



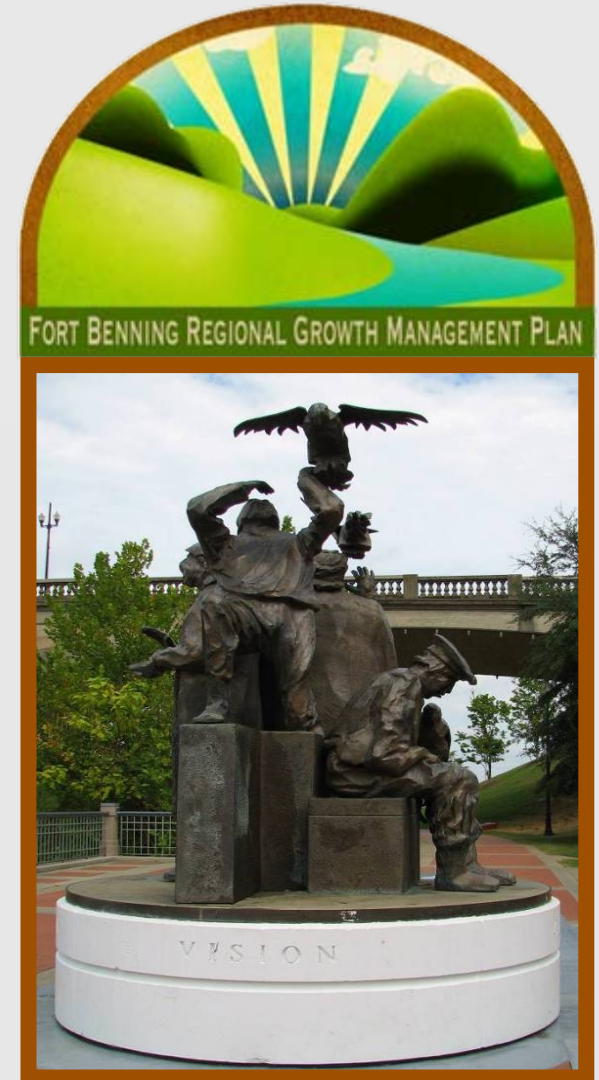
The Fort Benning Regional Growth Management Plan is funded by a grant from the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment, an agency charged with helping BRAC-affected communities adjust to the impacts of mission changes at military installations

Fort Benning

REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Safety/Services Task Force Meeting

September 3, 2008



In association with:

