

# UPDATE



## Fort Benning Regional Growth Management Plan July 2010

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### RGMP

The Fort Benning Regional Growth Management Plan (RGMP) is a major planning effort designed to assess the challenges and opportunities facing communities impacted by the Fort Benning BRAC growth and to find solutions that address these issues. The RGMP study produced a plan for the region and for each of the 10-counties within a 35 mile radius of Ft. Benning, as listed below.

For more information, go to the [RGMP website](#).

### RGMP Counties

[ALABAMA](#)  
Barbour  
Lee

### → Attention: Fort Knox Families Relocating to the Chattahoochee Valley

As BRAC continues, Civil Service Employees and Defense Contractors and their employees are starting in earnest their relocation here, as are the Military personnel.

We understand that relocating a family can be very stressful and many important decisions have to be made in a very short timeframe. In order to be of service to you and help erase some of the stress related to your move, the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Partnership would like to hear from you.

If you and your family are planning on a relocation visit to Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley in the future, let us know about that by giving us the projected dates you expect to be in our area. You can email Linda Brady, our Communications Outreach Director and Concierge, at [lbrady@columbusgachamber.com](mailto:lbrady@columbusgachamber.com) or call 706.257.1182.

### → DoD Awards \$2 Million Grant to Muscogee County Schools

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) awarded a \$2 million grant to the Muscogee County School District to enhance student learning opportunities, student achievement and educator professional development at schools with a high enrollment of students with parents in the military. The grant will target science, math, technology and engineering, and will provide advanced technology for instructional use, to include interactive white boards, document cameras, iPods, high definition video cameras, DVD/VCRs and laptop computers. [Read full story](#)

The Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (VPJDA) worked with DoDEA to ensure that all school systems impacted by the growth of Fort Benning were included in the list of institutions eligible to apply for the grant. **Special Thank You to VPJDA Board Member Ken Clark** for his involvement in getting Marion County Schools added to the list of eligible grant applicants.

Russell

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

## MCOE CommunityUpdate



Each month, Fort Benning hosts a Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE) Update that provides BRAC information to on-post personnel and to the region's communities. These Updates are open to the public and are held the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 pm, at the [National Infantry Museum](#).

## MCOE Community Update



## → Whitewater Is Coming to Columbus!

This spring, the Whitewater committee announced its "2012 Ready2Raft campaign". This two-year endeavor will be another successful public-private partnership that consists of a multi-stakeholder effort, driven by both sides of the river.

The Whitewater project will have a tremendous economic impact in the Columbus region and anticipates having the first person going down the river in 2012. The project is expected to generate a total economic impact of \$42M. More than \$2M of that will be from new sales and hotel/motel tax revenue and more than 700 new jobs will be generated.



Construction is expected to start in May 2011 and be completed in 2012. [Read more](#)

## → Transportation Improvements Update

The Columbus Consolidated Government is making necessary improvements in different areas of the city to increase safety, security, and connectivity in order to improve the quality of life for all citizens. To see the complete list of projects taking place now, go to the [Planning Department's website](#).

## Headlines Around the Chattahoochee Valley

Check out these articles about the many good things happening in the Chattahoochee Valley by clicking the headline below or by reading in our [Newsroom](#).

- [Muscogee Schools District Receives \\$2 Million Grant from Department of Defense](#)
- [American Airlines Returns to Columbus Airport](#)
- [New Kia Supplier Coming to West Georgia](#)
- [Fort Benning Land Expansion Update](#)
- [Kysor/Warren to Expand, Hire 200](#)

## → Let Us Promote Your Products & Services

Have you been wondering how your business can participate with the BRAC movement? One easy and beneficial way is to tell me about any military discounts you offer for your products or services. We will be happy to share that information and spread the word about your business FOR FREE! All you need to do is email that information to: [lbrady@columbusgachamber.com](mailto:lbrady@columbusgachamber.com). This is a valuable way of introducing your business to those transitioning here who are in need of your products and services. It also sends a message to all those relocating to the Chattahoochee Valley that we are happy they're here and we want to welcome them in a special way.

## → Employment Opportunity: Regional Planning Specialist

Excellent opportunity for an individual with experience in urban and regional planning to join the Fort Benning Regional Growth Management team to help counties in the Chattahoochee Valley (AL/GA) continue to prepare for the population surge caused by economic development growth generated by the results of BRAC. [Click for more info](#)

## [Ft. Benning Population Estimates & Growth Timeline](#)

## BRAC Countdown



As of July 22, 2010, there are **419** days remaining until the September 15, 2011 deadline to complete all 2005 BRAC-directed actions.

## QUICK LINKS

[RGMP Website](#)  
[Valley Partnership](#)  
[Fort Benning](#)  
[Small Business Contracting Information](#)  
[MCOE Employment](#)

This newsletter is prepared by the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (VPJDA) with financial support from the Office of Economic Adjustment, Department of Defense. The content herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of Economic Adjustment.



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