

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

Task Force Memorandum 2006-01

Date: 5 June 2006

Originator: Kent Menser, Task Force Chairman

To: Members of the Howard County-Fort George G. Meade Expansion Management Task Force (BRAC Task Force)

First let me thank each of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to assist the citizens of Howard County in preparation for the opportunities and consequences related to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions at Fort Meade. During my first three weeks in this position, I have made it my top priority to meet with each one of you in order to understand your thoughts on BRAC and how BRAC actions may relate to the citizens of Howard County. Candidly, I have come away from our meetings humbled by the commitment, knowledge and experience of the individual members of the Task Force. I am confident we are up to the task.

Role of the Director: As the County's BRAC Executive Director, I will:

1. Report to and represent the Howard County Executive in matters related to Base Realignment and Closure actions associated with County Government and Fort Meade.
2. Chair the Howard County-Fort George G. Meade Expansion Management Task Force and provide direction and support, as required, to its members
3. Act as the single point of contact for coordination of BRAC related matters for Howard County Government

Task Force Responsibilities: The Task Force was established by the Howard County Executive under Executive Order 2006-04, dated April 20, 2006. The subject order further stated that; the committee is responsible for the following issues:

1. Identify the opportunities and challenges resulting from the expansion of Fort Meade
2. Identify the infrastructure needs required to support the increased activities
3. Evaluate the ability of the County to meet the challenges of BRAC
4. Make recommendations to the County Executive for appropriate ways to meet the challenges of BRAC, while continuing the high quality of life enjoyed by Howard County citizens

Task Force Subcommittees: The same order established gave the Task Force chair the authority to constitute subcommittees composed of Task Force members to address (but not limited to) the following areas:

1. Housing
2. Education
3. Public Health, Safety and Community Services
4. Transportation, Utilities and other Infrastructure
5. Natural Resources, Recreation and Open Space

Task Force Milestones (To be discussed at first meeting)

1. 05 June 2006: TF Meeting #1
2. 12 July 2006: TF Meeting #2
3. XX September 2006: TF Meeting #3
4. XX October 2006: TF Meeting #4 (Status Update to the County Executive)
5. XX November 2006: TF Meeting #5
6. XX January 2007: TF Meeting #6
7. XX February 2007: TF Meeting #7 (Status Update to the County Executive)

A Three Week Perspective: My initial thoughts on Fort Meade, Howard County and BRAC are based upon preliminary discussions with individual Task Force members, attendance of several regional meetings and my experiences with previous BRAC actions.

1. First and foremost, I recognize that your time, knowledge and experience are extremely valuable resources that you have voluntarily made available to this Task Force. As we organize and plan for the mission, I will not forget this! With this thought in mind, do not expect the Task Force, with everyone fully engaged, to leap into sub-committees, reports and tasks in the early meetings. We will need to build the base, agree on objectives and work appropriately from there.
2. Key BRAC “facts” will change. We know that the Department of Defense has many critical priorities that are influenced by a multitude of disparate factors. The Task Force will have to be aggressive, agile, and flexible in order to respond to these changes and make them work for Howard County.
3. There are many people around the region, in a variety of organizations, who share the same values and are working hard to achieve similar BRAC goals. Where it makes sense, we may want to combine efforts and develop joint planning; all without losing focus on what is important to Howard County. Our work with Anne Arundel County will be particularly important.
4. Leaders and planners in the County need the best and most up to date information that is available on which to base their decisions. Assumptions may have to be made by the Task Force when all the information is not available, but there is a need to take action.
5. We cannot wait for BRAC to “happen” to Fort Meade and the County. We must get out front with our vision, goals, and objectives and then take specific actions that produce the desired results. .

BRAC TF Meeting #1 Agenda:

- Introduction by James Robey, the Howard County Executive
- Brief remarks by Kent Menser, the Task Force Chairperson
- Introduction of Task Force Members (Go around the table!)
- Howard County Update by Marsha McLaughlin

- Fort George G. Meade BRAC Presentation by Colonel Kenneth O. McCreedy, Fort Meade Installation Commander.
- Questions and Answers by the presenters
- Initial Task Force business led by Kent Menser
- Goal is to complete all formal actions by 9 PM!

I look forward to seeing each of you at our first meeting at 7:30 PM, 5 June 2006 at the County's Gateway Building at 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia.

Respectfully, Kent