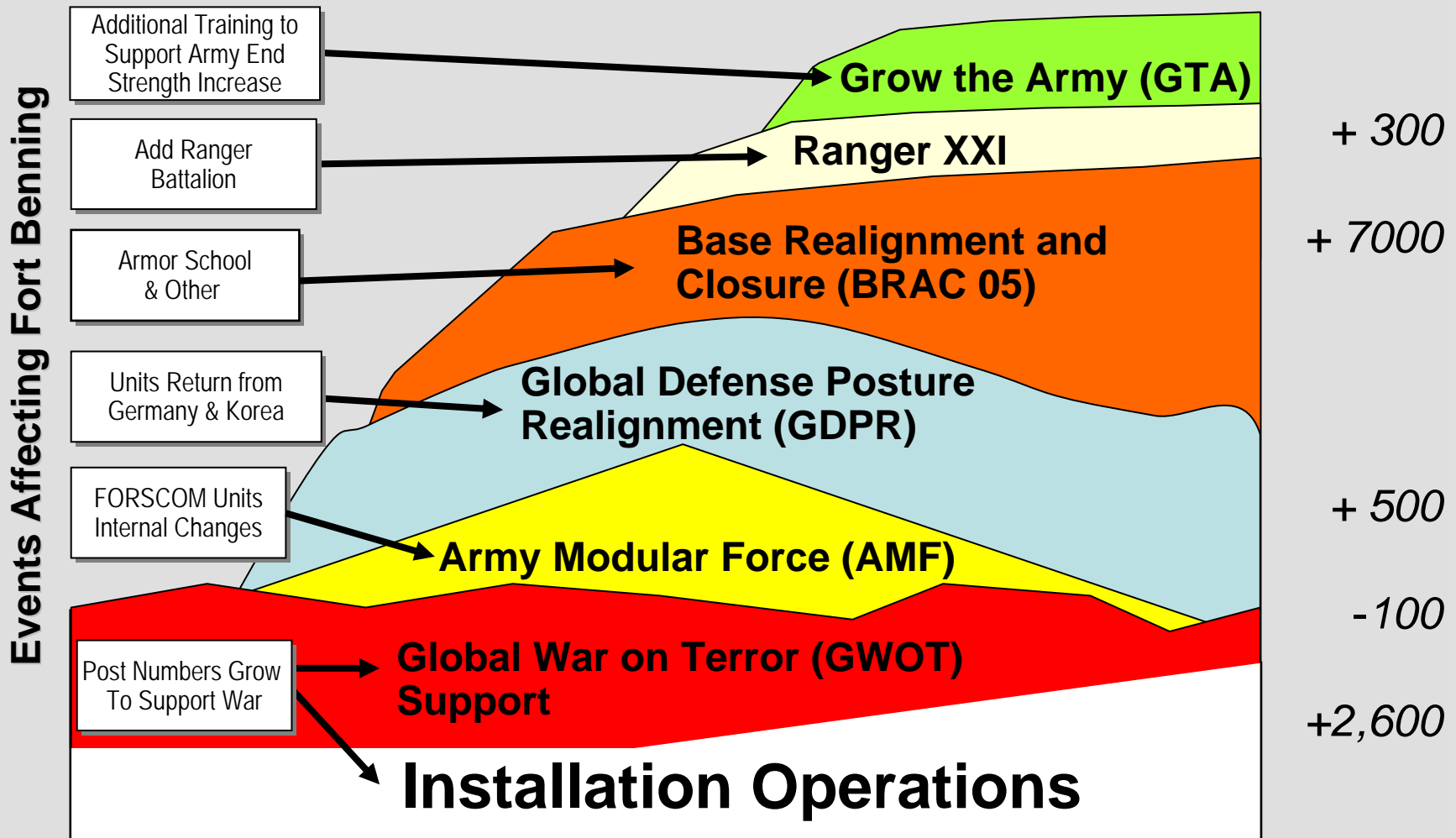


Regionalism is the Key

"Coordination and Synchronization Continue To Be Our Greatest Strengths"
Major General Walter Wojdakowski
Commanding General, Fort Benning, Alabama and Georgia



Fort Benning Transformation



Project Purpose

RGMP Study Area:
(10 Counties – 35 Mile Radius)

Ten County Study Area:

Georgia

- Columbus - Muscogee
- Cusseta - Chattahoochee
- Harris
- Marion
- Talbot
- Taylor
- Stewart

