

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

**Task Force Memorandum:** 2008-04

**For:** Howard County BRAC Constituency  
**Subject:** Update on Fort Meade Growth Impacts and Opportunities  
**Date:** 19 March 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 at least five separate, but related key organizations. They are:

- **Howard County BRAC Task Force:** County Level Organization with 12 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 effected by BRAC.
- **Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC):** This organization, under the tutelage of BGen Mike Hayes USMC (Ret.) of DBED and has been directed by the Maryland State Legislature to:
  - Identify public infrastructure and other community support necessary to improve mission efficiencies and for the development and expansion of existing military installations in the State;
  - Identify existing and potential impacts of encroachment on military installations in the State;
  - Identify potential State and community actions that can minimize impacts of encroachment and enhance long term potential of Maryland military installations;
  - Identify opportunities for collaborations among military contractors, local governments, the State, academies institutions and military departments to enhance the economic potential of military installations and the economic benefits of military installations to the State;
  - Review State policies, including funding and legislation, to identify actions necessary to prepare for the united DOD 2005 initiative; and
  - Research other states and regions for use of best practices developed to address issues relating to supporting military installation growth or diverting closure, particularly in the area of encroachment.
- **Fort Meade Alliance:**
  - Chartered as a 501c 4 Organization, the Alliance advances and supports the important work being done at Fort Meade in a variety of ways.
    - Coordinates the efforts of businesses, organizations and individuals who support the continued growth and prosperity of Fort Meade
    - Promotes Fort Meade as an essential economic asset and resource in the state of Maryland and advocates at the local, state and federal levels for needs of the installation

- Members of the Fort Meade Alliance understand the value of this tremendous asset to the local and state economy, and want to be part of its growth.

**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
<i>Family Support</i>	Rosi Melendez	Diane Pelesh
<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	

- **Discussion:**
  - *Howard County BRAC Task Force Meeting Information:*
    - Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM:
      - 9 April 2008 (**Canceled**)
      - 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
  - *New Membership:* We have 15 new members joining our Task Force this year. Raj conducted a new member orientation last week and it went very well.
  - *Family Support Committee:* We are very excited about adding this committee to our Task Force. Their mission will be to identify the challenges and best practices that new military, civil service and other families either confront or apply when they move into the county. The Co-chairs, Rosi Melendez and Diane Pelesh have great knowledge and experience in this subject area. We are in the process of staffing this committee with a lawyer, a realtor and other persons with relevant expertise. More to come on this committee.
  - *Fort Meade Tour:* I want to set up a tour of Fort Meade for members of the Task Force and other interested parties. More to follow on this subject, to include a proposed date/time.
  - *DISA Groundbreaking:* I sent out a message approximately two weeks ago asking for the names of people who would like to attend the ground breaking ceremony on 16 April. The cut off date for a response was 17 March. If you responded back to Jill by close of business on 17 March, you have a slot to attend. We will be sending out a confirmation list. More to follow on this subject.
  - *Committee Level Work:*

- We have already seen good staff work in support of our review/assessment of the Maryland BRAC Action Plan. Keep it up!
- We have established fixed meeting schedules for all committees. We have done this so that TF Members can set their schedules months before the actual meeting. Co-chairs can always cancel a scheduled meeting, but please notify Raj when you do. Additionally, a set schedule was needed to develop the lead times necessary to bring staff members from State Agencies into committee meetings.
- All committee members should be contacted by their co-chairs not later than 31 March 2008. If you are a committee member and have not been contacted or made contact by that time, please send me an email.

**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:**

- *Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) Assessment:* This past month, OEA asked the BRAC military installation regions in the State of Maryland for a “prioritize working estimate of local projects (BRAC driven) that, but for federal assistance, can’t be undertaken to address mission growth.” Under the leadership of Mike Hayes of DBED, Billy Hwang of MDOT, and Jean Friedberg of the LGS’s Transportation Subcommittee, the five regions and member counties collaborate very well and met the requirement. The primary focus of the report was on transportation infrastructure requirements within a 5 mile radius of the installations.
- *Meade Coordination Zone (MCZ):* The MCZ’s purpose is to provide a forum/coordination vehicle 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 (still working!) 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:* On 18 April of 2008, the Education Committee of the Fort Meade Alliance is conducting a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) event for high school students in the region. This all day event will be hosted by Howard Community College. Call our Deputy Director, Raj Kudchadkar at 410-313-6376 in you have any questions on this action or would like to assist.
- *RGMC Meeting Information:*
  - Time: 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM:
    - **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
- *27 March 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:
    - Complete the draft MOU regarding the establishment of the expanded RGMC.
    - Complete draft operational bylaws of RGMC.
    - Complete the identification of the top three regional priorities of each member jurisdiction.
  - We had a good discussion on these three objectives at our 28 February meeting. We want close out the staffing at this 27 March meeting. We are still waiting for top three regional priorities from two counties. Please check to see if your county has submitted.

#### **State of Maryland:**

- **BRAC Subcabinet-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. The committee was very active in responding to the previously discussed OEA request and will hold its monthly meeting on 20 March 2008.
- **Maryland Military Installation Council:** The next quarterly meeting of this important organization will be 9 June 2008 at 8:30 AM in the MD Department of H&CD Conference Room at 100 Community Place, Crownsville. More to come on the agenda of this meeting.