

UPDATE



Fort Benning Regional Growth Management Plan October 2009

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RGMP

The Fort Benning Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP) is a major planning effort designed to assess the challenges and opportunities facing communities impacted by the Fort Benning BRAC growth and to find solutions that address these issues. The RGMP study produced a plan for the region and for each of the 10-counties within a 35 mile radius of Ft. Benning, as listed below.

For more information, go to the [RGMP website](#).

RGMP Counties

ALABAMA

Barbour
Lee
Russell

GEORGIA

Columbus -Muscogee
Cusseta - Chattahoochee
Harris
Marion

→ BRAC - Planning For The Future

Since 1918, Fort Benning, GA has served as the "Home of the Infantry" and Fort Knox, KY has been known as the "Home of Armor" since 1940. Recently Fort Benning was designated as the Maneuver Center of Excellence under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Law (BRAC). The U. S. Army Armor Center and School will relocate from Fort Knox to Fort Benning. The Infantry and Armor Schools locating at Fort Benning will prepare both branches to better meet the challenges of the future. BRAC law requires this move be completed by September 15, 2011.

This initiative is the equivalent of moving a city the size of Rome, GA (more than the population of 30,000) into Fort Benning and the Columbus/Chattahoochee Valley Region. Extensive planning and communication is required to meet the deadline of September 15, 2011. The support of the local communities and counties in a 10 county radius is critical and everyone has been a valuable partner in this effort.

How are we affected? This integration of more than 30,000 soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and contractors, students and their families moving to this area will result in buying, building and renting homes and apartments as well as shopping. Regional utility providers will see an increase in users, school enrollment will rise and regional healthcare providers and facilities will realize an increase in their services, too.

How are you and your business supporting the families involved with the BRAC movement? Is your business doing anything special for the military transitioning to this area? If you are offering a special rate for the relocating members of families such as: military rates at lodging facilities; special discounts at retail stores, etc., please share that information with me so I can help spread the word--Linda Brady, lbrady@columbusgachamber.com. If you want to contribute your time in some of the activities during the next two years as a volunteer, please share that with me also. **THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME. DON'T LET IT PASS YOU BY WITHOUT BEING A PART OF THIS VERY WORTHWHILE AND MEANINGFUL EVENT.**

Stewart
Talbot
Taylor

MCOE CommunityUpdate



Each month, Fort Benning hosts a Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE) Update that provides BRAC information to on-post personnel and to the community. These Updates are open to the public and are held the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm, at the [National Infantry Museum](#).

[MCOE Community Update](#)

[MCOE In The News](#)

[Ft. Benning
Population Estimates &
Growth Timeline](#)

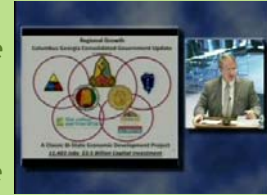
BRAC Countdown



As of October 14, 2009, there are 700 days until the September 15, 2011 deadline to complete all

→ Regional Growth Management Plan Presented to City Council

On September 29, 2009, the Columbus City Council received a formal presentation of the Regional Growth Management Plan, presented by Mike Gaymon, President of the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce and by Gary Jones, Executive Vice President, Military Affairs.



[Watch the video](#) and read the [RGMP documents online](#).

→ What Is Significant About October 1, 2009?

October 1, 2009 is the official date that Fort Benning became the Maneuver Center of Excellence. The Armor School of Fort Knox, KY and the Infantry School of Fort Benning, GA will co-locate at Fort Benning and both organizationally will report directly to the Commanding General of the Maneuver Center of Excellence. This is a monumental and historic event as the Infantry and Armor again become "Brothers in Arms" as they train together at the MCOE to better prepare themselves for times of conflict in theaters of war.

There will be a ceremony to celebrate the establishment of the MCOE on October 22, 2009 in Building 35 at Fort Benning. You don't want to miss this grand event taking place right here in the Chattahoochee Valley! History in the making, so plan to be a part of it!

→ Relocation Program of the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Partnership

Relocation affects nearly every aspect of life, from education to finance, employment to child care. Moving is challenging and disruptive and can be very stressful to any family. The Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (Valley Partnership) understand this and have designed a program to assist families that relocate to the Chattahoochee Valley.

The Relocation Program minimizes the stress of a household in transition by offering resources that are designed to simplify the moving process. A major resource that is available to everyone 24/7 is the website: www.fortbenningandthevalley.com. Here you will find important facts about Columbus and the surrounding 10 counties known as the Chattahoochee Valley. By navigating through

2005 BRAC-directed actions.

QUICK LINKS

[RGMP Website](#)
[Valley Partnership](#)
[Fort Benning](#)



the website, you will learn detailed information about education, housing, medical and financial institutions of the highest standards, transportation, parks and recreation, entertainment for all the family, and quality of life, just to name a few. Downtown Columbus, Georgia literally comes alive as you take the virtual tour and get to experience the Chattahoochee River as it is showcased with a kayak trip taking you over the rapids. If you are ready to move, this website should give you all the information you need to make important decisions necessary during relocation.

Seeing is believing and the Relocation Program makes that happen by conducting tours of the Columbus community and the Chattahoochee Valley. Tours will be available for groups as large as 40 to 60 or smaller groups with only 20 to 30 individuals. Each tour will be planned to target specific areas of interest. During their tour, the group will be greeted at strategic stops with special presentations given by key leadership of various businesses and institutions as well as by elected officials.

The Relocation Program is a service for all newcomers to this area. Whether it's a military family, defense contractor, Army civil service employee or a corporate business person, we're excited to offer our assistance to anyone who is relocating to the valley region. There are Welcome Packets for each family with informative material to assist them too.

Perhaps the most unique service of this Relocation Program is that it comes with a personal concierge located at the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Linda Brady is the full-time employee at the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and is designated as the Relocation Concierge who personally assists newcomers with their requests. Even though each person receives the Newcomer's Guide, Welcome Packet and various other pieces of local information about the area, we understand there is always a special need or concern a family may have that is not addressed in any of these publications or the website. The special touch that is given by having this type of resource can make a big difference and shows the importance we place on each and every newcomer to our area. We want to quickly make them feel like family...and we take care of our family!

→ Next Fort Knox, KY Town Hall

Be watching for the next Fort Knox Information Fair Town Hall meeting to be announced. We have targeted March 2010 to have another relocation fair at the Leaders Club in Fort Knox, KY. When the date is firm, we will pass that information to you and include the focus for this event as well.

The first movement of Armor School elements from Fort Knox, KY to Fort Benning, GA is scheduled to begin in March 2010. That activity will spark an awareness that BRAC is real and will generate an increase in attendance for this next Fort Knox Information Fair Town Hall meeting.

This newsletter is prepared by the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (VPJDA) with financial support from the Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense. The content herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of Economic Adjustment.



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