Alabama

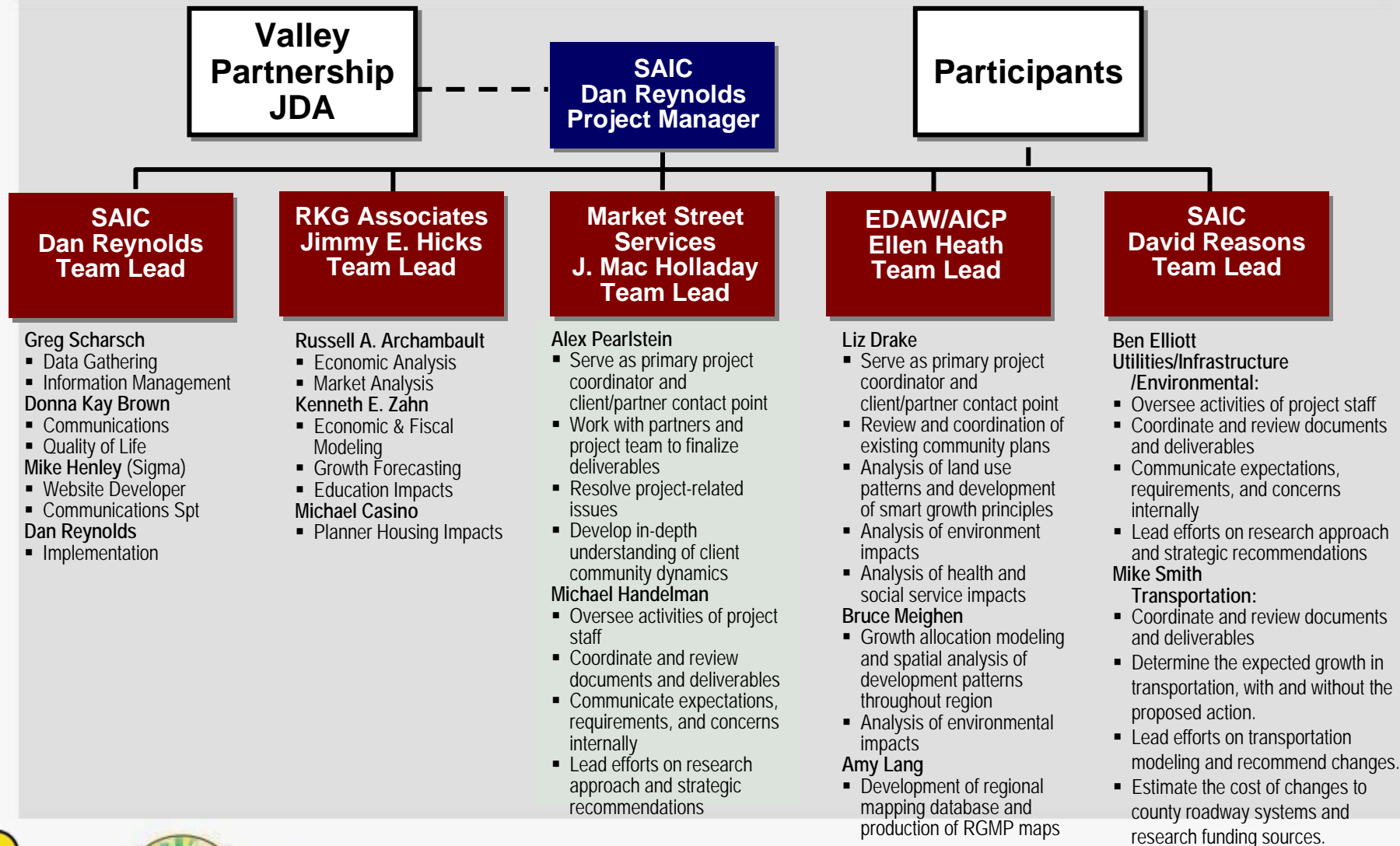
- Barbour
- Lee
- Russell



Identify:

- What growth will occur?
- Where will it occur?
- Impacts to local communities
- Action plans to prepare

