

HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE

BRAC BIT: #27

DATE: 2 March 2009

SUBJECT(S): HC BRAC Task Force and Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC) Actions

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DISCUSSION:

1. **Howard County BRAC Task Force Support:** The Task Force has transitioned from its operational focus on 7 functional committees to 2 modules; business support and family support. Raj Kudchadkar is assisting the Family Support Group and Kent Menser is assisting the Business Support Group.
 - a. **Family Support Actions:**
 - i. Working with the housing, health and human services and education committees
 - ii. Continuing to assess results of surveys of military families in Howard County
 - b. **Business Support Actions:**
 - i. Workforce Development Committee transitioning into becoming the core of the Business Support Module.
 - ii. Module leadership is in their initial phase of defining the character and magnitude of the work force challenge in Howard County and the region
 - iii. After problem definition, staffing of the module group will begin. More to come on this. If you have an interest in this action, please let me know, if you have not already.
 - c. **Lessons Learned Committee:** This unique organization will be traveling to three BRAC locations during the next month; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Belvoir and Patuxent Naval Air Station. The objective is to learn from the efforts of others, past and present.
2. **Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC):** This committee consists of 8 counties, 2 cities, Fort Meade, NSA, DISA and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. The work of the RGMC is focused on three areas:
 - a. **Transportation:** Jean Friedberg's RGMC Transportation Committee got off to a good start at its first meeting last week. A reminder to all that this is a working group with a mission! One of this committee's missions is to assist in the coordination of a variety of transportation modes and infrastructure actions in the Meade Coordination Zone (MCZ). It is critical that all stakeholders inside the MCZ plan and work together to produce an effective and safe transportation network. Picture the "bumper car" rides at the carnival, if we do not work together!
 - b. **Work Force:** The Business Support Module in Howard County has a major regional effort that will morph into the RGMC effort.
 - c. **Emergency Services:** To be candid, a great group of people from across the RGMC have done their homework in this area, but we have not made the kind of progress we need. Our initial focus has been on receiving a grant from the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) to help us identify the magnitude of the problem, before we organize to solve it. OEA has encouraged the RGMC to explore other available funding options with Federal Departments before we come to them. We are in the process of doing that now. Ultimately, we may have to address the problem head on, today, while concurrently working on the grant from the Federal Government.