

NEWS RELEASE

FROM: Dennis K. Morris
Executive Director

FOR RELEASE ON OR AFTER: December 4, 2007

A Blueprint To Manage Fort Lee Growth Unveiled

On Monday evening the Crater Planning District Commission unveiled *The Fort Lee Regional Growth Management Plan*, which assesses the anticipated impacts of Fort Lee's BRAC-related expansion upon the communities adjacent to Fort Lee (Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George Counties and the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg), as well as the remaining Crater Planning District localities.

Since January, 2007, RKG Associates, Inc. has been working with the Commission through specialized task forces focused upon housing, education, transportation, child care and employment opportunities for trailing spouses. These task forces were composed of business leaders and representatives of local governments, school divisions, and Fort Lee. A steering committee led by 4th District Congressman Randy Forbes' BRAC Working Group provided overall guidance.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense provided funding for this initiative through the Office of Economic Adjustment.

Congressman Forbes, VA-04, stated, "Now that the Fort Lee Regional Growth Management Plan has established a baseline of credible data, the Crater Region can move forward to better prepare for the pending growth at Fort Lee".

A recent Economic Impact Analysis of Fort Lee, 2006-2013, prepared by the Virginia Employment Commission working in concert with the Crater Planning District Commission, found that total compensation paid to Fort Lee employees should average approximately \$1.25 billion per year through 2013.

Dr. James B. McNeer, President of Richard Bland College and chair of Congressman Forbes' BRAC Working Group, said, "Every sector of our economy will be positively impacted by the growth of Fort Lee. Each community must do its "fair share" to ensure that the region is fully prepared. Continued support of Fort Lee is the most important economic development initiative that we can possibly undertake".