

BRAC 2005 Community Visioning Session

Issues and Recommendations from the Community Breakout Sessions

Introduction

On Friday, February 9th 2007, approximately 400 members of the community representing local city and county governments, neighborhood associations, the Department of Defense, and interested community citizens and stakeholders gathered at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in downtown San Antonio for a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 Community Visioning Session. The visioning session was sponsored by the San Antonio Military Transformation Task Force and organized by the City of San Antonio's Office of Military Transformation, Bexar County and the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.



Office of Military Transformation



Bexar County



Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

The purpose of the February 2007 Visioning Session was two-fold:

- To provide the local military leadership the opportunity to inform the community about BRAC 2005 actions and their potential impact on San Antonio; and
- To provide an opportunity for attendees to identify issues and develop potential solutions to the challenges and opportunities posed by BRAC-related growth for further study and incorporation into the San Antonio Office of Military Transformation's Growth Management Plan.

Four broad focus areas were identified for discussion in breakout sessions:

- Transportation and Infrastructure Support for BRAC
- Economic Development and Business Opportunities
- Neighborhood Revitalization and Local Community Impacts
- Health Care Delivery and Medical Partnerships

Following morning presentations by the local military installations on the BRAC actions in San Antonio, community stakeholders participated in breakout sessions to identify issues and recommendations to address the challenges and opportunities of BRAC-related growth in San Antonio.

The following breakout session reports contain issues and recommendations from the BRAC 2005 Community Visioning Session participants. They do not represent the consensus of the breakout session participants or necessarily the opinions of the Military Transformation Task Force, City of San Antonio Office of Military Transformation, Bexar County and Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

Transportation and Infrastructure Support for BRAC

Co-Chairs: Carroll Schubert and Arthur Emerson

Military Transformation Task Force Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Support for BRAC

Issues

- There is a good deal of uncertainty regarding BRAC's impact on the community, but opportunities appear to be abundant, presenting both benefits and challenges to all involved.
- City Public Service Energy and the Texas Department of Transportation have already begun addressing challenges BRAC presents in their areas.
- Local businesses must have an opportunity to participate in solving the challenges and in realizing the benefits of BRAC 2005.

Recommendations

- Recommendations from the breakout session focused on determining BRAC's impact on local transportation and infrastructure and examining alternatives to alleviate traffic congestion. Quantify the affect BRAC will have on transportation and infrastructure resources by defining the resources to be studied, gathering accurate and verifiable data and establishing study boundaries.
- Identify how BRAC-related growth will impact transportation and infrastructure on and around local military installations.
- Examine ways to expand public transportation, such as Van Pool and Ride Share, and explore any additional public transportation alternatives.
- Compile all BRAC-related studies to determine pertinent issues and recommendations and place them in a central repository.

Economic Development and Business Opportunities

Co-Chairs: Scott Gray and G.P. Singh

Military Transformation Task Force Committee on Economic Development and Business Opportunities

Issues

- Local businesses can take advantage of military and BRAC-related contracts through incentive programs such as Historically Underutilized Businesses and teaming arrangements as well as other local programs to assist small businesses.
 - Ensure BRAC project timelines are publicized for local businesses to take advantage and accommodate BRAC-related construction.
 - BRAC opportunities are not limited to San Antonio. Local businesses should develop relationships with contract procurement specialists and inform them about their businesses. Registering with the Central Contracting Register and Dynamic Small Business Search Website can assist with relationship building.
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Recommendations

- Awareness—Contractors are not aware of business opportunities.
 - Place opportunities in public media (e.g. business section of news papers).
 - Develop a centralized repository or web portal to post business opportunities and related information.
- Training and Education—Small businesses have a need for training programs in government contracting.
 - Develop training programs for small businesses.
 - Increase awareness and utilization of existing training programs (e.g. UT-San Antonio).
- Points of Contact—Contracting points of contact are not well known.
 - Publish points of contact for upcoming BRAC opportunities.
- Communication and Access—Improve communication and access to information.
 - Conduct a follow-on visioning session with more time, more details, and a more strategic focus.
 - Develop a centralized repository or web portal to post business opportunities and related information.

