

Savannah River Summit: Shaping the Region's Future Economy

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Base Realignment and Closure

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SUMMARY: Military communities will suffer a tremendous economic impact should their military installation be downsized or closed as a result of the upcoming 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process. This workshop will focus on what communities could and should be doing to better posture themselves for BRAC 2005 and beyond.

Initiatives	Top Action Items
Create a unified community effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish single organization comprised of political, chamber, business, media, & public representatives. It is important that the community speak with one voice and have a single source for information clarification and response.
Create community awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BRAC & BRAC Process - Economic Impact - Support for military/families - Maximize partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Info sharing through civic/business groups, town hall meetings, media, brochures and any other means of information dissemination. Complete detailed Economic Impact Study. Although of minimum significance to the DoD BRAC process, the economic impact is the single most important factor to the community and key to community support. Encourage full acceptance of military and military families as part of the community through recognition events, military discounts, participation in military/civilian activities. Important that uniforms are visible in the community and suits are visible on the installation. Military and military family members must feel welcome in the community such that they want to be here and want to stay or return here. Encourage community-installation partnerships for shared resources, public-private ventures, and business, education and recreation partnerships. Maximize excess capacity by permitting public use of training areas and facilities. Encourage military involvement in the community through activities such as speakers, school mentors/tutors, volunteers, band concerts, parades, color guards.
Complete community and installation assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess installation's strengths/weaknesses – promote strengths, correct weaknesses. Installations will be evaluated on how efficiently and effectively they perform their assigned missions. Assess community's strengths/weaknesses – promote strengths, correct weaknesses. Communities will be evaluated on mission support factors such as air/rail/road transportation networks, and communications infrastructure. Communities will also be evaluated on quality of life attributes such as housing, education, recreation, cultural arts. Assess installation's ability to absorb expanded/new missions. Those installations not closed must have adequate space, infrastructure, and training facilities to absorb missions from those installations that are closed. Assess community's ability to absorb expanded military presence. The community must have the ability to provide increased housing, schooling, and other quality of life attributes to support an influx of military and military families.
Eliminate encroachment issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine what community factors impact the installation's ability to perform assigned missions. Alleviate these factors through legislation, partnerships, rezoning, etc.
Create sound DC Connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political - Dept of Defense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish solid working relationship with Congressional delegates/staffers (yours and those in key positions). Contract with professional consultants and/or lobbyists who have the experience, knowledge and connections to advise you of necessary actions, carry your messages forward and keep you informed as the process evolves.
Acquire funding/services-in-kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit donations from city/state govt, businesses, and the general public. Focus on those most affected by economic impact. Encourage those who cannot provide funds to donate services-in-kind such as printing, furniture, office space, volunteer hours.
Have a backup plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan for installation redevelopment should it be realigned or closed. Do not spend all your time, effort and money fighting to keep your installation open and have nothing left to fall back on should you be unsuccessful.