

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF UNITED STATES JOINT FORCES COMMAND (JFCOM) AND REQUESTING THE VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND GOVERNOR RICHARD BLOOMER TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN JFCOM'S PRESENCE IN HAMPTON ROADS.**

**WHEREAS**, the mission of JFCOM is 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 in the cities of Portsmouth, Norfolk, Suffolk and elsewhere, over 6,324 people including 5600 in Hampton Roads; and

**WHEREAS**, JFCOM has an operating budget of \$704 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the Defense Business Board, a Pentagon Advisory Board, presented a report making many recommendations including the need to address unsustainable trends associated with military entitlements, the reduction of the number of military personnel serving in commercial non-government activities, the elimination of uniformed personnel serving in governmental activities that should be occupied by Department of Defense (DOD) civilian employees, and most importantly, reduction of the number and size of Combatant Commands beginning with the elimination of JFCOM and streamlining other commands and Operational Services Division (OSD) regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Defense Business Board Report also stated a need to do more in-depth study which has not been done on the JFCOM issue; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 9, 2010, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates officially recommended that JFCOM be closed; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed closure of JFCOM is being done without any regard for Federal Law, particularly Title 10 of the U.S. Code, § 2687 which was established to ensure that Congress has sufficient time and opportunity to review the DOD proposal that resulted in the closure realignment of significant military facilities which JFCOM surely is; and

**WHEREAS**, the closure of JFCOM would have an immediate and continuing severely 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 over \$700 million impact mentioned above; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Hampton Roads region is united in this effort to maintain JFCOM and the preparedness of our military.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia that it strongly opposes the Secretary of Defense's recommendation to close the United States Joint Forces Command; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Governor Robert McDonnell and the Commonwealth's Congressional and General Assembly delegations are urgently requested to 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 now 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** that the proposed closure of JFCOM should be undertaken either as part of a base realignment and closure process as established by Congress or within the strict intent and impact of 10 USC 260-2687; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Portsmouth stands ready to work diligently with the localities of the Hampton Roads region to maintain JFCOM and ensure the preparedness of our military.

**ADOPTED** by the Council of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia at a meeting held on August 24, 2010.

Teste:

*Delna G. White*

City Clerk

