HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE
BRAC BIT: # 84
DATE: 13 July 2010
SUBJECT(S): Cyber Command, Campus Development Project at Fort Meade EIS (Second Round)
POINT OF CONTACT: Kent Menser (410-313-6521) kmenser@howardcountymd.gov

Upcoming Events/Actions:
  a. BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) End of Phase I Presentation (Regional Growth Management Committee)
      i. Date: 28 July, 2010, 8 AM to 10 AM, Ultra Networking (0730-0800) (1000 to 1100)
      ii. Event: We will be briefing the BBI Phase I White Paper to our Executive Advisors and the public. Open to public and free.
      iii. Location: Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Pl # 2 Columbia, MD 21045-3728
  b. NSA State and Local Partner Reception: (Sponsored by numerous community organizations. I will list in upcoming BRAC BIT)
      i. Date: 25 August, 2010, 5 PM to 7 PM
      ii. Preregistration: Required, but not sure of the details at this time.
      iii. Questions: email **director@ftmeadealliance.org**
      iv. Location: National Security Agency

Discussion:
a. Background: We all should understand that the Fort Meade BRAC action is well under way. The Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Defense Media Activity (DMA) and Adjudication Co-location Buildings are on schedule and the first DISA contingent will be in their new building in January 2011. The total square feet of these three buildings total approximately 1.3 million square feet. But, when it comes to Fort Meade construction, BRAC is just the beginning. The installation has a number of new buildings and building expansions on the books, the biggest being the construction of the "Cyber Campus" on the remainder of the golf course. This campus will consist of DISA, DMA, Cyber Command Headquarters and elements of NSA. In fact, the NSA portion of this campus may total up to 5.8 million square feet of new construction. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in support of this action is the focus of this BRAC BIT.
b. Environmental Impact Statement Definition: "A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance document used to evaluate a range of alternatives when solving the problem would have a significant effect on the human environment. The EIS is more than a document; it is a formal analysis process which mandates public comment periods. An EIS covers purpose and need, alternatives, existing conditions, environmental consequences, and consultation and coordination." This is local governments and the public's first, and historically last, opportunity to comment and influence a specific action by, in this case, the Department of Defense. The general concept is to align the public's environmental welfare and the action being driven by a defense mission, in this case, the construction of a major defense campus on Fort Meade.
c. How to review the EIS: On 28 June 2010, we asked the NSA Public Affairs Office if they could put the subject EIS on the web. We are currently waiting a reply. In the meantime, we have put the complete EIS (372 Pages) on the Howard County Government Website http://www.howardcountymd.us/default.asp Go to the website and then hit the "BRAC Button" on the lower right hand side of the page and you will see the EIS. We would like to thank the Howard County Public Information Office for making all this possible. I know many of you were concerned that I would send this out as an attachment, but I decided, no point in taking down the internet!
d. Why Care About an EIS?
The continued growth at Fort Meade is critical to the defense of our nation. The new missions and jobs on Fort Meade will greatly benefit our regional economy at a time when we need it most. That said, the public and local jurisdictions need to work in concert with the Department of Defense to make sure we do all we reasonably can to protect our environment and our quality of life. The EIS is a vehicle with which we can attempt to accomplish this goal.