Neighborhood Revitalization and Local Community Impacts

Co-Chairs: Howard Peak and Leo Gomez

Military Transformation Task Force Committee on Neighborhood Revitalization and Local Community Impacts

Issues

- Neighborhood plans should be reviewed and revised where necessary to address the context of the effects of BRAC 2005. Specifically, the neighborhood plans need to assess traffic, zoning, and land use for compatibility with the BRAC end state.
- The community must also consider how decisions being made outside the fence line of the military installations affect the integrity of the military missions inside the installations. Compatibility is vital in this regard.
- School districts should be a part of the process and further studies undertaken to consider air quality, traffic, hazardous wastes, and the lessons learned from other communities.
- Neighborhoods surrounding the military installations must assume some responsibility to become a part of the solution to any challenges identified in the future.

Recommendations

- Undertake study plans to examine traffic, environmental and air quality concerns, and incorporate information/studies from other areas such as Fort Belvoir and Luke Air Force Base (don't reinvent the wheel).
 - Update neighborhood plans based upon identified impacts and various study results. Ensure there is neighborhood involvement. City of San Antonio departments are encouraged to participate and provide planning professionals to assist in building the plans and proactive efforts are made by the Planning Department to solicit neighborhood involvement.
 - Incorporate elements from outside studies in planning designs (don't reinvent the wheel).
 - Create a collaboration group (similar to what was done at Kelly) to provide a forum and communication vehicle involving many of the identified resources such as schools, businesses, neighborhoods and government entities.
 - Create subcommittees to address specific concerns/issues—schools, traffic, zoning and planning.
 - Encourage the Fort Sam Houston neighborhoods to build a collaboration group.
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Healthcare Delivery and Medical Partnerships

Co-Chairs: Harold Timboe and Daniel Perugini

Military Transformation Task Force Committee on Healthcare Delivery and Medical Partnerships

Issues

- The group examined the research, education, and clinical facets of military healthcare and considered creative ways to achieve the desired ends, including such tools as enhanced use leasing. Research activities of the military medical organizations in San Antonio will double after BRAC is implemented.
- The mandated timelines appear to be doable. Clinical venues available for military medical training are a concern. Availability of trauma care in the South and West of San Antonio is also a concern. Are there alternatives that would still meet the intent of BRAC?
- The group recommends the City's Office of Military Transformation be the focus to establish appropriate committees to address challenges and opportunities for research, medical education and training, and clinical services. The Office of Military Transformation might become involved in the reuse options for Wilford Hall Medical Center (WHMC).

Recommendations

- A comparable level of trauma services should be replaced in the area around Lackland Air Force Base/ Wilford Hall Medical Center following the closure of the Level 1 trauma center at WHMC. The regional trauma authorities should be involved to define this goal and to develop objectives and strategies.
- Military authorities and the civilian community must communicate their plans with the eligible beneficiaries in the San Antonio area to alleviate their concerns about changes to their healthcare delivery options and to promote community buy-in for those changes.
- The civilian community should strive to obtain a better understanding of federal funding priorities as the BRAC process progresses in order to identify emerging opportunities for medical partnerships with the military services.
- Through the City's Office of Military Transformation, all relevant inquiries related to non-BRAC military moves to San Antonio should be captured, including those that are being turned away because of a perceived lack of space.
- The community should consider undertaking environmental assessments examining the effects of the BRAC recommendations on San Antonio as a whole, not solely the effects on Randolph Air Force Base, Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base.
- Working groups should be formed consisting of participants from the breakout session to address issues of education, research and clinical care.

To view the full BRAC 2005 Community Visioning Session report or to find more information about the BRAC-related actions in San Antonio, Frequently Asked BRAC questions and BRAC community initiatives, please visit the Office of Military Transformation website at: www.sanantonio.gov/omt.
