



Virginia Association of Counties

# ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



## SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Prince George County, VA  
Program Title: Capitol Region Military Alliance  
Program Category: Regional Collaboration

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Kristen Pudlow  
Title: Deputy County Administrator  
Department: County Administration  
Telephone: 804-704-2624 Website: hpgchamber.org  
Email: kpudlow@princegeorgecountyva.gov

### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Kristen Pudlow  
Title: Deputy County Admin.  
Signature:  7/1/2024



# 2024 VACO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD SUBMISSION PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY, VA

*Capitol Region Military Alliance-VA*



DATE 1 July, 2024

## **PROBLEM/CHALLENGE/SITUATION**

The Central Region of Virginia has three military installations and was missing an active civil-military alliance. The Commonwealth of Virginia has the highest number of veterans, with over 700,000 and over twenty military installations. Many areas in the Commonwealth of Virginia have active committees to create economic opportunities for the military community, grow the workforce through local business communities, and grow collaborative partnerships that enhance military and community resilience.

### **Program Category**

10. Regional Collaboration



# AWARD CRITERIA

## Operational Period:

The alliance started with discussions in August of 2023, followed by work and coordination for the creation of a civil-military alliance in central Virginia in October of 2023. The selection of a group of individuals to start and lead the alliance took place and the leadership group then worked to attend a conference in Orlando in November of 2023 and formulate how to engage the community.

## Local Government:

Prince George's County was instrumental in the formation of the alliance and contributed countless staff hours from the new Deputy County Administrator and County Administrator to ensure project management and effective organizational success through collaboration tools such as TEAMS, a SharePoint (members-only webpage with information and for information sharing) and three grant submissions in July 2024 via County Board of Supervisor Approval. Outside of conference attendance, no outside organizations have been brought in to stand up the program.

## Innovation/Collaboration/Model:

As outlined in the Project Description, multiple organizations and community members have come together to realize this movement in the Central Virginia Region among communities connected to the three military installations. The format of the meetings and collaboration tools are innovative and have provided a model for other localities and organizations.

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Chartered under the Hopewell Prince George Chamber of Commerce (signed February 2024), the Capitol Region Military Alliance of Virginia (CaRMA-VA) focuses on initiatives that generate economic opportunity, improve the quality of life for military families and the communities surrounding Fort Barfoot, Fort Gregg-Adams, and Defense Supply Center Richmond. Consists of appointed representatives from the area Chamber of Commerce, planning district commissions, cities, counties, industry, academia, and ex-officio advisory representatives from DOD organizations and installations.

**Mission:** Actively facilitate community and government support to sustain and enhance current military missions, pursue future missions, and promote the region's contribution to national defense.





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Due to the leadership of the County and collaboration and involvement in CaRMAs project management meeting formats and collaboration tools, CaRMA has been successful in facilitating impactful collaboration across the region with growing interest and support. CaRMA does not hold networking meetings; we hold working group meetings. Collaboration and networking take place as a result of working together. All meeting invitees are there due to their expertise or position, ability, and willingness to support the project. Meetings start with a ten-minute intro, a review of the agenda, and a new member introduction. Members pay for their own meals and multiple working groups meet at different tables to discuss the projects. Only five meetings have resulted in three grant submissions and a large community meeting. CaRMA has held five working group meetings, with all but one meeting held in a business space donated free of cost to CaRMA (Hopewell Chamber Organized the meeting spaces and donation) and has, as a result, submitted three grant applications to support projects that benefit both the military and the community. All of the success of CaRMA to date is due to the collaboration and contribution of many people and organizations. The following is a list of projects to date with two new projects taking shape this month as well (not listed).

**Appomattox River Trail Planning Grant** - a request to pay for the first planning phase of the Prince George County section of the Appomattox River Trail (ART) located near Fort Gregg-Adams. Project partners include Prince George County, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR), Fort Gregg-Adams, and the Hopewell Prince George Chamber of Commerce (CaRMA falls under the Hopewell Prince George Chamber; they are a partner on all projects).

