



# FORT BELVOIR



## Reins Change at Belvoir, Mission Stays the Same

Col. Jerry L. Blixt assumed command of Fort Belvoir on Wednesday, July 2, 2008, succeeding Col. Brian Lauritzen during a change of command ceremony on the post parade field.

Blixt is well aware of the coordination and integration required to conduct the BRAC 2005 realignments having previously served within the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. In addition, this is the second time Blixt has followed Lauritzen in a command position - the other having been as Commander Headquarters Command Battalion at Fort Myer.

“It never hurts to take over command from a good friend, especially Brian (Lauritzen),” said Blixt.

“I have great faith in the staff at Fort Belvoir and their abilities as we continue moving forward with the implementation of BRAC law,” said Blixt. “We will continue to maintain and build relationships with the community, coordinate with our neighbors, and move forward with our mission.”



*Fort Belvoir Installation Commander, Colonel Jerry L. Blixt*

## PEO-EIS BRAC Task Force Focuses on Its People

The Program Executive Office-Enterprise Information Systems (PEO-EIS) BRAC Task Force conducted a town hall meeting at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, July 10, to provide comprehensive information to employees affected by the BRAC 2005 realignment to Fort Belvoir.

The PEO is slated to move over 400 personnel, military, government civilians, and contractors to the post by Sept. 2011. The focus of this town hall was to provide awareness about the Fort Belvoir installation and information regarding the relocation of the mission to Northern Virginia.

Highlighted areas included information on:

- » Planned improvements to mass transit, installation infrastructure, and the community
- » Plans for budgets, personnel, administrative furnishings and IT support
- » Status of Human Resources entitlements, incentives, and benefits

PEO-EIS personnel in attendance were receptive to the information and participated with the panel members in discussions. Future town hall events similar to this one are planned over the next year.

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## On Post Temporary Road Closure - Portion of Mt. Vernon Road

Construction to install storm drainage piping will close Mount Vernon Road between the intersections of Hurley and Hunter Roads August 9 to 23. Southbound traffic on Mount Vernon Road will detour to Surveyor Road and onto Belvoir Road; northbound traffic will be directed to Belvoir Road via Hurley Road.

[www.belvoirnewvision.com](http://www.belvoirnewvision.com)

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## Access Road Opens for EPG and Fairfax County Parkway Construction

Demolition of the Central Motors Building at 7238 Fullerton Road in Springfield, Va. began on July 14, 2008, to make way for a construction access road to be used during the construction of facilities on the EPG and the first phase of the Fairfax County Parkway Extension. The building and its foundation were demolished with an excavator during weekday daytime hours over a three week period. Phases one and two of the Parkway, currently funded at \$116 million, are expected to be completed by late 2010. These phases will create four through lanes between Fullerton Road and Donegal Lane, connecting to the current Rolling Road alignment, the Fairfax County Parkway and the Franconia-Springfield Parkway; improved commuter access to I-95; and new ramps to Fullerton Road and EPG access road. For more information, see [www.virginiadot.org/projects](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects).



*Demolition of the Central Motors' facility on Fullerton Road in Springfield began on July 14, clearing the way for the Fairfax County Parkway extension through Fort Belvoir's Engineer Proving Ground. The site will also serve as the temporary construction access road for traffic entering and exiting the EPG. The Barta/Backlick entrance will be closed to all traffic beginning August 18.*

(Photo by Shane White, VDOT)

## BRAC 133 Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

The Final EA and Draft FONSI for BRAC 133 were released for public review and comment on July 14, 2008. Recommendation 133 of the 2005 BRAC Commission required the relocation of 6,409 employees of several miscellaneous Department of Defense (DOD) Agencies and Field Activities, including the Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), from leased facilities in the National Capital Region (NCR) to Fort Belvoir. Although the Preferred Alternative in the July 6, 2007 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) would have placed BRAC 133 personnel on the Engineer Proving Ground (EPG), the August 7, 2007, Record of Decision (ROD) deferred the decision on where to locate BRAC 133 personnel pending further evaluation. Consequently, the Army initiated both an ongoing competition among private developers to evaluate other potential sites for BRAC 133 and an EA. Relocation of BRAC 133 elements would require up to 1.8 million square feet of existing or newly-constructed administrative and specific-function space, and 1.3 million square feet of associated parking facilities.

