

## **Association Defense Communities**

### ***Winter Forum Trip Report – Brett Doney***

3/7/11

Focus of meeting was on cost efficiencies through innovation and community partnerships.

#### DOD & USAF Officials of Note in Attendance

Kathleen Ferguson, Deputy Asst. Secretary for Installations, USAF

Ken Gray, Branch Chief, Energy Rates & Renewables, USAF Civil Engineer Support Agency

Dennis Guadarrama, Chief, Strategic Asset Utilization Division, AFRPA

Bill Van Houten, DOD Energy Siting Clearinghouse

Jim Holland, Deputy for Installations, USAF

Bob Moore, Director, Air force Real Property Agency

Col. Joe Morganti, Director, USAF BRAC Program Management Office

#### Others of Note

John Armburst, Executive Director, Kansas Governor's Military Council

Mike Hrapla, Vice President, Matrix Design Group

Mark Merchen, Executive Director, South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority

Robert Murdock, Director, City of San Antonio Office of Military Affairs

Anthony Principi, Chairman, 2005 BRAC Commission

John Simmons, Senior Advisor, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

#### *USAF Comments*

Ferguson – USAF still has excess facilities and infrastructure; force structure continues to decrease; 16 excess AFB's.

Holland - USAF needs to get way out ahead on ranges, sound and other issues that affect mission training; mission still first, cost second.

#### *CMDA Models*

I spoke with representatives of a number of organizations similar to CMDA, all of which are more established than us of have greater resources and staff support. Recommend follow-up with South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority, Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority ([vndia.org](http://vndia.org)) and others. Ellsworth was created by SD Legislature in 2009 and has strong support from Governor and Legislature. I have Mark Merchen's Powerpoint presentation.

Virginia created by state legislature in 2006. Has \$60 million state grant fund for defense communities, state operating funds and 3 person professional staff.

#### *Key Issues Raised*

- Safe money through integrated sourcing and municipal partnerships; innovative partnerships a big emphasis.

- Another BRAC in 2-3 years a foregone conclusion; though there maybe just a USAF BRAC because the need is greatest for USAF.
- BRACX statutory authority expired so DOD can act without BRAC process; BRAC better for communities because at least gives opportunity for access to data and response. DOD maybe forced by cost and mission requirements to act quickly without BRAC like process. USAF out in front on this as seen by actions over last year.
- Principi strongly recommended every defense community to start now working the data from the last BRAC (available on BRACX Commission web site) to improve competitiveness of their bases.
- DOD has set-up energy siting clearinghouse to help review proposed energy projects on or near installations, ranges, etc.

I have copies of most of Powerpoints. Files are too large to email, but can print copies and get them to Chamber.

Talked with John Simmons and Chris Goode of Akin Gump. Many communities are retaining advisors now in preparation for DOD actions.

ADC Annual Meeting July 17-20, Norfolk, VA.