



The Honorable Ms. Katherine Hammack
Opening Remarks, Media Round Table, 14 July 2011
Fort Hamilton, New York

“Good Afternoon.

We are 63 days away from the successful closure of ARMY BRAC 2005. We are on time and on target.

Over the past months the media has focused on numerous successes at the local and regional levels. Today we want to provide a comprehensive view and assessment of ARMY BRAC 2005 from an entire holistic stand point .

Since 2003, the Army has worked to fully utilize the opportunity provided by BRAC 2005, this has enabled us to improve our global posture by better positioning our forces, our logistics activities, training bases, and even medical infrastructure. A central objective has been to be more responsive to the requirements of the combatant commanders and the demands of ongoing contingencies.



We’ve worked side-by-side with leaders throughout the Army, the Corps of Engineers, the Reserves and other public and private stakeholders, to implement over a thousand complex actions, and keep in mind we’ve been doing this while fighting in two theaters of war as well as defending the homeland.

Army BRAC has resulted not only in greater effectiveness and efficiency, but also in significant economic opportunities for the states in which our installations and facilities are located. With just under \$18 billion invested in construction and related areas, this is three times more than all four previous Army BRAC rounds combined. BRAC has produced tremendous economic impacts for regional economies as well as the states and the communities which adjoin our installations.

Really, the Army’s approach to BRAC 2005 – enabled by quality planning and innovation across the Army – has enabled greater effectiveness and efficiency for America’s Army, economic dividends for dozens of communities, and significant improvements for Soldiers, Families and Civilians.

There’s really three areas I want to talk about. The first is mission and efficiencies.

The Army took advantage of this one-time opportunity to restructure how we train, supply, deploy, equip, and house our Soldiers.

We’ve synchronized BRAC with growth, transformation and global force realignments – which enhances our Soldier’s ability to be more combatant ready.

We rebalanced our force composition, increased operational capacity, and emerged as a leaner, stronger Army.

BRAC did involve joint operations, consolidating and aligning headquarters, restructuring the Reserve forces and improved effectiveness and efficiency.

Again, it has also created Centers of Excellence. We have Net Fires at Fort Sill, Human Resources at Fort Knox, Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, and the Sustainment Center of Excellence at Fort Lee. These Centers of Excellence are a key component in Training and Doctrine Command realignment.

The other thing I want to talk about is the Economic Dividends. I mentioned the Army's \$18 billion BRAC investment which produced tremendous economic opportunities for regional economies as well as the states and the communities which adjoin and support our installations.

But BRAC has also had a tremendous economic impact. I recently read a study that estimated that each \$1 billion in nonresidential construction spending adds about \$3.4 billion to Gross Domestic Product, \$1.1 billion to personal earnings, and creates or sustains 28,500 jobs. So if you take a look at the Army BRAC efforts over all, that means that it contributed over \$60 billion to Gross Domestic Product and almost \$20 billion to personal earnings while creating or sustaining over 500,000 jobs.

So this economic impact really is crucial at a point in time when the whole United States economy has been challenged. Can you imagine what the economy would've looked like if we hadn't had BRAC-- this investment in communities and this employment number that kept contractors gainfully employed.

The other thing to keep in mind is at the completion of BRAC; the Army will have returned or repurposed over 70,000 acres of excess property to local communities. And we remain committed to working with the BRAC 2005 communities to help them achieve their vision. And there are many success stories that surround the way these properties are being used. Whether they're being used for parks or low income housing, commercial development, or residential development, the bases that we are moving out of have tremendous opportunity for the local communities.

But a driving consideration for BRAC has also been to improve care for Soldiers, Wounded Warriors, Families, and Civilians. And by coupling BRAC with Army Family Covenant programs and related investments, we've enhanced the support we provide for Soldiers and Families – across our Active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. And these improvements in infrastructure, community facilities, housing, child care centers, and other areas enhance the resiliency of our Army families.

I'm delighted that Major General Thurgood, Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve, is joining us here today. And we're in a brand new facility- one of the Army reserve facilities- that I am sure he is going to talk about. But with your 28 years of Army service and experience first-hand the benefits that BRAC has delivered to the Reserve and Guard, I invite you to talk and I look forward to your comments."