

BRAC update: Medical, dental clinic in Harmony Church opens this week

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Moving the U.S. Armor School from Fort Knox, Ky., to Fort Benning has led to the opening of a new Harmony Church Consolidated Troop Medical and Dental Clinic.

“They are going to be able to provide full services for the troops so they won’t have to come to the hospital,” said Terry Beckwith, a public affairs spokeswoman.

The grand opening for the new clinic is 11 a.m. Tuesday at Building 4202.

At a cost of \$15.2 million, the 32,400 square-foot facility at 6998 Old Cusseta Road is just one of many improvements as 7,500 soldiers move to Harmony Church by Sept. 15. The Base Realignment and Closure expansion is projected to bring 28,000 people to the Chattahoochee Valley, including soldiers, civilian workers, contractors and family members.

The facility treats about 150 soldiers daily with a staff of 50. When the move is completed to create the Maneuver Center of Excellence, that total may increase to 300 soldiers daily.

“I would assume they would grow as more units arrive,” Beckwith said. “That is why we have a dedicated facility. They don’t have to come to main post. They come in, they go through sick call in the morning and they are back to duty within a reasonable amount of time.”

In addition to sick call and primary care, clinic services include dental facilities, laboratory, pharmacy, radiology along with mental health and physical therapy.

Shortly after the BRAC announcement in 2005, Beckwith said the staff looked at the type of injuries and services the soldiers may face and determined the current clinic wouldn’t be able to support the troops.

“They looked at the demographics and what kind of injuries and we were able to get funding for the Consolidated Troop Medical and Dental Clinic,” she said.

A groundbreaking was held in 2009, construction was completed in February and furniture was delivered in March. The staff has been seeing patients since the end of March, Beckwith said. The clinic primarily serves soldiers in the 194th Armored Brigade, the 316th Cavalry Regiment and students in the Armor School.