

Office of Economic Adjustment – OEA – 2007 Growth Summit

“Communities Responding to Change”

December 11-13, 2007, St. Louis, Missouri

**REPORT BACK TO THE
QUANTICO GROWTH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Community (Prince William & Stafford County)

Representatives Attending

- Mark Dudenhefer – Co-Chair
Quantico Growth Management Committee
- Paul Milde – QGMC Committee Member

- Jim Wahl, BRAC Coordinator, QGMC
- Pat Thomas – Potomac Communities Planner – Prince William County
- James E. Gahres – Business Development Manager
Department of Economic Development – PWC
- Monica Backman – Planner III – Prince William County
Department of Transportation

Subcommittee & Commonwealth of Virginia

Representatives Attending

- Darrell Johnson – Management Analyst – Quantico Marine Corps Base
- Tom Fahrney – VDOT BRAC Coordinator
- Susan Baker – Project Manager, NVA-WIB
- David Dickson – Executive Director – VNDIA

Summary of Principal Growth Summit Agenda Items - (see attached full Mtg Agenda)

- Community Networking
- Report from the National Governors Association
- Regional Approaches
- Education Workshop
- Housing Workshop(s) (2)
- Infrastructure Workshop
- Transportation Workshop(s) (2)
- Healthcare Workshop
- Workforce Workshop
- Town Hall Meeting – Conference Summary

Principal Growth Summit Goals – Objectives

- What Do You Need From Us? (OEA) – How Can We Help Communities?
- Community Networking – Exchange of Ideas/Experiences Among the 20 Communities/bases participating.
- Interaction with State and Federal Agencies involved in BRAC Actions
- Update on the latest BRAC Financial, Strategic and Timing Reports
- Overall Economic Development Strategies and Opportunites – Federal (EDA) – State and Local Initiatives
- Specific Advice/Experiences – presented to Communities in Workshop Sessions – Involving participating Communities – State and Federal Agencies

Conclusions – Findings – Recommendations – OEA Growth Summit – December 2007

Conference/Meeting Overview – Summary – Town Meeting

At the conclusion of the plenary sessions and the workshops, a “Town Meeting” was scheduled and moderated by OEA Director, Patrick O’Brien. The purpose of the Town Meeting was to obtain feedback/input from all of the attendees, and as a starting point for moving forward. OEA has repeatedly pointed out that their essential purpose is to assist and advise the communities impacted by the BRAC actions nationwide.

A common concern throughout the “Growth Summit”, which had come out rather pointedly, is that the Federal Government has not adequately funded the BRAC actions and that local jurisdictions are struggling to deal with this impact. Representatives from the Washington, DC, area were in the vanguard of this report from the impacted communities. The concern over lack of adequate funding for the BRAC 2005-2011 action was, therefore, the central theme of the wrap-up Town Meeting.

Mr. O’Brien pointed out that the OEA is funded (\$150m) without any provision for project construction funding capability. He indicated that the agency has endeavored to do more to address the project funding shortfall, but there has not been a change in the mission of the agency, and it has been a difficult matter for OEA to try to change.

Mr. O’Brien then offered to personally meet with OMB (Office of Management and Budget) officials with a “needs list” – project list, and attempt to make an inquiry or appeal regarding this financial need. He recommended that interested communities contact OEA with such a list within the next 60 days. Since this appeal would be outside of the normal Federal budget process, Mr. O’Brien did not offer any expectation that new funds would be forthcoming as a result of this initiative.

It was also noted that one of the principal functions of OEA is for staff to assist the local communities with planning and prioritization of needs and projects. OEA may be in a position to assist funding of engineering and other pre-construction soft cost needs.

The Draft EIS for Quantico is lacking with respect to cost estimates and other details of the projects noted and analyzed in that document. It is not clear at this time exactly what additional information would be necessary to move forward with “projects list” for the OEA submittal, or whether we need funds for engineering level studies related to Quantico projects, but we have been pointed in this direction.

These are both matters that could be added to the “Growth Summit follow-up or action item agenda” for the 2007 OEA Session and for consideration of the QGMC.

Other Principal Findings – Conclusions – Recommendations – OEA Growth Summit

- The National Governors Association, as well as other Federal level agencies, reported that there has been an on-going policy of turning over funding responsibility on many programs from Federal to State and Local agencies. This approach is causing problems with BRAC impacts, and the difficulty of local communities in addressing needs occurring due to BRAC ... according to many local officials who addressed the Conference participants. Direct contact/lobbying with legislative officials was suggested as an appropriate avenue to seek and secure adequate funding of project needs.
- **Due to the many concerns expressed during the Growth Summit, regarding insufficient federal funding opportunities, OEA Director, Patrick O'Brien, has offered to go to the federal Office of Management & Budget with a report/list of projects, costs, needs, and make a request for assistance/direction with that report. The projects list will be prepared and submitted within the next 60 days.**
- Many of the BRAC actions have launched a variety of new state, regional, and local approaches to governmental responsibilities and requirements. The State of Maryland has created a sub-cabinet level organization of officials involved in bringing BRAC related issues and opportunities to the Governor and Legislature. The Commonwealth of Virginia created VNDIA (Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority) to specifically move forward positive actions intended to assist Military and BRAC needs.
- There appear to be limited opportunities to benefit from DAR Funding (Defense Access Roads). The DAR Criteria (**see attached report**), which requires a 50% increase in traffic volumes due to the increase caused by BRAC, severely impedes the applicability of DAR funding. There was no discussion of possible amendment of DAR funding policies or DAR "criteria". It should also be noted that there is no "pot of DAR \$", so DAR projects may appear undesirable to base commanders working on their "Milcon Budget".
- A variety of nationally utilized economic development tools and funding approaches were presented. The EDA (Economic Development Administration - \$300 million annual budget) reported that their largest project funding was \$3 million, which would appear to indicate that EDA is not an option for expensive BRAC impacts at the local level. TIF and public-private partnership(s) were highlighted as advantageous local approaches to economic development initiatives.

Bases – Communities Represented

- Aberdeen Proving Ground – Aberdeen, MD
- Bathesda NMC – Bathesda, MD
- Cannon AFB – Clovis, New Mexico
- Elgin AFB – Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.
- Ft. Belvoir – Fairfax/PWC Virginia
- Ft. Benning – Columbus, Georgia
- Ft. Bliss – El Paso, Texas
- Ft. Bragg/Pope AFB – North Carolina
- Ft. Carson – Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Ft. Drum – Watertown, New York
- Ft. Knox – Kentucky
- Ft. Lee – Virginia
- Ft. Lewis – Tacoma, Washington
- Ft. Meade – Columbia, Maryland
- Ft. Riley – Manhattan, Kansas
- Ft. Sam Houston – San Antonio, Texas
- Ft. Sill – Lawton, Oklahoma
- Quantico Marine Corps Base – Quantico, VA
- Redstone Arsenal – Huntsville, Al
- MCB Camp Lejeune – Kinston, NC