

# BRAC TASK FORCE WEEKLY UPDATE

Volume 1 – Issue 10

July 29, 2005

## **THIS WEEKS EVENTS:**

There is no date set for input of information to BRAC. Although information can be taken all the way to the end, the earlier the better for consideration.

BRAC Task Force members (3) were invited by Governor Rendell to attend a meeting with BRAC Staff at 10:00 on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **911th Committee:**

Thanks to Sally Haas for inviting us to the Wine and Dine at Robin Hill Park last Friday and giving us the opportunity to set up a table. We received 162 more petitions and had a lot of fun in the process. This week we worked on a point paper for the Monday briefing. We also made contact with the base and arranged to have the Pit BRAC Video aired. This is being done every hour on the hour for several days. We continue to research the BRAC site for data and correspondence in an effort to keep the momentum going. I will contact everyone if a need should arise to meet again before next Wednesday.

### **Public Affairs Committee:**

This week, the Public Affairs Team:

>Responded to inquiries associated with Auditor General Jack Wagner's press conference at the Kelly support Facility;

>Updated and re-published the Pit-BRAC website:

(<http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/pitbrac/>)

Thanks again to the Allegheny County folks for hosting our site and providing the IT support;

>Prepped releases on (1) the August 1 Rendell-BRAC meeting, (2) C-130 deployment plan and (3) community impact information; and

>Worked on an MCA-TV Cable broadcast updating viewers of Pit-BRAC efforts to date.

### **Economic Impact:**

An Economic Impact presentation was given to the BRAC Commission on Friday, July 22, 2005. Thanks to all involved for the hard work.

### **Kelly/ 99<sup>th</sup>:**

Comprehensive booklets were prepared for the BRAC Committee on behalf of the Commissary and the Neville Island Service Center setting forth persuasive data to preserve each facility.

For the Commissary, our exceptionally hard working committee members highlighted the extraordinary feature that over 170,000 veterans and dependants shop at the facility, that the Commissary for its size ranks third in the United States on income producing and, on the downsize, if the Commissary is closed, veterans would have to travel to Carlisle (round trip 376 miles) or to Wright Patterson Air Field (500 miles round trip).

As to the Neville Island Service Center, its service featured extraordinary mechanical and electrical service on vehicles, weapons, and classified facilities for equipment used in the Iraq Conflict.

The Neville Island Service Center is situated on 15 acres and has the largest sandblast building on the East Coast. It receives equipment by rail, boat, and highway.

In our opinion, the Neville Island facility cannot be duplicated on its military value

to our fighting forces at home and overseas.

Good news:

Major General Jessica L. Wright, Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, wrote on July 25, 2005 to the Chief Executive Officer of the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) requesting that his agency conduct a need study for a new Commissary on available land next to the 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command (RRC) Headquarters.

Such action was requested of her by the Co-Chairman of the Military Affairs Council of Western Pennsylvania on June 28, 2005, followed by a supporting letter from the Honorable Jack Wagner, Auditor General of Pennsylvania on July 19, 2005.

#### **Hearing Visits:**

Visits have been made to most of the Regional BRAC hearings by members of the BTF. Videos of these briefings are on file at the BRAC War Room.

#### **Data Still Sought:**

Representatives of the BTF are working closely with the consultant on COBRA data supporting the Joint Readiness Center proposal.

#### **BRAC Calendar:**

**August 5:** Last day to submit letters for BRAC Commissioners. Have them in the BRAC Room no later than mid-day Friday.

**August 8** - BTF Steering Committee Meeting @ 10:00 AM

**August 10** - BTF Task Force Meeting @ 5:30 PM

**August 23 - 26-** Anticipated time frame when the BRAC Commissioners will deliberate and publish their draft recommendation list.

#### **Western Pennsylvania BRAC Task Force**

*This is the tenth of the weekly publications being brought to you by the Western Pennsylvania BRAC Task Force (BTF) from our Moon Township BRAC War Room. Anyone having appropriate information that should be considered for sharing with the BRAC Task Force Team should submit it weekly in time for Friday publication.*

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