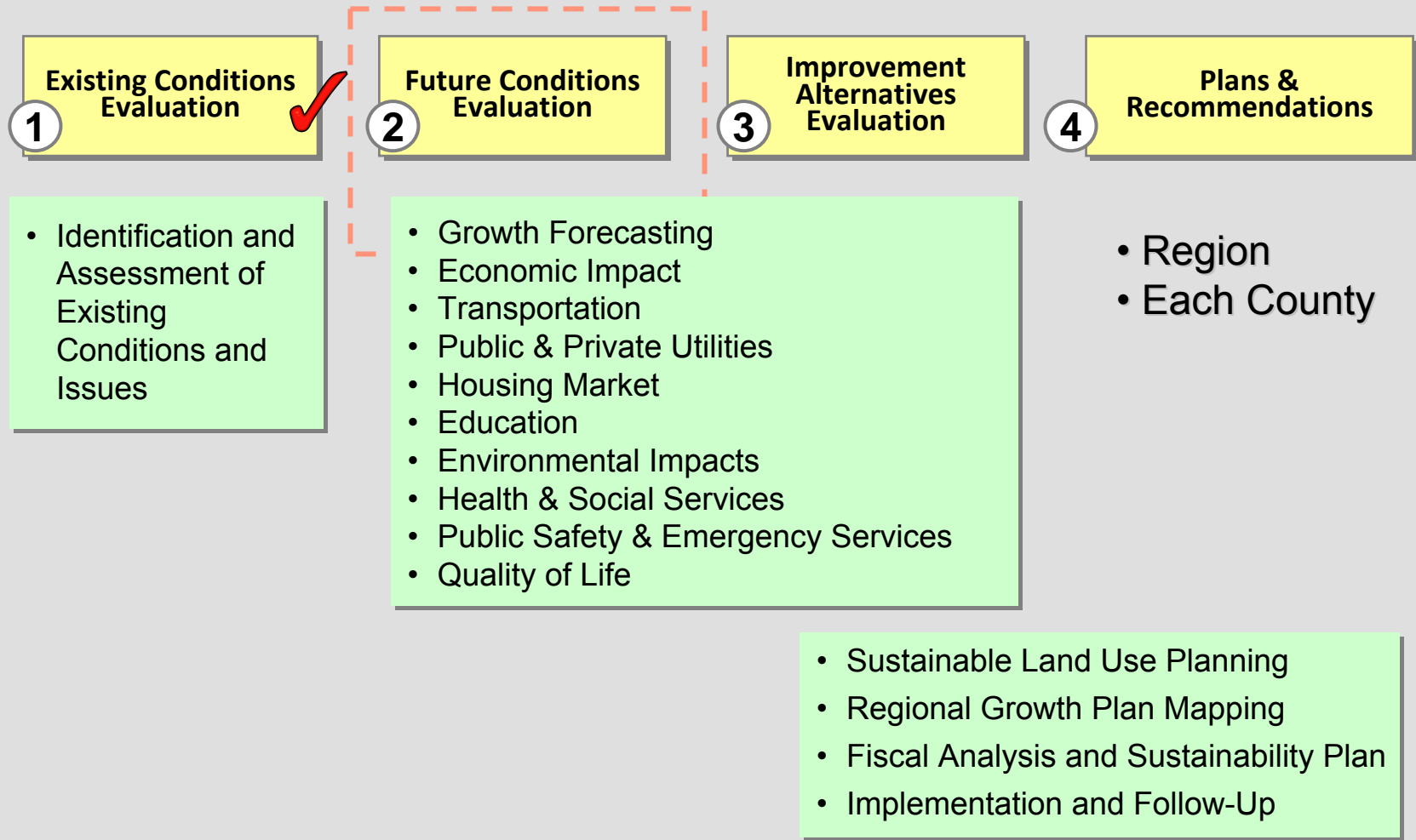
Project Team Organization



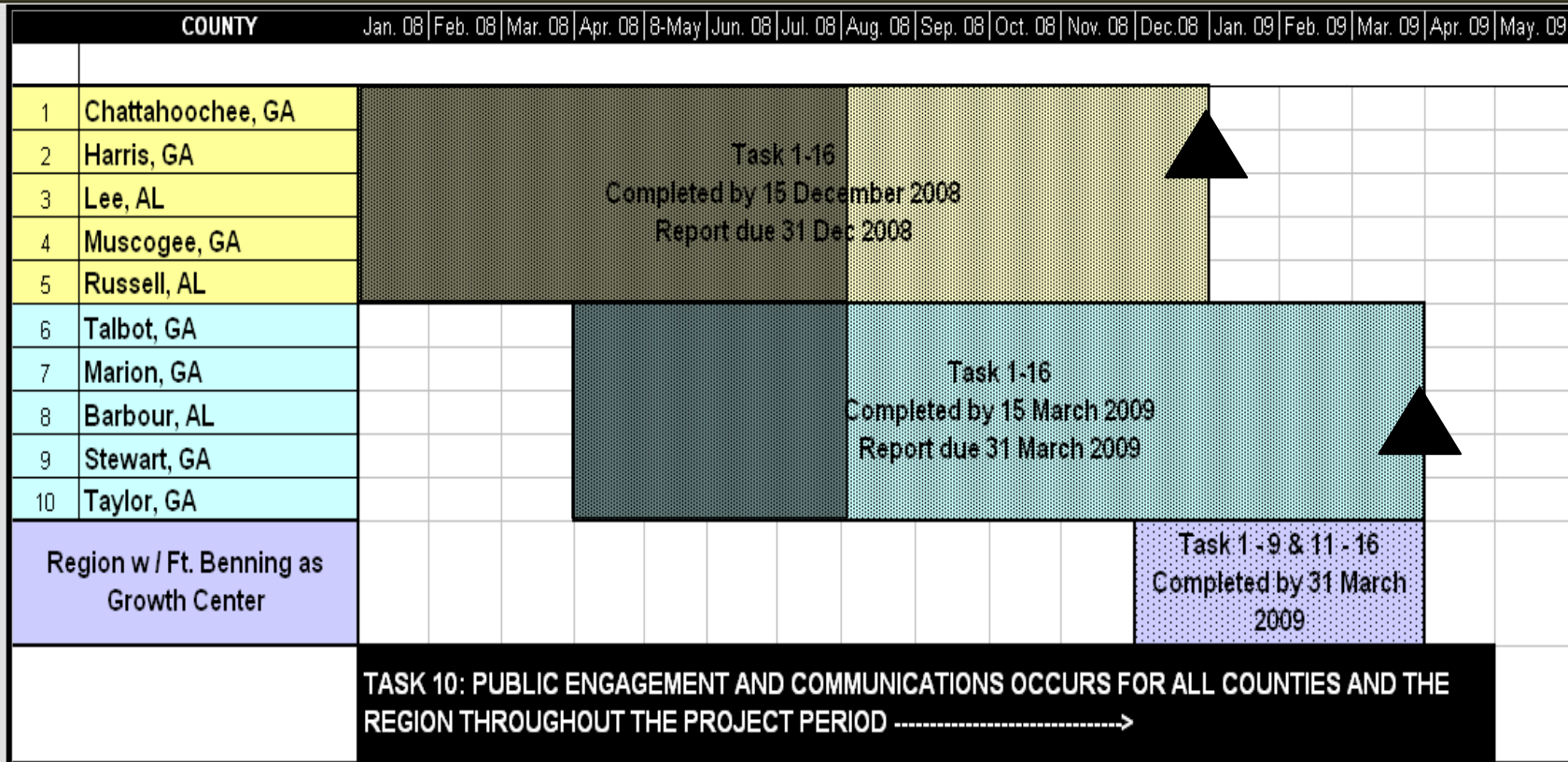
Growth Plan Topics

Identification and Assessment of Existing Conditions and Issues
Growth Forecasting and Modeling
Economic Impact Analysis
Transportation
Public and Private Utilities
Housing Market Analysis
Education
Sustainable Land Use Planning
Regional Growth Plan Mapping
Public Engagement and Communications
Environmental Impacts
Health and Social Services
Public Safety and Emergency Services
Quality of Life
Fiscal Analysis and Sustainability Plan
Implementation and Follow-Up

Project Process



Schedule (County View)



- First five county plans (Tier 1) completed Dec 2008
- Remaining counties (Tier 2) and regional plans completed Apr 2009

Stakeholder Task Forces

TASK FORCES

1. Economic Impact
2. Education
3. Funding for Region
4. Health Care & Social Services
5. Housing
6. Infrastructure & Land Use
7. Public Services
8. Quality of Life
9. Strategic Communications
10. Transportation
11. Workforce

