



District of Columbia

Bowie

College Park

Frederick County

Gaithersburg

Greenbelt

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

Rockville

Takoma Park

Alexandria

Arlington County

Fairfax

Fairfax County

Falls Church

Loudoun County

Manassas

Manassas Park

Prince William County

Memorandum

Date: September 14, 2006

To: Members, COG Board of Directors

From: Paul DesJardin, Chief of Housing and Planning

Subject: Update on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Actions in the Washington Region and Proposed Next Steps

Background

In May 2005, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld forwarded the Department's initial recommendations concerning the closure, realignment or expansion of military and other defense-related facilities to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission. Included in Secretary Rumsfeld's recommendations were a number of proposed changes to DoD facilities located in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

In addition to the base-specific BRAC recommendations, DoD also recommended not renewing leases for buildings that do not meet the Department's Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for design and security.

At the request of the members of the COG Board of Directors and the Transportation Planning Board, COG and TPB staff undertook a detailed analysis of the likely short-term (year 2010) and longer-term (2020) land use, transportation, and air quality impacts of the proposed BRAC changes. The results of the analysis were presented to the COG Board and TPB so that COG member local governments could utilize the findings to help formulate their presentations to the local BRAC Commission hearings.

Last year's BRAC technical analysis also built on the successful "*Surviving Security*" policy conference of November 2004, which COG co-sponsored with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the Greater Washington Board of Trade (GWBOT), and the Federal Facilities Council. This event brought together local and federal officials, real estate professionals, and transportation experts to provide expertise on how local governments should plan for local real estate and transportation changes that would likely result from the stringent security-related design requirements of the Unified Facilities Criteria.

BRAC Commission Recommendations and Proposed Next Steps

In August, 2005, the BRAC Commission made the final recommendations concerning facilities in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia and President Bush approved the recommendations in November. As with prior rounds of BRAC actions, the majority of the initial proposals for the Washington region were carried forward. President Bush signed the Executive Order approving the final BRAC recommendations in November. The following table summarizes the primary employment impacts by jurisdiction and selected facilities in the Washington region. Department of Defense regulations stipulate that the BRAC Commission recommendations must be fully implemented by 2011.

Jurisdiction	Primary Facility Impacted by BRAC	Estimated Employment Change
District of Columbia	Walter Reed Army Hospital	-5,600
Arlington County	Crystal City	-17,000
Alexandria	Eisenhower Valley	-7,200
Fairfax County	Fort Belvoir	21,300
Montgomery County	Navy Medical Center	1,900
Prince George's County	Andrews Air Force Base	400
Prince William County	Quantico Marine Corps Base	3,000
Anne Arundel County	Fort Meade*	12,000
	NSA	7,500
	<i>* Includes contractors</i>	

Analyses by COG/TPB staff, COG member local governments, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and other organizations have documented that the impacts of the BRAC decisions are particularly significant at the local level and clearly regional in scope. Local planning efforts to address BRAC must be better coordinated to ensure that the region is prepared to accommodate anticipated changes in DoD facilities and their supporting infrastructure.

To address these needs, COG staff recommends the following technical and policy work program elements:

- COG staff and the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee (PDTAC) members will work to compile and document final BRAC-related local and TAZ change in employment and households by January 2007. These changes would be incorporated into the next major update to the Cooperative Forecasts – Round 7.1.
- COG and TPB staff will also continue to monitor the work of BRAC-related sub-regional transportation and participate in sub-regional transportation studies such as those currently underway for Fort Belvoir, Fort Meade.
- COG staff recommends that the COG Board and MDPC should continue to work with regional organizations such as the National Capital Planning Commission, General Services Administration, the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and others to address common concerns about BRAC.
- As an initial step, COG staff proposes a jointly-sponsored one day event in late Fall 2006 or early Winter 2007 similar in format to the successful “*Surviving Security*” conference of 2004. The intent of the conference would be to help frame discussion of common concerns about the economic, land use, and transportation impacts of the final BRAC recommendations and develop a regional consensus for action on BRAC and federal security design requirements.