

**FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND**  
**REGIONAL GROWTH**  
**INFORMATION PAPER**  
7 DECEMBER 2007

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this paper is to describe the growth of Fort Meade during the next 10 years and outline the initial phase of the surrounding region's response to that growth.

**BACKGROUND:**

1. Fort George G. Meade is located in the rapidly growing Baltimore-Washington Transportation Corridor. Over 40,000 service men and women, civil service employees and supporting contractors work on this 5,500 acre installation. The National Security Agency (NSA) is the largest of its over 60 tenants. Currently, the installation contributes over four billion dollars a year to Maryland's economy.
2. The 2005 BRAC will bring 5,695 new jobs to Fort Meade, but this is only part of the growth story. Regional planners have projected that Fort Meade will actually gain a total 22,000 new jobs during the next 5 to 7 years. This number includes BRAC, NSA growth, a major (Enhanced Use Lease) EUL and additional growth on the installation outside the BRAC process. The 22,000 is the focus of our regional response to Fort Meade Growth.
3. For planning purposes, the Fort Meade region currently consists of 6 Maryland counties (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, Montgomery and Prince Georges) and two cities (Baltimore and Laurel). Within these 6 counties there are two additional BRAC growth actions (Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) and the National Naval Medical Center (NMC) at Bethesda). The growth of Fort Meade is a very significant action for the region, but it makes up less than 10% of overall projected job growth. The Baltimore Metropolitan Council projects 427,301 new jobs for the region between 2005 and 2020!
4. Because of the size and complexity of the Fort Meade Growth Region, the initial focus of the affected jurisdictions has been on public awareness, effective communications and a regional planning effort. The vehicle for this joint effort is the Fort George G. Meade Regional Growth Management Committee. The organization, mission and goals of this committee reflect the reality that there will be competition, with non-BRAC initiatives, for the resources necessary to respond to Fort Meade Growth.

**THE MARYLAND BRAC INITIATIVE:**

1. Thanks to a strong effort by the citizens of Maryland, who articulated the State's capabilities to support our nation's defense community, five installations (Fort Meade, Bethesda NMC, Andrews AFB, Fort Detrick and Aberdeen Proving Ground) will be gaining additional work positions, indirect supporting positions and their families.
2. In response to BRAC induced growth in Maryland, the Governor appointed Lt. Governor Anthony Brown to chair the **Maryland BRAC Subcabinet**, which is made up of 11 Cabinet Secretaries or their equivalent. The subcabinet coordinates State activities and work with the federal and local governments to prepare for incoming households and jobs, while sustaining and enhancing the quality of life throughout the State. Their initial effort is focused on the development of a State-level BRAC Action Plan. The first draft of this plan will be briefed to the Governor on 17 December 2007.
3. Additionally, a **Local Government Subcommittee** was formed under the Subcabinet to provide the interface between the subcabinet and the counties/local communities that will be directly impacted by BRAC related actions. It is further subdivided into 4 functional committees (Transportation, Public Safety, Education and Work Force Development, and Land Use).
4. Each of the 5 BRAC affected installations in Maryland have some form of a **regional planning committee**. Selected members of these regional committees staff the State's Local Government Subcommittee. We believe the regional committees are the key to BRAC success in the State of Maryland. Because of scarce resources, particularly in the area of transportation, regions are going to have to work together to prioritize and share critical resources. The possibility of

achieving success in this team effort has been greatly enhanced by the positioning of the Lt. Governor in a strong leadership role within the BRAC process. Not only does he provide the necessary leadership, but his office provides both the focal point and the clearing house for BRAC related actions across the State.

5. The **Fort George G. Meade Regional Growth Management Committee** is focused on total growth at Fort Meade, 22,000 new jobs. The counties and cities on this committee have met regularly over the past 8 months, again with focus on awareness, communications and prioritization of tasks. In order to facilitate the coordination actions of Fort Meade Growth stakeholders, the regional committee has identified a **“Meade Coordination Zone”** that includes the area within a 5 mile radius of the installation; this zone includes all of Fort Meade and sections of three counties.
  - a. The 5 mile radius is a planning start point and may be expanded in the future. The primary purpose of this zone is to act as a coordination vehicle that will sustain or improve our residents’ quality of life while they are being impacted by Fort Meade Growth. This will be accomplished through:
    - i. Increasing public awareness of current and projected growth in the zone
    - ii. Identifying current and future stake/zone holders
    - iii. Identifying ongoing and projected actions in the zone
    - iv. Designating responsible agents, establishing accountability and articulating the consequences of action or inaction in response to specific activities within the zone
    - v. Conducting all actions with total transparency
  - b. **“Zone Holders”** will include, but not be limited to: MD Elected Representatives, Federal Agencies, Department of Defense, US Army, Fort Meade, Maryland State Agencies, County Governments, City Governments, Growth Committees, The Meade Alliance, Citizen’s Organizations and Individual Residents.
  - c. **“Actions within the Zone”** will include, but not be limited to: roads, parking, infrastructure and policies within the installation and roads, infrastructure, policies, commercial development, residential development and environmental factors outside the installation.
  - d. An **initial survey of actions** within the zone has determined that there are approximately 20 million square feet of commercial space and over 9,000 family units in some stage of planning or construction.
6. **County planning and execution** within the regional framework is also critical to the success of responding to Fort Meade Growth. Since the local leadership is county based across the State, the county’s leadership is ultimately held accountable by its residents. That said, each county has its own Task Force/Committee to address the impacts and opportunities that Fort Meade Growth will bring to its jurisdiction.

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