

# BRAC — The Continuing Journey

*By Bob Murphy, BRAC Program Manager*

**N**ov. 9, 2005, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations became law. Two years have passed since the recommendation to relocate the Defense Contract Management Agency's Headquarters, International and Special Programs Divisions from Alexandria, Va., to Fort Lee, Va., was officially announced.

The news caused mixed reactions throughout the halls of the agency's buildings in Alexandria. Some saw it as a good thing, others as a bad thing, and still others weren't sure what to make of it, reserving judgment until the relocation drew nearer. The one sure thing DCMA personnel knew was that they needed to prepare for the move they are required to execute.

So, where does the agency stand two years into BRAC? Let me just say that it has been an interesting journey so far. Our original plan to construct a new building on Fort Lee, the current home of the Army's Combined Arms Support Command, changed quickly after our move became public. We found ourselves looking instead at an

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existing facility on Fort Lee that is suitable for our use. This building exceeds 150,000 square feet, with parking to accommodate 550 vehicles, and will undergo extensive renovation prior to the move.

We anticipated moving into the CASCOM facility in the summer of 2010. This would have allowed us to avoid prolonged lease extensions for the properties on Walker Lane — the Metro Park offices. Things seemed to be moving in the right direction until the Army let us know of a delay in our occupancy date due to unforeseen logistical considerations.

Now, we are optimistically planning to be in the renovated facility in the late spring or early summer of 2011. It is worth noting that all 2005 BRAC actions must be completed by Sept. 15, 2011. We hope to begin the formal design phase for the renovation in the fall of 2008, and we will be soliciting thoughts, ideas and opinions from impacted employees on what the new facility should contain. We have the opportunity to

develop a first-class facility.

We had one very successful town hall meeting in Alexandria, allowing employees at Metro Park to meet and greet employees and local officials from the Fort Lee vicinity. We're discussing the possibility of a DCMA all hands meeting at Fort Lee, which will bring everyone together again and allow agency employees to see the new DCMA facilities and surrounding communities firsthand.

We are trying to maintain as much current and useful information as possible about the greater Richmond area. Real estate, current events, schools and community services are just a few of the subjects in the various magazines and bulletins we are trying to make available to employees. It is important to provide as much information as we can to help people through the transition to our new "home."

We've done our best to provide as much information as possible

**Our Fort Lee resource room, located in room 550B of DCMA Headquarters, continues to be a success. We are trying to keep it stocked with as much current and useful information as possible.**

to keep people informed and up-to-date. By doing so, we hope to dispel misinformation from the rumor mill, which certainly has been getting a workout the past two years! Rumors run rampant any time a life-changing event like BRAC occurs.

One rumor had the offices at 6350 and 6359 Walker Lane relocating to the U.S. General Services Administration warehouse space not far from DCMA Headquarters' current location, which would prevent the need for DCMA to relocate to Fort Lee. This rumor was fueled by the efforts of local officials and some members

of Congress to annex the GSA property to the Army and make it a part of Fort Belvoir.

Unfortunately, while some would like to see that happen, for DCMA, it doesn't appear likely. The law requires that DCMA "relocate from leased space in Metro Park to Fort Lee, Virginia." There is nothing in the works that would change that ruling. Rumors will continue to spring up and, as they do, we will do our best to distribute accurate information to everyone affected by this move.

