

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

Task Force Memorandum 2006-06

Date: 3 October 2006

Originator: Kent Menser, Task Force Chairman

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to update and prepare Task Force members for the fifth meeting of the TF on 8 November 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. **Committee Missions:** A reminder to all Task Force Committees that your mission (see below) has not changed from the initial guidance promulgated in June of 2006. Speaking of our mission, our next Task Force Update will be the final presentation to Mr. Robey while he is in his current position. It will be held on 28 November. Specific location and time will follow in separate message.
 - a. BRAC Requirements Committee: Determine and report which specific factors in the 2005 BRAC Law that may affect Howard County now or in the future
 - b. Howard County Requirements Committee: Determine and report current and future needs of Howard County that BRAC may complement or exacerbate
 - c. Resource Planning Committee: Determine and report sources of funding that may be brought to bear in support of Howard County BRAC related initiatives.
2. **Adequate Planning:** See paragraph 2a of this memo.
3. **Information Management:** Pushing accurate and up to date information to the right decision-makers will be the key to BRAC success in Howard County.
4. **Fort Meade Direct Positions:** Direct positions on Fort Meade refer to servicemen and women, government civilians and contractors who work on the installation. This past week, I heard a speaker from the State of Maryland use a figure of 14,000 new positions at Fort Meade over the next decade. This comprehensive number includes BRAC growth, NSA growth and additional Fort Meade growth outside the BRAC process. In this context, this number should not be a surprise any of us.
5. **Defense Grant Process:** We have been working closely with Ann Arundel County and the Defense Department's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) on three grants to support Howard County's BRAC initiatives. As you may recall the subjects of the grants are:
 - a. Effect of BRAC on HC Community Services
 - b. Workforce development in HC in support of BRAC
 - c. HC staffing in support of BRAC

We met with our OEA Project Coordinator on 2 November and she reviewed our proposals and gave us recommendations on how to improve them. The regional grant group will meet again at Ann Arundel County on 7 November to finalize our work. Currently, there are no glitches in this effort; more to follow.

6. **Bring on the information:** Currently, we are looking forward to three reports to add to our BRAC bookshelf. They are the revised “DBED BRAC REPORT,” the newest employee survey out of the Defense Information Systems Agency and business plans associated with the three BRAC organizations moving to Fort Meade. As I understand, all are in final stage and awaiting approval for release. As soon as I get them, I will put them on our BRAC website and/or send them out by email.

Administration:

1. I encourage all task force members to call me, email me or come to my office whenever you have 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. We have two new Committee Co-Chairman on our Task Force. Thanks for your commitment!
 - a. Howard County Requirements Committee: Tom Glaser
 - b. Resource Planning Committee: Don Darnell
5. 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 29 November in the Tyson Room of the Howard Building from 7 – 9 PM.

Old Business: N/A

BRAC Meetings, Presentations and Activities:

- a. The Task Force Committees have been meeting during October to identify:
 - i. Howard County needs and requirements
 - ii. BRAC Opportunities and requirements
 - iii. Howard County resource requirements
- b. 4 October 2006: BRAC Director gave presentation to OEA representatives at Fort Meade
- c. 5 October 2006: BRAC Director and TF Committee Chairmen gave update to the County Executive. Received positive response on our effort and direction.
- d. 6 October 2006: BRAC Director met with K. Kozlakowski, Baltimore Realtor on BRAC

