

CHARTER of
THE CHARLESTON DEFENSE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

MISSION STATEMENT

To advocate, preserve, and protect the real, capital, and economic interests of the companies and clients of the defense industry in the Charleston metro area and surrounding regions.

I. PREFACE

In order to address issues facing the Charleston, South Carolina military industrial complex, the Charleston Defense Contractors Association, or CDCA, is hereby formed. The CDCA will provide guidance and assistance, and take actions to benefit its members and the local defense community with the greater Charleston community's best interests as the underlying foundation. The structure, responsibilities, and functions, of the CDCA will follow the general guidelines outlined below. The CDCA will perform as a 501(c)6 non-profit advocacy group within the laws of the state of South Carolina.

II. NAME

The organization shall be the Charleston Defense Contractors Association. Alternatively, it may be designated CDCA.

III. PURPOSE

The general purpose of the CDCA is to address issues and opportunities facing the Charleston, South Carolina defense community. Specifically, the CDCA will: (1) perform as an advocacy group for the defense industry in the Charleston metro area and other surrounding regions, (2) provide liaison with local, state, and federal governmental agencies, elected officials, legislatures, and special groups and committees, (3) take actions to develop or improve the local defense community's ability to develop, attract, retain, and more effectively execute business opportunities, and (4) to foster the increased and improved interaction between defense contractors for accomplishment of better services to defense customers.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the CDCA will be in accordance with the by-laws of the corporation. Board members of the CDCA shall be individuals whose business and professional careers have earned them a reputation for sound judgment, decisive action, and integrity. Members shall also have knowledge of and interest in the Charleston defense community and an interest and concern for the development, advancement, and recognition of Charleston defense organizations, and the local defense contractor community. Members shall be available to attend meetings and devote the time and resources necessary to effectively serve the CDCA. Interested individuals may contact the CDCA Officers or Board members to be added to the membership list.

V. MEETINGS

The CDCA shall normally meet monthly and annually at a time and place in accordance with the schedule established by the Board of Directors.

VI. FUNCTIONS

The CDCA will consider matters including but are not limited to:

1. Developing connections to local interest groups and individuals including local, state, and federal elected officials, chambers of commerce, technical development groups, professional military organizations and committees and defense agency leadership.
2. Taking action to provide information, solicit desired outcomes, and promote issues in the best interest of the local defense community.
3. Actively working in the best interest of SPAWAR Systems Center – Atlantic, or SSC-LANT, on Military Value, Transformation and support to the Joint Warfighter.
4. Researching and coordinating efforts to initiate special legislation that will help SSC-LANT perform expanded or new missions.

5. Working with academic organizations to suggest improved technical educational opportunities at the undergraduate and graduate level.
6. Attend Chamber of Commerce meetings and become more involved in community events.
7. Fostering increased communications between various local defense contractors to develop better teaming opportunities, to jointly develop solutions to community wide defense issues, and to improve service offerings to defense customers.
8. Pursuing new business opportunities for SSC-LANT and the local defense community through connections with the end-user community or potential funding sources.

VII. OFFICERS

In accordance with the bylaws of the corporation, a Board of Directors including the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer elected by the membership will lead the CDCA. The officers of the corporation shall be elected annually to serve one-year terms. The President is responsible for scheduling and leading meetings, publishing meeting minutes, maintaining an archive of corporate efforts, and acting as the primary liaison for the committee's external interactions with other groups, agencies, or individuals concerning committee activities.