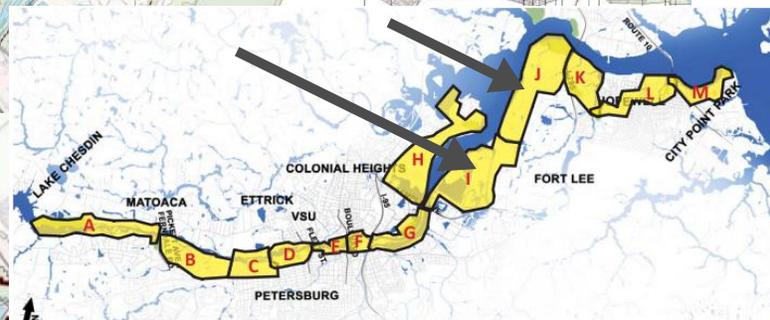
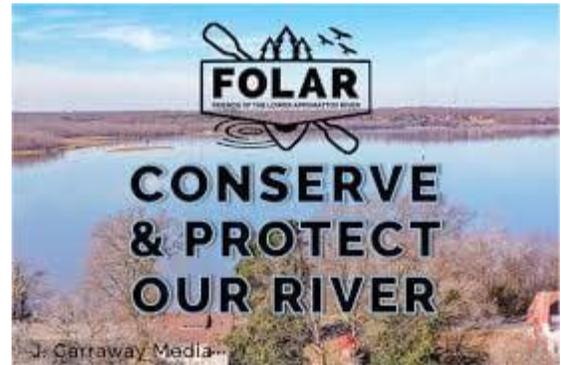
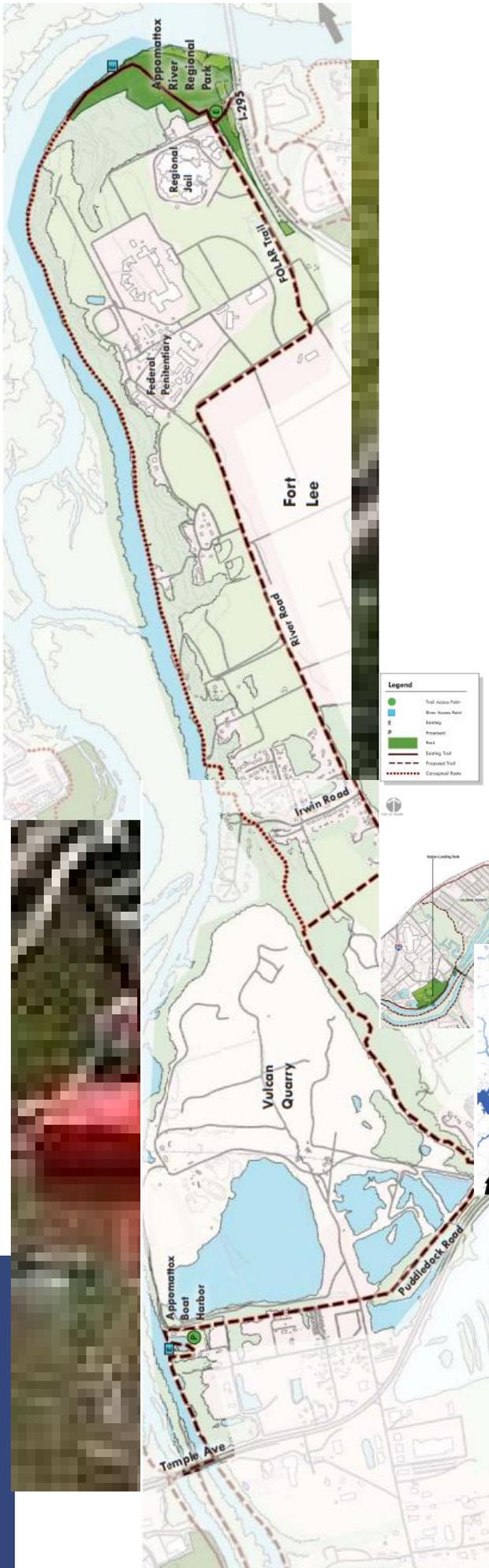
**Regional Rural Fire Training Center Grant** - a request to fund a Regional Rural Fire Training Center located on Fort Gregg-Adams with a lease to Prince George County of the land to ensure local Fire Departments have adequate time to conduct live fire training which is currently limited due to capacity limitations in larger localities and the distance to the existing training site, located over an hour away. Project partners include the Fort Gregg-Adams Fire Department, Prince George County Fire Department, and the Hopewell Prince George Chamber of Commerce.

**Parachute Drop-zone Recertification and Utility Line Burial Grant** - a request for funds to pay to have utility lines located underground that are on and adjacent to the Fort Gregg-Adams Parachute drop-zone and removal of above-ground powerlines in the immediate area. The drop-zone was shut down in 2010 due to the death of a Soldier whose parachute was caught in a powerline adjacent to the drop-zone. Since this incident, Fort Gregg-Adams parachute training has been stopped, and these Soldiers must now drive over an hour away to conduct parachute training. Project partners include Dominion Energy, Comcast, Fort Gregg-Adams, Prince George County, and the Hopewell Prince George's Chamber of Commerce.

**Inaugural Business Meeting** - a project to bring together community leaders and partners from business, local government, the three military installations, and six regional chambers of commerce to engage and support future projects for CaRMA to work towards better outcomes for the military and the community. This meeting will introduce the community to military leaders and military members and allow collaboration between the community and military installations. Project partners include Hopewell Prince George Chamber of Commerce (leading agency), Blackstone Chamber, Dinwiddie County Chamber, Chesterfield Chamber, Chamber RVA, Southside Electric Cooperative, The Stodola meeting space, AUSA Southern Virginia Chapter, and the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA).

# PROJECTS

PGC Section of the Appomattox River Trail - Planning Grant



# PROJECTS

Regional Fire Training Center



# PROJECTS

Parachute Drop-zone





# Inaugural

## *Business Meeting for the Capitol Region Military Alliance*

- A Best Practice for defense communities is for Business and Military to work together, effectively creating One Community.
- Harnessing the power of One Community, across the country, is the engine that strengthens our national defense, grows our economy, invests in human capital, builds infrastructure, and enhances the overall quality of life.

Register Link: [Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce](#)

**Date:** 11 July, 2024 from 9am to 10:30am

**Location:** The Stodola, A Gathering Place

4610 Prince George Drive, Prince George, VA 23875

**Cost:** \$20 per person