- e. 10 October 2006: BRAC Director and TF Committee Chairman gave an update to the Howard County Council. All members were in attendance and the presentation was well received.
- f. 12 October 2006: BRAC Director attended Fort Meade Alliance meeting at which the Fort Meade Commander spoke.
- g. 12 October 2006: Met with Howard County Requirements Committee
- h. 13 October 2006: Met with Mr. Harry Sinclair for Ann Arundel County on BRAC matters
- i. 13 October 2006: BRAC Director, County Executive and Fort Meade Commander taped the Probe program on GTV.
- j. 13 October 2006: BRAC Director met with Mr. Jay Blackman of Howard County General Hospital on their participation in the BRAC planning process
- k. 16 October 2006: BRAC Director made presentation to a services advisory board
- l. 17 October 2006: Met with Pam Rau of Anne Arundel County on BRAC matters
- m. 18 October 2006: Held TF Executive Committee meeting and attended Resource Planning Committee meeting. Focus in both meetings was on TF mission progress.
- n. 18 October 2006: BRAC Director gave presentation to Community Services Luncheon.
- o. 18 October 2006: BRAC Director met with Anne Arundel counterparts
- p. 19 October 2006: BRAC Director met with Mid-Maryland Workforce Investment Area Office
- q. 19 October 2006: BRAC Director attended two meetings hosted by the Maryland Secretary of Transportation focused on HC issues
- r. 24 October 2006: BRAC Director gave presentation to Clarksville Rotary
- s. 24 October 2006: BRAC Director met with Walt Townsend, President of The Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce
- t. 25 October 2006: BRAC Director attended a BRAC symposium focused on the real-estate industry
- u. 25 October 2006: BRAC Director conducted the “4th Wednesday” BRAC update
- v. 26 October 2006: BRAC Director gave presentation to the Board of the Columbia Association
- w. 27 October 2006: BRAC Director gave presentation to the Board of the Howard Bank
- x. 30 October 2006: BRAC Director attended BRAC symposium sponsored by GBC
- y. 1 November 2006: BRAC Director met with Stacie Irish of Leadership Howard County on BRAC matters
- z. 2 November 2006: BRAC Director met with Anne Arundel County and OEA on BRAC grants for HC.
- aa. 3 November 2006: BRAC Director had follow-up meeting with Howard County Hospital management

New Business

1. The Fifth Task Force Meeting will be on 8 November at 3:30 in classroom #6 in the Gateway Building.

- a. The primary objectives of this meeting are:
 - i. Develop a general understanding to the HC General plan and how it relates to our BRAC actions. Marsha McLaughlin will give a presentation on the plan and Dick Story will relate to us how his economic development work/strategic plan builds from the information in the general plan.
 - ii. Understand the actions of the Howard County Affordable Housing Task Force as they relate to BRAC issues. Reverend Turner will discuss current status.
- b. Additionally, depending on available time, we are planning to give each committee 20 minutes to meet on (5:10 to 5:30).

2. Task Force Director Observations/recommendations:

- a. More on Planning:
 - i. Not surprisingly, the two questions that I am always asked at my BRAC presentations (35 +) are; what will be the impact of BRAC on Howard County and have we planned for that impact? My response is simple. "I do not currently know the answer and that is exactly why Mr. Robey appointed this BRAC Task Force." The follow-on question usually is; what about XX's statement that BRAC growth is included/addressed in current County/Regional/State planning. My response is the same.
 - ii. Beyond the very specific guidance the Task Force received from the County Executive, I strongly believe in the logic of my response using the following performance measures: Would I start up a new business, re-invest my savings or sell my house based upon the current information that is available on BRAC? Today my answer is no. What we know for sure at this point is that approximately 5,300 BRAC related positions will be added to the current Fort Meade workforce. This information is enough start our planning, to include the development of sophisticated assumptions, and that is what the TF is in the process of working. Assisting Howard County in the development of these assumptions and the identification of more facts are organizations such as OEA who fund studies that provide BRAC transition information to localities like us. We have submitted two grants to OEA to help us identify just this kind of information.
 - iii. Finally, in my BRAC presentation I have a slide that illustrates that some portion of BRAC's impact on Howard County may already be addressed in the county's 2000 General Plan. After reading the General Plan in some detail, I have come to the conclusion that I do not know enough facts about BRAC and, more importantly, our residents' reaction to those facts, to fully comprehend BRAC's impact on current or future county planning. More to follow on this subject.

- b. Public participation in the BRAC Process: We have been working very hard to get the public of Howard County involved or at least interested in BRAC early in the process. As illustrated in one of my slides, the reason is simple. The time to influence the direction and outcomes of a project is early in the planning cycle. Historically, the public will naturally wait until the execution phase, when it is too late to influence anything and this leads to frustration on everyone's part. Please help us get the word out that we need everyone's participation now! I have given over 38 presentations, but we need to inform even more residents of Howard County. Please contact me if you have more candidates for BRAC information; any size, any group, any time.
- c. HC BRAC Impact Model: The modeling effort by the BRAC Requirements Committee is an excellent effort that is already paying dividends. Because BRAC numbers on family housing and "indirect" work locations are not now available, the capability of modeling the impact of BRAC at three different levels (low, medium and high) is simple, understandable and effective. We have already used this modeling effort to support one of our grant requests.

Next Steps:

1. TF Members please attend all your committee meetings
2. Call me if you have any questions or need assistance.
3. See you on 8 November