

BRAC Barometer

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## **Final BRAC Relocation Fair: A Testament to APG Community Readiness**

The fourth and final BRAC Relocation Fair was held at Gibbs Hall in Fort Monmouth on Wednesday, May 26, 2010. Thirty-four exhibitor tables and approximately 50 agency and organization representatives welcomed nearly 600 Fort Monmouth personnel to the day-long relocation event. “Decide. Plan. Act. Make it Happen!” was this year’s theme as military, civilian DoD and contractors toured the hall to assist in their decision making process.

Participating exhibitors included:

Aberdeen Proving Ground’s Garrison Transformation Office and Environmental Office; Kirk US Army Health Clinic; Family Moral Welfare & Recreation; Army Community Services; Civilian Personnel Advisory Committee; Child Youth School Services; and Picerne Military Housing. State agencies included Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development; and Maryland State Department of Education. County Government Offices included Harford County Office of Economic Development (with representation from the City of Aberdeen and Towns of Havre de Grace and Bel Air) and Harford County Public Schools; Cecil County Economic Development/Tourism Office and Cecil County Chamber of Commerce (with representation from Perryville, Charlestown and Elkton) as well as Cecil County Public Schools; Baltimore County Economic Development Office with Baltimore County Public Schools, and the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors; Baltimore City’s Live Baltimore; New Castle County, DE including the NCCo Office of Redevelopment, Delaware Apartment Association and Delaware Economic Development Office; and York County’s Economic Development Commission. Other APG community entities included Susquehanna Workforce Network and Maryland’s One-Stop Transition Center; Harford-Cecil Non-Public Schools; and yours truly, the Chesapeake Science and Security Corridor’s APG-CSSC Regional BRAC Office, served as greeters, providing welcome bags, relocation guides and maps while staffing registration and keeping count of attendees.

Fort Monmouth services that were also on-site included the Defense National Relocation Program and Homeowners Assistance Program; Ft Monmouth Employee Assistance Program; PCS/Fort Monmouth Transportation Office; the G4providing info on APG facilities, Fort Monmouth Resource Center for NJ Dept of Labor, and Fort Monmouth Army Community Services Army Career & Alumni Program.

Although at press time, the tallied responses of the exit survey were not available, the anecdotal feedback was loud and clear: Harford County continues to be the leading location for residential choice

of relocating Fort Monmouth workers. Cecil County and New Castle County, DE follow in preferences expressed at the fair. Topics of heightened interest this year were the availability of apartment rentals, child care facilities, and education issues including residential waiver, school district boundaries and curriculum inquiries.

Another factor that made this year's fair somewhat different is that most attendees knew what month they were relocating to the APG area—some as early as this month; others not until later next year. Yet, surprisingly, some had not ventured south yet to explore the area on their own nor had they participated on any tours previously coordinated by jurisdictions in the region.

On the other hand, many had apartment leases signed, new home construction under contract and out of the ground and plans to enroll children in the upcoming school year. True to form, just as BRAC has been the gradual ebb and flow, and not a tidal wave, so too has the decision to call the APG community home.

What was reaffirming was that many were using the relocation fair to follow up on specific questions to the information they'd already been provided. It was evident that decision making based upon informed choices was the outcome of this series of relocation fairs. Having attended all of the Ft Monmouth relocation fairs—including the first fair back in 2006-- four years ago—the progress of BRAC implementation is quite clear and the APG community is ready.

Welcome, new neighbors!

*To learn more about the results of the exit survey from the Fort Monmouth Relocation Fair, visit our website at [www.apg-cssc.com](http://www.apg-cssc.com)*