Task Force Meeting #1

- Presentation of initial findings
- Discussion

Task Force Meeting #2

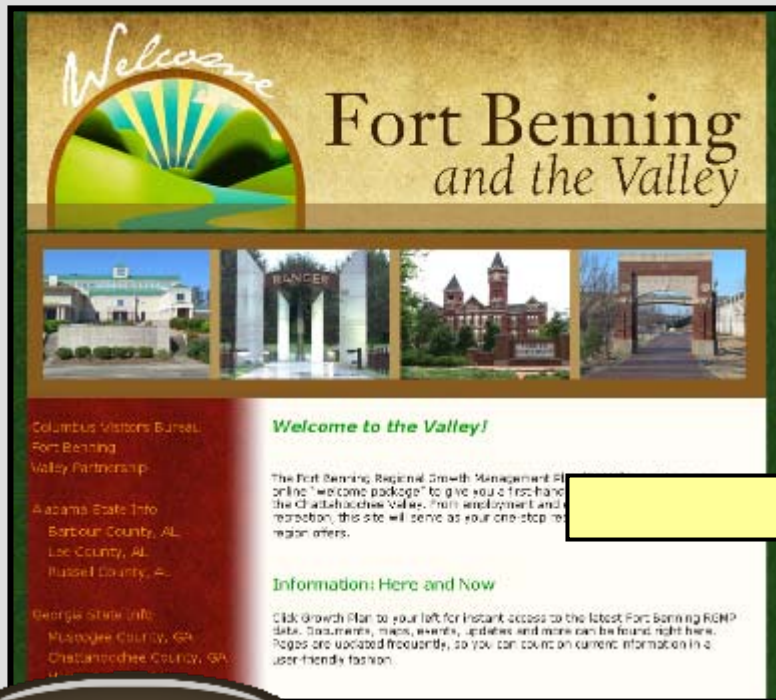
- Presentation and discussion of strategies/recommendations
- Implementation strategies

Task Force Responsibilities

- 1) Review task, scope and methodology
- 2) Confirm existing conditions and known issues
- 3) Establish points of contact for data collection
- 4) Review findings and recommendations
- 5) Communicate with community regarding actions and status of Plan
- 6) Provide guidance in Plan implementation

Project Website

- www.fortbenningandthevalley.com



Growth Plan

Click the Growth Plan Button

- *Schedule of Upcoming Events*
- *Documents & Maps*
- *Newsletters*



Task Force Meeting Objectives

- Kick-Off Task Force Process
- Review Task Methodology
- Review Existing Conditions & Issues
- Discuss and Confirm Way Ahead

Agenda

1. Task Description
2. Regional Emerging Results
3. Population Growth Projections
4. Law Enforcement
5. Career Fire Departments
6. Volunteer Fire Departments
7. Emergency Medical Services
8. 911 Dispatch
9. Emergency Medical Agencies
10. Best Practices and Case Studies



Task Description

Public Safety Task:

- Assess current service levels of public safety and emergency services.
- Use information from best practices and discussions with public safety and emergency services staff and leadership.
- Compare the current capacity of public safety and emergency services to the expected future demand.
- Describe the infrastructure requirements of public safety and emergency services, and provide an assessment of whether current and planned infrastructure will meet the increased demand.
- Explore regional coordination of services along jurisdictions and service areas in the region.

Public Safety Emerging Results

- Population growth in unincorporated “exurban” areas is straining public safety infrastructure – including law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services.
- Many volunteer fire departments are facing critical shortfalls in funding for operations, equipment, and training.
- Municipalities face fewer challenges in the provision of public services, mostly due to the availability of a commercial tax base.
- Radio communications between public safety agencies in surrounding counties, and between Fort Benning and public safety agencies, is a continuing challenge.

