

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

Task Force Memorandum 2006-09

Date: 2 April 2007

Originator: Kent Menser, Task Force Chairman

Purpose: The purpose of this memorandum is to update and inform Task Force members and our BRAC constituency on the latest information regarding Howard County BRAC actions, to include preparation for the next Task Force Meeting on 12 April 2007.

Key Points:

1. Fort Meade Growth (22,000):

- a. Over the past three months, we have shifted our aim and our public communications from a strictly BRAC focus over the next 5-7 years to comprehensive Fort Meade growth. There are four components to Fort Meade growth and the following are Task Force planning assumptions:
 - BRAC (5795 jobs)
 - Additional Defense Organizations moving to Fort Meade outside the BRAC process (2000 jobs)
 - National Security Agency growth (4000 jobs)
 - Enhanced Use Leasing (10,000 jobs)
- b. These 22,000 new job positions will be located on Fort Meade property. During phase II, we will focus on the impact of these positions on Howard County.

2. Howard County BRAC Task Force and Phase II

- a. The official start of our phase II will be 12 April. During the preceding phase I, our three committees identified; initial Fort Meade growth numbers, the 6 subject areas in Howard County that will be most affected by the growth and secured funds for study of transportation and community service related issues.
- b. During phase II, the Task Force will act on these 6 subject areas by reorganizing into six functional and two supporting committees. The committees are:
 - Transportation
 - Health and human services
 - Work force development
 - Infrastructure
 - Education
 - Work force housing
 - Planning
 - Lessons learned
- c. These committees will be staffed by the original members of our Task Force and the nearly 50 new members who have volunteered to support Howard

County in this endeavor. The individual committees will be organized as follows:

- Co-chairperson (from task force)
- Co-chairperson (from Howard County staff)
- Seven original and new Task Force members assigned to a committee based upon expertise and individual requests

3. Fort Mead Regional Growth Committee:

- a. For the past month, much of the focus of this regional effort has been on our grant request, discussions with our counterparts in other counties and working on our strategic plan.
- b. On 3 April, Mike Hayes from DBED, Bob Leib from Ann Arundel County and I will be on the Howard County GTV Probe show discussing our regional efforts and their relationship to Maryland state planning.

4. Fort Meade BRAC and EUL Environmental Impact Study (EIS)

- a. The draft EIS on Fort Meade BRAC and the accompanying EUL action came out last week. There is a 45 day window for individuals and government organizations to comment and recommend changes. We have read the EIS from end to end and do have some questions about its focus and content. I will send our comments out to you next week. That said, I do recommend that anyone with an interest in Fort Meade's growth as it relates to Howard County or other jurisdictions read the Executive Summary and the segments on air quality and transportation. Additionally, note the area covered by the traffic/transportation study. The EIS can be found on the Army's BRAC website at:
http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/nepa_eis_docs.htm or just dial in the Fort Meade website. After you read it and find that you want to share your observations and/or concerns, send me an email.

5. Defense Grant Status:

- a. Bob Leib, Tim Betts and Anne Town did yeoman work this past week responding to questions from the DOD's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) during the final phases of this grant process. OEA has been very helpful and worked very closely with us during this process and we look forward to the award before the end of April 2007.

Administration:

1. **Task Force Meetings:** The next Howard County BRAC Task Force Meeting will be on 12 April and run from 3:30 to 5:00 PM in classroom # 5 of the Howard County Gateway office building. See attachment for directions.
2. **"4th Wednesday" BRAC/Fort Meade Growth Updates:** This meeting will continue to held from 7-9 PM in the Howard Building in Ellicott City on:

- a. 25 April 2007
- b. 23 May 2007
- c. 27 June 2007

3. Communications:

- a. **Website:** Our BRAC website is up and running. Go to the Howard County Government Website (howardcountymd.us) and click the "BRAC Button!" We are revising our format. Among the changes is a weekly update which will be found on the first page.
- b. **Presentations:** I am willing to speak to any Howard County or regional group about BRAC. At least one week warning is best, but I am flexible.
- c. **Howard County-Fort Meade Growth Handout/Brochure:** We are working to put together a short brochure to pass out at Growth/BRAC events.

4. Task Force Meeting (12 April 2007) DRAFT Agenda:

- 3:30 PM: Introduction of guests and brief meeting agenda
3:40 PM: Howard County Requirements Committee briefs the six functional areas that they have identified as critical to the County and may be most impacted by Fort Meade Growth.
4:00 PM: Task Force members conduct open discussion on the subject areas, with an objective of approving them as the basis for phase II study and analysis.
4:30 PM: Task Force Phase II kick-off briefing and discussion
5:00 PM: Formal Task Force meeting closes
5:05 PM: Brief meeting for all new members of the Task Force
5:15 PM: Fold up chairs and go home.

Task Force Director Observations/recommendations:

1. I believe Phase II of our Task Force work will be our most important effort. This is the phase during which we will identify and then quantify the impact of all four components of Fort Meade growth on Howard County. In order to accomplish this critical mission, we are very fortunate to have retained our original Task Force members, who now will be joined by nearly 50 volunteers with matching experience and commitment.
2. Our pace was very deliberate during phase I. We were building our information base and our Task Force experience. Phase II will be crisper, more structured and more goal oriented. We will have a Planning Committee that will provide the necessary help and guidance to coordinate the work of the six functional committees. We will make much more use of local, county, regional and state resources (time, money and people).
3. During a successful Phase II, working with the county staff, we will make a difference during the process of preparing for the impacts and acting on the opportunities.

Next Steps:

1. Please make a strong effort to attend our next Task Force meeting
2. I will be notifying Task Force members of their committee assignments late this week.