6 Scholarship Applications for the 2012/2013 academic year. Since its inception in 2009, the scholarship program labored to secure applications, and this year was the most applications received. Clearly, the news is spreading about the Scholarship program, and the diversification of the applicants and the curriculum of study the five awardees are engaged in, are evidence that SENEDIA is addressing STEM education – a clear goal of the program. Finally, it is worth noting that four of the five recipients are associated with SENEDIA member companies.

The 2012 – 2013 academic year recipients of the SENEDIA Scholarship Awards are:

1. Caleb Chase: Newport, RI. Northeastern University, Chemical Engineering
2. Erin Larcom: Middletown, RI. URI, Doctorate of Pharmacy
3. Matthew Sheehan: South Kingstown, RI. URI, Chemical Eng. & Physics
5. Lisa Dion: Tiverton, RI. Providence College, Mathematics & Computer Science

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www.senedia.org