Three sites were considered and evaluated as alternatives for BRAC 133: the GSA warehouse site in Springfield (Alternative A); the privately-owned Victory Center office complex on Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria, Va. (Alternative B); and the privately-owned Mark Center office complex on Seminary Road in Alexandria, Va. (Alternative C). Five other alternatives were assessed and ultimately rejected for not conforming to Army relocation criteria, and were therefore not evaluated in detail. The EA also evaluated the No Action Alternative, in which BRAC 133 agencies would remain where they are and not be relocated. Two other site alternatives for BRAC 133, the EPG and the Fort Belvoir main post were previously considered and evaluated in the July 2007 EIS and are therefore not evaluated in this EA.

Should either of these two sites be selected for BRAC 133, such selection will be done through a supplemental ROD. The EA examined in detail the potential effects of the four alternatives on areas of environmental and socioeconomic concern, including land use, transportation, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics (including environmental justice and protection of children), aesthetics and visual resources, utilities and hazardous and toxic materials.

The Army has issued a draft FONSI, because the EA showed that implementation of the proposed action under any of the alternatives would result in a combination of short- and long-term minor but not significant adverse effects, as well as long-term minor beneficial effects. Mitigation measures would be undertaken in accordance with existing policies and regulations to reduce, avoid, or compensate for adverse effects, and best management practices and sound engineering practices will be implemented to the maximum practicable extent. Mitigations for air quality and transportation were also identified for Alternatives A, B, and C. Inclusion of the identified transportation projects was necessary to achieve the finding of no significant impact.

The Final EA and Draft FONSI are available for review and comment for 30 days beginning July 14, 2008. The EA is available at [www.belvoirenvision.com](http://www.belvoirenvision.com), [www.belvoirbrac-eis.net](http://www.belvoirbrac-eis.net), and [www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm). The EA is also available at nine public libraries in the Fort Belvoir area. Written comments on the EA and Draft FONSI should be submitted by mail to Fort Belvoir BRAC, ATTN: BRAC 133 EA Comments, 1036 Eaton Place, Suite 340, Fairfax, Virginia, 22030, by email to [brac133ecomments@tetrattech.com](mailto:brac133ecomments@tetrattech.com), or online at [www.belvoirbrac-eis.net](http://www.belvoirbrac-eis.net) no later than August 13, 2008.

## BRAC Leadership

**James Turkel** | Chief, Belvoir Integration Office (BIO)



Mr. Turkel was appointed to his position on April 17, 2007, by North Atlantic Division (NAD) Commander Brigadier General Todd Semonite. Mr. Turkel is responsible for supporting the NAD Districts administering and executing more than \$3.5 Billion of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer projects at Fort Belvoir, the majority of which are a result of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions. Mr. Turkel is responsible for coordinating and integrating between the Fort Belvoir Garrison and the Corps, and across the various District projects.

Mr. Turkel works jointly with members of the Fort Belvoir leadership and community to coordinate construction and to minimize the impact on the local community. The BIO's goal is to safely execute the projects as mandated by Congress, while maintaining a safe environment for the community, traveling public and workers.

His hobbies include motorcycling, running and tennis.

**COL Michael A. Rossi** | Director, Belvoir Integration Office (BIO)



*Army Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, left, presents Belvoir Integration Office Director Colonel Michael A. Rossi, right, with the Legion of Merit during his retirement ceremony at Fort Belvoir on July 10.*

Mentor, leader, innovator, team builder were just a few of the words used by the Army Chief of Engineers to describe Colonel Michael A. Rossi during a retirement ceremony at Fort Belvoir on July 10.

Army Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, presented Col. Rossi the Legion of Merit for his achievements during his time as the Director of the Belvoir Integration Office. Col. Rossi was responsible for the integration of nearly \$4 Billion in Base Realignment and Closure 2005 construction projects for the North Atlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Four of five NAD districts are executing BRAC 2005 projects at Fort Belvoir, and Col. Rossi's primary task was to de-conflict and integrate construction activities among the projects and to facilitate communication among the stakeholders.

Col. Rossi officially retires on August 31 after more than 26 years of military service. He was commissioned an Engineer officer from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. in 1982, and throughout his career he has served in a variety of operational, command and staff assignments in Germany and the United States. He has commanded at every level from platoon to battalion to District.

Col. Rossi's duties are being assumed by BIO Chief James Turkel.

## BRAC Impacts Considered in Transportation Planning

The Proposed Six-Year Virginia Department of Transportation Secondary System Construction Program for Fiscal Years 2009-2014 as passed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on June 30, 2008, contains an amendment by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland directing the Fairfax County Department of Transportation to review surrounding BRAC Area Plan Review (APR) nominations for development in the area, and recommend any improvements necessary to ensure an operable level of service in the affected communities.