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**MARYLAND BRAC DELEGATION FINDS EXCITEMENT AND CHALLENGES OVER FORT
MONMOUTH RELOCATION TO ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND**

***The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore's 23-Person Delegation Brings Together Fort
Monmouth Officials, Business Leaders, and Military Leadership***

BALTIMORE, MD (6/20/07) – Excitement and questions were some of the reactions the 23-member delegation reports hearing after two days worth of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) discussions in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, according to the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore.

"We are working in partnership at the state, federal, local and regional levels to prepare for the expected population and economic growth to ensure that we have the facilities and infrastructure in place to accommodate that growth," said Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, who serves on the Board of the Economic Alliance. "Our number one priority is to sustain and enhance the extraordinary quality of life we enjoy in Maryland – for our current residents as well as our families moving to our great state as a result of BRAC."

The Economic Alliance convened the delegation of elected officials, private business people, and higher education representatives as part of an ongoing effort for Maryland to collaboratively prepare for BRAC and an influx of more than 20,000 new jobs coming to Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG).

"What we are finding is that the jobs are coming to Maryland," said Laura Gamble, President of Bank of America – Maryland and Chair of the Economic Alliance. "Our challenge now is to show the people serving the mission at Fort Monmouth that the Greater Baltimore region offers a lifestyle that is equal to what they have come to love in New Jersey."

The mission's focus was centered on discussions around industry, government and higher education, and creating high level relationships in all three areas. In addition to one-on-one briefings with more than a dozen contractors supporting the installation, there was a group meeting with Major General Michael R. Mazzucchi, Fort Monmouth's commanding general, and Gary P. Martin, Technical Director of CERDEC – a primary research and development function moving to APG.

Workforce development is a key aspect of Maryland's BRAC preparation, and there was a roundtable discussion with a team from Monmouth University and representatives from University of Maryland College Park, Towson University, and University of Baltimore to discuss how higher education can support the APG's new mission.

An evening reception, co-hosted by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown, head of the state's BRAC subcabinet, the Industrial Representatives Association for Fort Monmouth, and the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore was an opportunity for the Fort Monmouth-based contractors to learn more about Maryland and its plans for BRAC implementation.

“Bringing everyone together is an important step in the BRAC process,” said J. Thomas Sadowski, Executive Vice President for the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore. “We are engaging the community in discussions on the opportunities and realities surrounding BRAC relocation and learning how we can help prepare the base, affiliated contractors and affected personnel for the move to Maryland.”

The delegation included Harford County Executive David Craig, Baltimore County Executive James Smith, Cecil County Commissioner William Manlove, Deputy Mayor Andy Frank, economic development officials from these jurisdictions and leaders from private industry – including finance, real estate, construction, and utilities.

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