Law Enforcement Findings

- Police departments generally have adequate resources in staffing, equipment, and training, to address service levels. However, rural municipal police departments often provide few patrol services to augment county sheriffs patrols.
- Some county sheriff departments are facing challenges in providing adequate response times to rapidly growing areas in unincorporated areas of their counties.
- State cutbacks in services provided by the Georgia State Patrol, and Georgia Bureau of Investigation may negatively impact smaller police departments and sheriffs' offices in the region.



Law Enforcement Objectives

- Greater coordination of communication technologies among law enforcement jurisdictions.
 - Improving communications capabilities with Fort Benning Provost Marshal.
- Maintaining public safety on high-traffic arterial roads for both commuters and military convoys.
- Management of State-level cuts in law enforcement services.
- Ensuring adequate response times to remote areas of the respective counties.
- Additional regional law enforcement objectives?

Law Enforcement Discussion

- What regional initiatives may be undertaken to improve regional communications coordination – specifically the coordination of VHF and 800mhz systems?
- What are some of the challenges of increasing population growth in unincorporated areas of the region's counties?
- Fort Benning's growth is expected to increase traffic along major corridors between Fort Stewart, Fort Benning, and Warner Robbins – in addition to military commuters. How can regional law enforcement best handle this growth?
- How will regional law enforcement respond to anticipated cutbacks in State-level highway patrols (AHP, GSP), and regional crime investigation (GBI, ABI)?
- What are some best practices of existing law enforcement agencies that may be applied to other departments?

Career Fire Department Findings

- All career fire departments generally have adequate funding due to a tax base (and subsequent population density) to support an appropriate level of service with ISO < 3.
- Columbus-Muscogee is the regional center for fire/rescue response, providing special emergency services to surrounding counties under existing mutual aid agreements.
- Population growth in unincorporated areas of the region's counties may place increasing strains on volunteer fire departments – leading to additional calls for mutual aid that may strain resources of career fire departments.



Career Fire Department Objectives

- Maintenance or improvement of ISO rating.
- Assessing existing relationship between career and volunteer fire departments
 - Developing “enhanced” mutual aid agreements towards agreements that reflect the balance of resources used between career and volunteer fire departments.
 - Ensuring that all governments are engaging in funding of fire departments with knowledge of the resource availability/deficiency of surrounding departments.
- Development and coordination of standards for communications [frequencies], training, and equipment/apparatus.
- Additional career fire department objectives?

Career Fire Department Discussion

- How may current mutual aid agreements between career fire departments and volunteer fire departments be enhanced to better allocate resources among and between these departments?
- Is there an convening organization for discussion and decision-making among all fire departments in the region?
- What are some additional “best practices” that may be implemented to improve coordination between career and volunteer fire departments?

Volunteer Fire Department Findings

- VFDs in unincorporated Lee and Russell County are facing critical funding shortfalls for daily operations and equipment funding.
- Not all VFDs have in-house technical expertise for grant-writing, including FEMA AFG grants.
- Among all fire departments, growth in a region's population does not immediately generate an increase in revenue to meet needs.
- Recruitment of volunteer fire departments and the training of those recruits is a critical challenge for all volunteer fire departments.
- Critical deficiencies in equipment, including a lack of, or insufficient turn-out gear, is comprising firefighter safety.



Volunteer Fire Department Objectives

- Addressing critical shortage of adequate apparatus, equipment, and training for personnel.
- Increase citizen participation in volunteer firefighting (volunteer corps, auxiliary units, civic support).
- Establish a strategy for sustainable funding of volunteer fire departments.
- Finding opportunities for cooperation and collaboration among volunteer fire departments to share limited resources.
- Development of a publicity and lobbying campaign among volunteer fire departments, elected officials, governments, and citizens.
- Full implementation of NIMS
- Development of minimum standards for volunteer safety
- Additional volunteer fire department objectives?

