

**Howard County BRAC Task Force (HC-BRAC-TF)**

**Task Force Memorandum:** 2008-03

**For:** Howard County BRAC Constituency  
**Subject:** Update of Fort Meade Growth Impacts and Opportunities  
**Date:** 25 February 2008  
**Originator:** Kent Menser, Executive Director of the HC BRAC Office

**Purpose:** The purpose of this memorandum is to update our Fort Meade Growth/BRAC constituency on the latest actions, events and schedules related to this important effort. If I have left out important information or you have a great solution to an issue, please let me know. Kent Menser 410-313-6521 or [kmenser@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kmenser@howardcountymd.gov)

**Background:** There are numerous Fort Meade Growth (FMG) related actions ongoing throughout the county, region and state. It is important to understand that in support of these actions there are three separate, but related key organizations. They are:

- Howard County BRAC Task Force: County Level Organization with 11 committees and 170 members
- Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee: Regional Level Organization which has grown to 8 Counties and 2 cities
- State of Maryland BRAC Subcabinet: State Level Organization with 11 Cabinet Members and a Local Government Subcommittee consisting of representatives of the eight counties and two cities in Maryland that will be most affected by BRAC.

**Howard County BRAC Task Force:**

<b>BRAC TF Committees</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>
<i>Work Force Housing</i>	Tom Ballentine	Stacey Spann
<i>Public Safety</i>	Joseph Herr	William McMahon
<i>Education</i>	Bob Price	Roger Plunkett
<i>Transportation</i>	Ron Meliker	Carl Balser
<i>Infrastructure</i>	Wayne Wilhelm	Steve Gerwin
<i>Health and Human Services</i>	Vidia Dhanraj	Lois Mikkila
<i>Workforce Development</i>	Francine Trout	Patty Keeton
<b>Lessons Learned</b>	Dwight Hollenbach	
<b>Plans and Analysis Team</b>	Jean Friedberg	
<b>Resource Partners</b>	Theo Bell	
<b>Executive</b>	Sam Seymour	

- **Task Force Discussion**
  - *Committee Level Work:*
    - Phase III of Task Force work started in January of 2008. Like Phase II, 95% of all the work will be accomplished at the committee level. This means that we will continue to have fewer Task Force Level meetings.

- One of the only weaknesses that surfaced in some committees during phase II was the lack of full participation by all committee members. If you are a chairperson, please take the time to encourage involvement by every member of your committee. If you are a committee member, you need to be aggressive in making sure your voice is heard.
- *Phase III Objectives*
  - Conduct comparative analysis between current status of HC as it relates to the Maryland State BRAC Action Plan
  - Conduct “Silo Crunching:” Breakdown barriers and take advantage of synergies between the 7 functional areas and the supporting committees
  - Complete Phase II Work
  - Document Phase II
- *County Executive Update:* Our next interim update for the County Executive will be in April of 2008. The focus will be on the Maryland State BRAC Action Plan and our approach to regional issues.
- *New Committee Chairperson:* Steve Gerwin, Chief of HC Bureau of Utilities will become the new Co-Chair of the TF Infrastructure Committee. He will be replacing Bob Beringer, who has left HC Government for the private sector. Bob did a terrific job and we are fortunate that he will remain a member of the Infrastructure Committee.
- *New Committee:* In March we will inaugurate our 12<sup>th</sup> committee; Federal Families. More to come on this.
- *Emergency Services:* On 15 Feb, the Howard County BRAC Task Force and NSA hosted a meeting on the subject of Emergency Services joint support. The Emergency Services leadership of Anne Arundel County, Howard County, Fort Meade Installation and NSA attended this meeting. Thanks to the high levels of professionalism and commitment demonstrated by all parties, the event was a great success. More to follow on this subject.
- *Task Force Interviews/discussions:*
  - I completed interviews of all 20 Committee Co-chairs in January, 18 will remain in leadership positions, one chair asked to carry on as a committee member because of business demands and the other is leaving county government. Most consistent theme from the leadership was more communications between the committees; silo-crunching.
  - I am in the process of interviewing each member of the Task Force. This will not happen overnight! Expect a call within the next 60 days. Interview objectives are to capture new and innovative ideas in approaching our work and improve TF practices where appropriate.
- *New Task Force Members:* Currently we have about 20 new members waiting to be integrated into the Task Force. Our apologies to some of you who have been waiting since this past December. Our goal is to bring

new members in to the committees as they begin their Phase III work, which starts the first week in March. We will be in contact with all new members this last week in February on your next steps.

- *Join the Task Force:* If you would like to join the Howard County BRAC Task Force just send me an email message and we will meet and discuss capabilities and requirements.
- *Howard County BRAC Task Force Meeting Information:*
  - Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM:
    - 12 March 2008 (**Canceled**)
    - 9 April 2008
    - 14 May 2008
    - 11 June 2008
  - Meeting Location (Same for all meetings):  
Howard County Gateway Office Building  
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive (First Floor)  
Columbia, Maryland

**Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee (RGMC)**

<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Ex Officio Members</b>	<b>Primary Representative</b>
Ann Arundel County	County Executive	Bob Leib
Baltimore City	Deputy Mayor for Neighborhood & Economic Development	Elaine Garvin
Baltimore County	County Executive	Bill Jones
Carroll County	President of County Commissioners	Larry Twele
Fort George G. Meade	Garrison Commander	Ted Hartman
Fort Meade Alliance	Alliance President	Jay Baldwin
Howard County	County Executive	Kent Menser
City of Laurel	Mayor	Kristy Mills
Talbot County	Council President	Paige Bethke
National Security Agency	Community Relations Chief	Kay Hill
Prince George's County	County Executive	Wanda Plumer
Montgomery County	County Executive	Phil Alperson
Queen Anne's County	President of County Commissioners	Faith Elliot-Rossing

- **RGMC Discussion:**
  - *RGMC Vision, Mission and Objectives:*
    - **Vision:** The Fort George G. Meade Growth Management Committee will provide actionable information that will mobilize local governments in the region to respond to the opportunities and impacts of Fort Meade growth in a coordinated and timely manner.

- **Mission:** Identify and evaluate the impacts and opportunities presented by Fort Meade growth on the Region and where appropriate, develop coordinated responses
- **Objectives:**
  - Ensure that solutions adopted by the committee protect and enhance the region's quality of life
  - Deliver and present actionable information directly into the path of the customers; government, residents and businesses
  - Apply the principles of plurality and transparency in all committee actions
- *Current Status of RGMC:*
  - The Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee is currently undergoing its third growth phase. From two counties and one city in 2006, today it has 8 counties and two cities, with the expectation of several more counties from the Eastern Shore to join us in March 2008. In fact, in January of 2008, RGMC leadership, under the sponsorship of DBED, met and gave a Fort Meade Growth update to the Eastern Shore counties. This will be followed up with a working session in the March timeframe, which will focus on identifying the specific affects of Fort Meade growth on each of the jurisdictions.
  - Fort Meade Region OEA Grant Status:
    - Near Term Highway Corridor Studies - Awarded to URS
    - Transit and Rideshare Planning Study - Awarded to KFH
    - Regional Housing Study - Phase I - Awarded to Sage
    - Project Relocate (HC Social Services) - Bids are in, pending award.
    - Laurel Traffic Circulation Study - RFP Pending OEA Approval
    - Regional Growth Coordination - BRAC Positions in Anne Arundel and Howard Counties
- *Meade Coordination Zone (MCZ):* The MCZ purpose is to provide a forum for raising the awareness of all parties with actions and/or interests inside this 5 mile arc around Fort Meade. Currently Anne Arundel and Howard Counties are in the process of identifying their actions inside the zone. Once this is accomplished, we will be meeting with Laurel, Prince George's County, Fort Meade, NSA, Regional and State Agencies in order to build an effective information base for all of our customers. This is not going to be an easy action, and already we are discovering a lack of connectivity/coordination and awareness between critical ongoing and planned actions.
- *Fort Meade Alliance:* In April of 2008, the Education Committee of the Fort Meade Alliance is coordinating a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) type event for high school students in the region. The

HC BRAC TF is providing assistance to this event. Call our Deputy Director, Raj Kudchadkar at 410-313-6376 if you have any questions on this subject or would like to assist.

- *RGMC Meeting Information:*
  - Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM:
    - 28 February 2008
    - 27 March 2008
    - 24 April 2008
    - 29 May 2008
  - Meeting Location (Same for all meetings):  
Howard County Gateway Office Building  
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive (First Floor)  
Columbia, Maryland
- *28 February RGMC Meeting Purpose and Agenda:*
  - The purpose of this RGMC meeting is to bring together the representatives of the 8 counties and two cities in order to achieve the following objectives:
    - Review draft MOU regarding the establishment of our enlarged RGMC and the processes required to apply for additional OEA planning funds.
    - Review draft operational bylaws of RGMC by which the management and oversight of additional OEA grant disbursements will be governed.
    - Review local and regional priorities as they may apply to a request for additional OEA planning funds. Each member jurisdiction has been asked to bring in and discuss their top three regional priorities

### **State of Maryland BRAC Subcabinet:**

- **State/Subcabinet Discussion:**
  - *Local Government Subcommittee (LGS):* The primary mission of the LGS is to maintain the connection between the BRAC Subcabinet and the jurisdictions in the State of Maryland that will be most affected by BRAC growth. During 2007, the LGS developed a report to the Lt. Governor identifying the impacts and opportunities that BRAC may bring to the State. Currently, the LGS is participating in an action involving the Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA).
  - *LGS OEA Action:* In late 2007, OEA held a conference for all Defense Installations that were gaining workforce populations under the 2005 BRAC Law. At that conference the representatives of the subject communities, unanimously expressed concern about the local resources it will require to prepare their jurisdictions for this growth. In response to these concerns, OEA is asking all of the communities to provide a "working estimate of local projects, but for federal assistance, cannot be undertaken to address mission

growth.” Currently, the LGS is working with DBED to generate the appropriate response on the behalf of the State of Maryland.

- *Maryland Military Installation Council Meeting:* The next quarterly meeting of this organization will be 3 March 2008 at 8:00 AM in the MD Department of H&CD Conference Room at 100 Community Place, Crownsville. The agenda of the meeting will consist of updates on the BRAC Action Plan and the 5 BRAC installations in the state.
- *Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee Meeting:* Has set a bill hearing for SB 206 - "The BRAC Community Enhancement Act" at 1:00pm on February 6<sup>th</sup> in the Senate Building.