

OEA 2007 Growth Summit - *Communities Responding to Change*
December 11-13, 2007
Renaissance St. Louis Grand and Suites Hotel
90 minute Education Session, Wednesday, 12-12-07

Takeaways

1. Connect the “dots” between installation, community and school districts so all can perform efficiently (e.g. housing, transportation, utilities, school construction and social, public & health services).
2. Develop strong lines of communications and partnerships between the installation and community to:
 - Understand demographic differences, data challenges and response needs.
 - Establish long term relationships and decisions that withstand short-term political pressures.
3. Enable local, state and where applicable Federal legislation to help LEAs through deployment and growth changes (e.g. block leave, Impact Aid (ED and DoD), Enhance Use Leasing, other).
4. Review State education requirements and variances that impact transferring students.
5. Discuss No Child Left Behind (NCLB) impacts on transferring students and deployment cycles.
6. Review special education and social service support programs that are available to incoming warfighters, DoD civilians, their families and associated school age dependants (e.g. early childhood development, other), for any capacity and resources gaps/lags.
7. Understand student demographics, social and developmental diversities and be prepared to adjust to incoming needs.
8. Understand resource and assistance differences of on post/off post school districts.
9. Discuss recruitment response needs (e.g. teachers, health, social and public services, other).
10. Maintain response flexibilities.

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Fort Riley, Kansas

Preparation for the BRAC-related growth has been an ongoing process that began in December 2005, with a Tri-County Congress retreat that included officials from Riley, Geary and Pottawatomie Counties. Emphasizing a regional approach, stakeholders formed the Flint Hills Regional Task Force. The Task Force has used several Federal grants to conduct planning studies such as the Joint Land Use Study and the Strategic Action Plan and Growth Impact Assessment for the affected communities near Fort Riley. The Lieutenant Governor of the State of Kansas also initiated a Task Force for the Initial Unit of Action. To continue the momentum started by the completion of these planning documents, the region secured a planning assistance management grant from the Office of Economic Adjustment to conduct the Flint Hills Regional Growth Plan. The Regional Growth Plan membership consists of an active policy, steering and technical committee that are comprised of leadership from the tri-county region. Estimates are that Fort Riley will add over 9,700 active personnel and nearly 2,000 new civilian positions. Over the next five years, the regional population could increase by about 30,000 people, including soldiers, family members, and new residents. The installation's growth will affect all sectors of the surrounding communities in the region.

Fort Bliss

El Paso has historically had a strong set of partnerships in place to support Fort Bliss's mission, soldiers, and families. In anticipation of BRAC 2005, then post commander Major General Stan Green worked with a variety of elected officials, local governments, and other groups to complete a capacity study that would allow the post to determine where areas of concern might exist if new troops were stationed in El Paso. These efforts ultimately helped in the initial BRAC 2005 announcement that put 11,500 new troops at Fort Bliss, although that total has grown to 21,000 through several Army initiatives. Local governments, school districts, and the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce work diligently to maintain a strong relationship with post officials.

Panelist

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