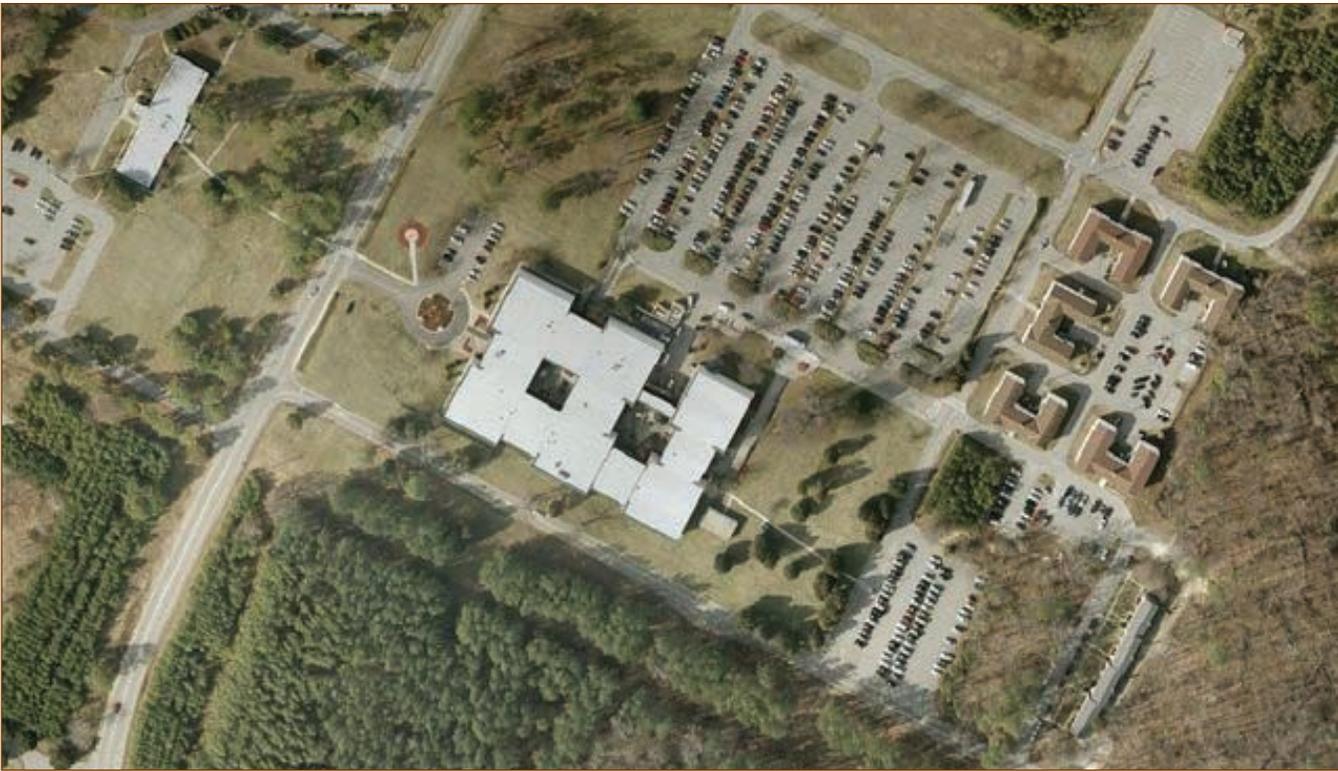
One successful venture tied to BRAC has been the establishment of a transition management office

in the Fort Lee area. While we had hoped to acquire some temporary space on base, there is just so much building going on within the gates of Fort Lee that there is very little available space. However, we were able to acquire some ideal leased space through GSA that is situated not far from Fort Lee's main gate and backs up to the Fort Lee property fence line. Our intent was to establish a "footprint" in the Fort Lee area and begin to have DCMA recognized as a true member of the Fort Lee community. We've worked hard to get the facility up and running as a fully functional office and get people moved in, and we are doing just that.

The office contains space for approximately 55 people. In order to begin filling this space, a group comprised of members of the senior leadership team has been established to assist in



This building, currently housing CASCOM, is the future site of DCMA Headquarters, International and Special Programs offices.



An aerial view of DCMA's future home at Fort Lee, Va.

determining what positions should be relocated to the Fort Lee area based on recommendations from organizational supervisors and their superiors.

The transition management office is an important first step toward establishing DCMA's presence in the Fort Lee area. It provides senior leaders with the opportunity to examine their organizations and identify positions for early relocation. This saves money by eliminating a permanent change-of-station move when hiring new employees — one move to the Alexandria offices and a second to Fort Lee. The move from Metro Park to Fort Lee is a slow but steady process. Things don't always happen quickly. Yet, these two years seem to have flown by in the blink of an eye. Design work on the renovation project will begin

in early fall, and the new home for DCMA Headquarters, International and Special Programs will begin to take on a life of its own.

Life as we know it today in Metro Park will change for all of us. There are difficult decisions to be made

affecting both our personal lives and DCMA. We stand committed to doing everything we can to help you make these decisions by providing you with as much information and assistance as possible as the journey continues.



The Transition Management Office building, Prince George, Va., where some DCMA employees will begin working prior to the 2010 move into the CASCOM building.