

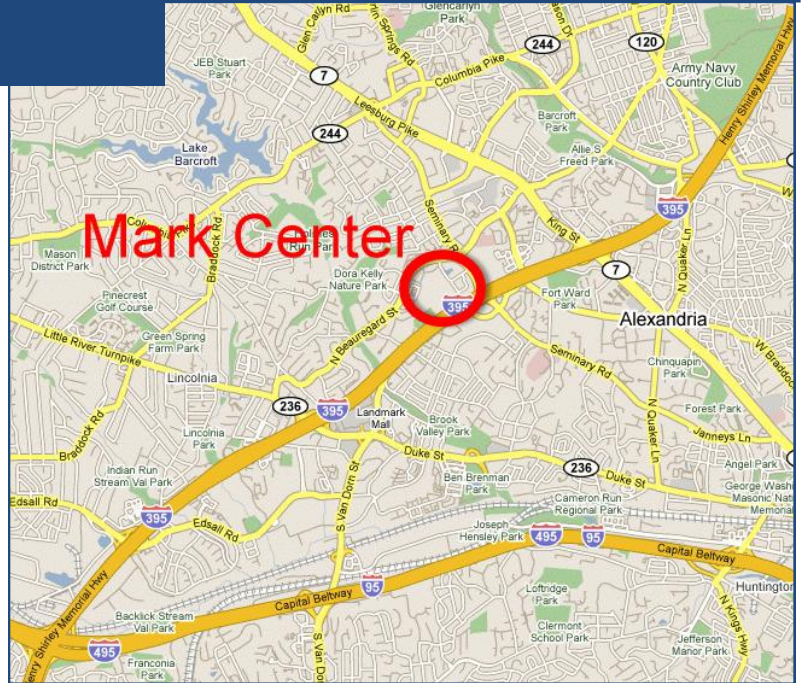
Defense *advocate*

BRAC 133: Mark Center

The U.S. Army announced recently that the Mark Center in Alexandria, Va., will be the future home of the 6,400 jobs associated with BRAC Recommendation #133.

The jobs - whose move are being managed by the Washington Headquarters Service (WHS) - are the last remaining of those being realigned to Fort Belvoir. The decision is the last piece of the Fort Belvoir BRAC initiative that sites more than 19,000 workers to the installation.

"The decision concludes more than a year of work by hundreds of people in the Army, surrounding communities, and all levels of government to develop proposals and options for review by the selection board," said Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment Keith Eastin.



The Honorable Keith Eastin

The jobs originally would have been placed at Fort Belvoir's Engineer Proving Ground in Springfield. However, because another 8,500 jobs of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency were also placed there, significant concerns for traffic impacts in the area prompted the Army to agree to look elsewhere for the WHS jobs. Three alternative sites were identified, including the General Services Administration warehouse site in Springfield and another commercial site in Alexandria.

"Any non-DOD site selected would have to become part of Fort Belvoir in order to comply with the law," Eastin said. The Army must now purchase the Mark Center property to meet BRAC law and plans to make the purchase before the end of the year. Construction is scheduled to begin on the \$1.1 billion, 1.7 million square-foot complex in January 2009.

"The Mark Center site resolves security issues, improves space requirements and mission relationships, and minimizes changes to existing living, working, and quality of life issues," Eastin said.

Coming Events

- October 14**
[Fort Monroe FADA Meeting](#)
 Fort Monroe, Va.
 Contact: FMFADA, (757) 637-7778
- October 15**
[Virginia National Defense Industrial Authority Meeting](#)
 Suffolk, Va.
 Contact: VNDIA, (804) 545-5716
- October 18**
[NSF Dahlgren's 90th Anniversary Celebration](#)
 Dahlgren, Va.
 Contact: NSA South Potomac PAO, (866) 359-5540/
nsasp_pao_dlgr@navy.mil
- October 22**
[Stafford Defense Community Reception](#)
 Stafford, Va.
 Contact: Stafford County Department of Economic Development, (540) 658-8681
- October 28**
[Scoping Meeting: Fort Monroe EIS](#)
 Hampton, Va.
 Contact: Jennifer Guerrero, (757) 788-5363/
jennifer.lee.guerrero@us.army.mil
- October 29**
[Virginia Economic Summit](#)
 Richmond, Va.
 Contact: Virginia Chamber of Commerce, (804) 644-1607

Defense Authorization Bill Progresses



The new DDG-1000 Zumwalt-class destroyer will use an advanced combat system, replacing the current AEGIS system. The AEGIS Ballistic Missile Command is headquartered at Naval Support Facility Dahlgren in King George County, and AEGIS testing and training are conducted at Dahlgren and Wallops Island on the Eastern Shore. Wallops Island is finishing a new facility that will allow for testing and training on the DDG-1000 systems.

Northrop Grumman rendering.

The House and Senate appear to have reached a compromise on the fiscal 2009 defense authorization bill.

Leaders in both the House and Senate hope to pass the bill and send it to the president before Congress adjourns for the fall elections. Two provisions in earlier versions that were expected to trigger a veto have been removed - the limiting of the use of security contractors in war zones and preventing the hiring of contractors to interrogate suspected terrorists or other detainees.

Some of the highlights include:

Navy

- One additional Zumwalt-class destroyer (making three funded)
- Two more LPD-17 amphibious transport docking ships
- Two Navy cargo ships
- One Virginia-class sub

Army

- Cuts \$104.7 million from the Army's \$3.6 billion request for the Future Combat Systems

Air Force

- 20 F-22 Raptors
- Six C-17 cargo planes
- Cuts \$830 million for the AF tanker project

Full information on the bill can be found at the Library of Congress site: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.05658>.

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President Bush last week issued an order granting federal agencies the authority to bypass competitive hiring regulations to appoint spouses of military service members to civilian government jobs. The order is "part of the effort of the United States to recruit and retain in military service, skilled and experienced members of the Armed Forces."

The complete order can be found at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/09/20080926-8.html>

Military Spouses

According to a 2002 General Accounting Office (GAO) report, the Department of Defense has identified eight "encroachment issues." These give a better understanding of how communities and installations affect each other not only through development, but through other factors such as the water, air and electromagnetic spectrum.

Encroachment

DoD's Eight Encroachment Issues

Endangered species habitat on military installations

Unexploded Ordnance and munitions constituents

Competition for radio frequency spectrum

Protected marine resources

Competition for airspace

Air pollution

Noise pollution

Urban growth around military installations

Source: GAO, 2002; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d02614.pdf>