

**Howard County-Fort George G. Meade Expansion Management Task Force
(HC-BRAC-TF)**

Task Force Memorandum 2006-02

Date: 16 June 2006

Originator: Kent Menser, Task Force Chairman

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to document past Task Force activities and update members of the TF on current and future BRAC related actions.

Administration:

1. If there is no major dissent by members of the task force, I would like to “officially” establish a short hand designation for the task force. It will be Howard County Base Realignment and Closure Task Force (HC-BRAC-TF). I will refer to it in interviews and discussions as the Howard County BRAC Task Force.
2. I encourage all task force members to call me, email me or come to my office whenever you have a recommendations, concerns and/or questions related to BRAC. Most of you know that I am located on the 3rd floor of the Howard Building in Ellicott City. Step off the elevator, turn left and you will see my office on the right. Also do not hesitate to call my cell phone number.
3. I am willing to speak to any Howard County group about BRAC. At least one week warning is best, but I am flexible.
4. Please keep me updated on any changes to your contact information. Additionally send me any revisions you want us to make to the TF membership roster that each of you have.
5. Some members of the Howard County Staff gave up their white TF Books to our guests. Please let me know who you are. I have extra copies in my office.
6. Finally, if you periodically intend to use an alternate at TF meetings, please send his/her contact information to me. My thanks to those who already have submitted this information.

Old Business:

1. Starting with our 12 July meeting we will be taking formal minutes of all TF meetings. That said, the following are notes and actions from our 5 June meeting. Please review and send me corrections and/or additions as appropriate.

New Business

1. We need committee chairpersons. In the very near future, the TF may need four volunteers to chair the committees listed below. We will vote on these committees and possibly others at the 12 July meeting. Please consider volunteering for one of these important positions.
 - a. *BRAC Requirements Committee:* This committee will identify what BRAC will bring to Fort Meade and which of those BRAC actions could potentially affect Howard County. (start in July)

- b. *Howard County Requirements Committee:* This committee will identify current and future Howard County needs and issues that may be either helped or exacerbated by BRAC. (start in July)
 - c. *Resource Planning Committee:* Identify and secure funds from all sources to meet the Howard County BRAC requirements (start in July)
 - d. *Strategic Communications Committee:* This committee will develop and assist in the implementation of a communications strategy that will push information on BRAC to all of the citizens of Howard County. (start in August)
2. *TF Operations Committee:* This committee will develop the organization and processes that will support the operations of the TF. Strategic planning, tactical execution and the relationship of these activities to ongoing county and community initiatives may be the focus of this group. It is my intent to put together a couple of straw man proposals on this action before the 12 July meeting. It may turn out that a major committee will not be needed. We can discuss on the 12th along with strategic planning approach.

Task Force Director Report/Observations:

1. I have been to a couple of meetings and reviewed several more reports since our first TF meeting. The information from these sources, for the most part, is important and I will make sure I get the information out to the TF. Additionally, I will put out a schedule of the events that I will be attending. Feel free to give me a call if you would like to attend one of these events with me.
 - a. 9 June 2006: I accompanied a contingent of Howard County, Regional and State representatives to DISA HQ in Arlington, VA. We manned booths, county fair style, that allowed DISA employees to discover Maryland and Howard County. Bottom line is that our schools and our overall quality of life are big attractions. There was also some concern about housing prices. It was a very successful event for Howard County thanks to the good work of Victoria Goodman and her team.
 - b. 12 June 2006: Attended a one day conference of the Association of Defense Communities. The subject was; Enhancing America's Military Installations Through Private Investment. Phillip Grone, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations and Environment was keynote speaker. Bottom-line is that DOD will need help from private investors to execute BRAC. For example, office buildings on Fort Meade might be built by private developers on Fort Meade and then that office space would be leased back to government tenants.
 - c. 13 June 2006: Attended meeting in the Howard Building with HC Staff and MDDOT on our road priorities. Highway 175, from the Parkway to I-95, is one of the county's road priorities that is receiving additional emphasis because of BRAC.
 - d. 14 June 2006: Met with BG Mike Hayes (USMC Ret) who heads up the Maryland Military Installation Council under the MD Department of Economic Development. He gave me run down on current actions and studies. A lot of action here, more to follow.

- e. June 2006: I have given BRAC presentations over the past two weeks to Ken Ulman and Chris Merdon. The remainder of County Council will be briefed this month.

Next Steps:

1. On 19 June 2006, the County Executive and the TF Director will be hosting a luncheon for local, state and congressional delegations. The objectives are to introduce me and the TF concept to the group and update them on the status of the County's BRAC initiatives.
2. The TF Director will continue to solicit advice from members of the TF outside of formal meetings. I will schedule these meetings with you as appropriate. Again, feel free to call me anytime with advice and/or recommendations.
3. The TF Director will prepare detailed agenda, to include objectives and issues, for the 12 July meeting. This should be out at the end of June.