

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

Task Force Memorandum 2006-04

Date: 22 July 2006

Originator: Kent Menser, Task Force Chairman

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to update and prepare Task Force members for the third meeting of the TF on 6 September 2006 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. The subject meeting will be held in class room #6 on the first floor of the Howard County Gateway Office Building.

Key Points:

1. TF Director and HC Government Staff are reviewing the DBED BRAC Report (Read more below)
2. We must develop and sustain effective two-way communications between the BRAC TF and all of our stakeholders; residents, private sector companies and governments.
3. Task Force Members need to make every effort to attend committee meetings. Your knowledge and experience are keys to TF success.
4. Harford County and the Army Alliance published the results of their initial BRAC study on 22 August. I attended the meeting and the press conference. I will distribute copies of the study to TF Committee Chairmen on 25 August.

Administration:

1. 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. Also do not hesitate to call my cell phone number.
2. I am willing to speak to any Howard County group about BRAC. At least one week warning is best, but I am flexible.
3. Remember that Task Force Committee membership can be expanded by the committee chairman in order to meet requirements requiring specific functional expertise. There is considerable interest in BRAC in the County, so take advantage of this expertise, as appropriate.
4. The public and the press are invited to all task force meetings. They will not be able to participate in the meeting, but the Director of the BRAC Task Force will be available after the formal meeting to respond to BRAC related questions and take recommendations. Additionally, the Director of the BRAC Office will host a public meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month to update citizens on the status of BRAC actions in Howard County. The next meeting is 23 August in the Tyson Room of the Howard Building from 7 – 9 PM.

Old Business:

1. **The following is an outline of our current BRAC Office and Task Force Communications activities.** The objective is to have clear, two-way

communications between the County and the public on all BRAC matters. If you have suggestions on how to improve these actions, please email me.

- a. Task Force Meetings (Open to public)
 - i. 2 Completed
 - ii. Meeting #3 on 6 September
- b. Individual Task Force Members
- c. BRAC Office Updates
 - i. Public Forum: 4th Wednesday of each month in Howard Building
 - ii. Howard County Staff: 10 August, 31 August and 14 September in Howard Building
 - iii. County Council Updates
- d. BRAC Page on Howard County Website
 - i. Operational by 1 September
- e. HC BRAC in Newspapers
 - i. Upcoming article in Washington Post
- f. Local Public Television
 - i. Special segment bi-weekly on GTV (Sept)
 - ii. BRAC Probe Show (Sept)
- g. Pod Casts
 - i. 1 Completed
 - ii. 1 Scheduled
- h. BRAC Presentations to community organizations, government offices and industry associations
 - i. 6 Completed
 - ii. 6 On the schedule
- i. Develop an “information push” mechanism to key groups
- j. Regional Meetings/Presentations
- k. Other? How can we improve?

2. BRAC Meetings, Presentations and Activities:

- a. The three Task Force Committees have been meeting during August to identify:
 - i. Howard County needs and requirements
 - ii. BRAC Opportunities and requirements
 - iii. Resources
- b. 18 July 2006: BRAC Director gave presentation to Maryland Homebuilders Association
- c. 21 July 2006: BRAC Director gave presentation to Greenebaum and Rose Associates
- d. 21 July 2006: BRAC Director gave presentation to Howard County Chief Administrative Officer
- e. 2 August 2006: BRAC Director met with Mr. Dunbar, candidate for County Executive. Director will have updated all four candidates by 23 August.
- f. 3 August 2006: BRAC Director met with Aberdeen BRAC planners at their location. Their Army Alliance is a good model for us to review.

- g. 4 August 2006: Met with Anne Towne to get better understanding of Howard County Community Services. We must be vigilant about maintaining the quality and quantity of services needed for our residents and for residents of the future.
- h. 7 August 2006: Met with BRAC Policy Implementation Working Group of the BMC to discuss regional alignment of BRAC actions. This is a big and complex region. Accountability and coordination will be a continuing challenge. We can do it!
- i. 8 August 2006: Attended a meeting for congressional delegations, hosted by the Fort Meade Alliance. Focus of meeting was on alignment of BRAC actions and communications between BRAC organizations and the delegations. Objective is single fully coordinated list of BRAC priorities from the different counties to the congressional staffs.
- j. 9 August 2006: Met with Anne Arundel County counterparts to discuss the upcoming DBED report on BRAC. The objective was alignment of interests and priorities. Call it teamwork!
- k. 10 August 2006: Attended a DBED hosted meeting in Crownsville focused on the draft DBED BRAC report. Look for my observations on this subject later in this report.
- l. 11 August 2006: Met with Howard County Workforce development contact.
- m. 14 August 2006: Met with the Fort Meade Commander to update him on Howard County BRAC actions and receive update on Army actions.
- n. 16 August 2006: Attended Enhanced Used Leasing (EUL) Conference sponsored by Fort Meade.
 - i. Enhanced Use Leasing (EUL) is a new tool in the military's arsenal providing an alternative to traditional approaches of acquiring, constructing or upgrading facilities.
 - ii. Leverage Department of Defense (DoD) assets that are currently available, but not excess to the Military's needs
 - iii. Receive rent in cash or in-kind services at no less than fair market value of the asset
- o. 17 August 2006: Met with Howard County Human Resources contact on how HC could connect up with Fort Meade job placement office. They may have outgoing soldiers that need jobs. We have needs in certain areas.
- p. 18 August 2006: Hosted the three BRAC organizations that are moving to Fort Meade. This was initial contact and we basically exchanged presentations. They will be presenting to the TF, possibly as soon as 6 September. You will all get to meet them and hear their pitch. More to follow on this.
- q. 21 September 2006: Met with Washington Post Reporter who was interested in how Howard County is preparing for BRAC. Told her three committees are in fact gathering mode at this time.
- r. 22 August 2006: Attended the Harford County BRAC Report Meeting/Press Conference and their Executive Committee Meeting. They have accomplished some great work over the past year and we can learn from them. We also

need to work closely with the Aberdeen Region because we share some of the same challenges and roads!