Volunteer Fire Department Discussion

- How effective are FEMA grants (AFG, et. al.), in addressing critical shortages in apparatus? Are there other means of financing capital investments?
- What strategies have some volunteer fire departments engaged in to recruit and maintain relationships with volunteers?
- How may individual volunteer fire departments work together to increase resources for all volunteer fire departments?
- How may volunteer fire departments educate citizens and elected officials to their funding needs?
- Additional volunteer fire department topics?

Emergency Medical Services Findings

- Response times in remote areas of all counties are high, if satellite/field stations are not available.
- Minimal staffing and equipment in many counties may prevent response to multiple incidents.
- Lee and Russell Counties in Alabama use a regional non-profit service; all other governments use county/municipally-organized transit.
- Some counties do not have local EMS service.



Emergency Medical Services Objectives

- Ensuring “24/7” coverage across the entire region, with the ability to respond to multiple incidents.
- Greater partnerships between volunteer fire departments and EMS services for satellite stations to ensure that all areas in counties have similar response times to more populated areas.
- Establishment of enhanced agreements between EMS agencies to share equipment, staffing – ensuring common standards and equipment between county EMS offices.
- Additional regional EMS objectives?

Emergency Medical Services Discussion

- What opportunities are available for rural counties to engage in regional decision-making and resource sharing?
- Should the region set goals for rural, urban areas, in terms of response time, staffing, and other standards?
- Are there opportunities for EMS services to work more closely with fire departments and law enforcement?
- Additional regional discussion points for EMS?



911 Dispatch Services Findings

- Most 911 systems in the region have enhanced location capabilities.
- There may be challenges for some outlying counties to increase capacity in response to population growth.
- Most counties have redundant PSAPs, in the event of failure of a primary PSAP.
- Some counties have challenges with communication between dispatchers and VFDs.



911 Dispatch Objectives

- Ensure that all counties and municipalities have multiple redundancy points with other jurisdictions.
- Increasing coordination with volunteer fire departments, especially with mapping of rural roads and proper name identification of roads.
- Maximizing coordination in 911 dispatch – both among public safety agencies within counties, and between counties and states.
- Additional regional objectives for 911 Dispatch?



911 Dispatch Discussion

- Is there a need for more formal regional coordination among 911 dispatch services in the region?
 - Establishment of multiple points of redundancy
 - Adequate familiarity and data on road/address characteristics outside of jurisdiction?
- What strategies have both 911 dispatch offices and volunteer fire departments used to improve incident response?
- Additional 911 dispatch discussion points?

Emergency Management Agencies Findings

- There is currently no regional emergency management authority coordinating region-wide responses.
- Emergency management capabilities are well-coordinated in nearly all counties.
- There is limited coordination between county EMA authorities; this may hamper multi-jurisdictional response to regional disaster coordination.
- Some counties have very limited emergency management capabilities.



Emergency Management Agency Objectives

- Ensuring adequate planning for regional disaster coordination, especially for weather-related emergencies.
- The lack of EMA-related planning capabilities in any county is a liability to all counties – regional assets should be coordinated to ensure that a minimal level is observed.
- Expanding mission of EMA to include management and planning of fire department/rescue assets for volunteer fire departments.
- Additional regional objectives?

Emergency Management Agency Discussion

- What should be the role of Emergency Management Agencies in each county? Should their role be enlarged from their present duties?
- What would be the framework for regional cooperation among EMAs in the region?
 - How would discrepancies in county population impact this cooperation?
 - Is there currently a regional organization best suited for this purpose, or should one be established?



FEMA

Closing Remarks

THIS MEETING:

- Overview
- Methodology
- Conditions & Issues
- Discussions



NEXT MEETING

- ~November 2008 (Tier 1)
- Draft Findings/Recommendations



Fort Benning

REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Task Force Meeting – September 2008

Best Practices and Case Studies

- Inmate labor for Volunteer Fire Departments
- Junior Firefighters Corp
- Regional training centers for grant-writing techniques
- Regional EMS service provision
- Columbus-Muscogee's management of multiple jurisdictions
- Lee County, Alabama's EMA Center

- **Best Practices from Your Agency...**

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