New Business

1. **The third Task Force Meeting will be on 6 September at 3:30 in the same classroom #6 in the Gateway Building.**
 - a. The primary objective of this meeting will be interim reports from the BRAC Requirements Committee and Howard County Requirements Committee. They will be given a presentation format which will allow all of us to understand their research, their questions and their general direction. I am expecting enough information from these presentations to provide additional operational insight to the Resource Committee.
 - b. At the end of this meeting, we MAY be able to identify a couple of functional areas for future committee to work.
2. **The Howard County staff and I have been working with the draft DBED/Maryland Department of Planning BRAC report.**
 - a. This is the four task report. The committee chairmen have the drafts of three of the task reports. I have task two in hard copy and will try to get it out tomorrow to committee chairman.
 - b. This report is an effort to forecast the future of the region and the county in the areas of:
 - i. Housing Demand and Supply
 - ii. Water and Sewer
 - iii. Comprehensive and General Plan Review and Power and Fiber Optic Capacity
 - iv. Transportation
 - v. Public School Capacity and Utilization Issues
 - c. With these kinds of topics, the report will automatically be the subject of a lot of attention and some controversy. On 10 August, Kent Menser and two planners from the County went to a meeting in Crownsville sponsored by General Mike Hayes and DBED. The objective was to bring any concerns about the draft to the meeting and discuss them. Several of the counties in attendance expressed concern over the content of the report.
 - d. Our Howard County contingent has concerns about the methodology and subsequent results of the study; specifically on the projections of where the BRAC related personnel are going to live and work. At the end of the meeting, all agreed that the subject counties should have the opportunity to meet with the four developers of the report in order to better understand the basic assumptions and the follow-on analysis.
 - e. We received word this past Friday that all five counties in the Meade Region would have a total of 50 minutes to discuss issues with the developers. Of course, that would only allow Howard County to have the study developer's attention for 10 minutes to resolve some fairly

significant analytical issues. I believe we can resolve this issue. I assure you that we will do all we can to make sure this report reflects the highest level of accuracy that current information will support. The next DBED draft review meeting is on 31 August. More to follow!

3. **As I mentioned before, we met last Friday with the three BRAC organizations that are moving to Fort Meade.** All of the presenters below did a terrific job. Thanks again for your dedication and your professionalism.

a. Meeting agenda:

09:50 – 10:00 Arrive at General Growth Properties Board Conference Room
10:00 – 10:10 Introductions and opening remarks: Kent Menser
10:10 – 10:30 Howard County overview: Kent Menser
10:30 – 11:10 BRAC Organization’s overview: Joe Re
11:10 – 11:30 Howard County Community Services: Roy Appletree
11:30 --11:50 Howard County School System: Roger Plunkett
11:50 – 12:10 In place lunch break/Informal discussions
12:10 – 12:30 Howard County Community College: Tom Glaser
12:30 – 12:50 Howard County Real Estate Status: Melvina Brown
12:50 – 01:20 Columbia Association overview: Maggie Brown
01:20 – 02:00 Discussion and next steps: All

b. Initial draft notes:

- i. DISA has already started heavy recruitment in Maryland
- ii. Concern about spouse employment opportunities
- iii. DISA Executive Team will be visiting Howard County in the Fall. This will consist of 4 Generals and over 30 Senior Executive Service (SES) Civilians. This executive team will be at Fort Meade on 23 August 2006.
- iv. The moving organizations have needs and concerns about availability of child and elderly care.
- v. They asked Howard County to think of different kind of incentives that would help them retain employees. These would include, but not be limited to; University tuition reciprocity and financial incentives related to housing.
- vi. We discussed the different methodologies of getting information to DISA families.
- vii. There are a number of opportunities on the education side for Howard County, Howard County Community College and resident universities. They have a major training budget.
- viii. Housing requirements, buy or rent, will come in all sizes and configurations.
- ix. “Reverse telecommuting” may become a real factor. Hire Marylanders early and then they telecommute to Virginia.
- x. Workforce development is both a challenge and opportunity

Task Force Director Observations:

1. All should keep in mind that the Task Force is in the process of building a solid informational and operational base. Do not get “upset” over specific numbers at this time. We need to focus on sustainable processes. That is; we want to develop processes that keep a continuous flow of accurate and up to date information to the residents and leadership of Howard County so that they can make decisions based upon facts and/or educated assumptions. Additionally, this flow of information will allow our leadership to develop and sustain the kind of policies that are agile enough to support the BRAC process by taking advantage of the opportunities and crushing the challenges.
2. The DBED report, when it comes out, will cause some waves. We need to keep our oars in the water and continue to row toward our objective!
3. Take advantage of the great experience and knowledge of the residents of our county. They are service oriented and smart! Ask them to serve on committees when appropriate. Take every opportunity to tell them what is going on in the BRAC world.

Next Steps:

1. TF Members please attend all your committee meetings
2. Call me if you have any questions or need assistance.
3. Look out for specific guidance on the next meeting.
4. See you on the 6th of September