

# BRAC - Prince William County

## Frequently Asked Questions

Don't see your question here? Email the BRAC Coordinator at [brac@pwcgov.org](mailto:brac@pwcgov.org)  
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Click on a question to view the answer below:

- [What is BRAC?](#)
- [How many military jobs are moving into Prince William County?](#)
- [Is BRAC going to clog the roads?](#)
- [Can I get one of those BRAC jobs?](#)
- [How are we going to handle the additional 20,000 people moving here?](#)
- [When are we going to build more roads?](#)
- [What types of jobs are moving as part of BRAC?](#)
- [When will BRAC be over?](#)
- [What started BRAC in the first place?](#)
- [How do you plan for BRAC?](#)
- [Will BRAC put 20,000 new students in our schools?](#)
- [Can my business benefit from BRAC?](#)
- [How can I get a government contract?](#)
- [Can I get trained to better prepare myself to get a BRAC job?](#)
- [Is BRAC causing the widening of Route 1?](#)

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Answers:

**What is BRAC?** BRAC stands for Base Realignment and Closure. BRAC is a process used by the Department of Defense and Congress to achieve maximum efficiency and save money on operations and maintenance. This leads to closing excess military installations and realigning the total asset inventory of the US military. This is the 5th round of BRAC legislation, titled BRAC 2005. Other BRAC rounds occurred in 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1995.

[Back to top](#)

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**How many military jobs are moving into Prince William County?** The BRAC legislation does not require any jobs to be located within Prince William County. Fort Belvoir is gaining approximately 19,000 jobs, and Marine Corps Base-Quantico is gaining approximately 3,000 jobs. Some contractors who work with the realigned agencies will move to be closer to the agency as it is moving, and Prince William County might capture some of these induced contractor jobs. At this time, no jobs have yet been added within Prince William County's jurisdiction specifically because of BRAC 2005. The County continues to experience contractor and job growth due to the presence of military at both Quantico and Fort Belvoir as a part of normal mission growth. Any jobs that might be induced by BRAC growth are likely to occur after the 2011 deadline for the movement of BRAC jobs.

[Back to top](#)

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**Is BRAC going to clog the roads?** Most of the jobs moving to Fort Belvoir and Quantico are already in the National Capital Region, and are primarily being shuffled from leased space in inner-ring suburbs out to established military bases. Some of the workers will not relocate closer to the new location, but simply change their commuting patterns. For many workers living in Northern Virginia, the trips to Fort Belvoir and Quantico will now be heading south, against traffic, and not add much to the overall traffic congestion. Each individual employee may choose to stay where they currently live and find a new job, change their commuting pattern, or completely relocate. Because the choices will vary according to the individual, the exact impact will not be measurable until after the jobs have been realigned, and people have made their choices.

[Back to top](#)

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**Can I get one of those BRAC jobs?** Many of the jobs coming to Fort Belvoir and Quantico are already staffed by residents of the National Capital Region. Jobs may become vacant if an employee chooses to stay in the city where they are currently employed. Few jobs are being created as a result of BRAC. Each job is advertised through the appropriate channels of the agency that is hiring.

[Back to top](#)

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**How are we going to handle the additional 20,000 people moving here?** Most of the personnel whose jobs are moving to Fort Belvoir and Quantico already live in the National Capital Region. Some already live in Prince William County. Many will change their commuting patterns, but not change communities. Many of the workers have children and spouses with jobs and relationships established in their own communities, and are unwilling to move along with the job. For some workers, their commute will actually be shorter. It is unlikely that 20,000 new residents will come to the Potomac Communities area. Any families that do move here will find housing within existing communities. The demand for additional housing will be a part of the ever-changing demands of the housing market. The overall growth due to BRAC will in some ways be indistinguishable from the normal growth experienced by Prince William County.

[Back to top](#)

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**When are we going to build more roads?** Transportation improvements are needed, regardless of BRAC. The Prince William County Board of County Supervisors and the Virginia legislature each year prioritize and fund many road improvements. Because of the limited funds available, some roads are funded ahead of others. All road improvements are part of a series of plans made at each level of government. Any road improvement currently being built was most likely planned at least 5 years before. If any plans are put in place to build new roads to handle the increased traffic due to BRAC, the improvements will most likely not be complete before the new jobs are in place.

[Back to top](#)

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**What types of jobs are moving as part of BRAC?** The primary agencies moving to Fort Belvoir and Quantico are the National Geo-spatial Intelligence Agency, the Military Department Investigative Agencies, and the Washington Headquarters Services. Additionally, the hospital at Fort Belvoir will be expanding to take on some of the mission from Walter Reed, which is closing. Many of the jobs that are coming to the area require a high security clearance. Some are medical jobs that civilians may qualify for. Many of the jobs moving to this area are high-paying professional careers.

[Back to top](#)

---

**When will BRAC be over?** The agencies that are required to move as part of BRAC must be in place no later than September 15, 2011. This is the end date for BRAC 2005. Other BRAC rounds may be implemented in the future causing additional moves.

[Back to top](#)

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**What started BRAC in the first place?** Prior to BRAC, base closures were the edict of the military, and communities affected by the closures had no involvement whatsoever. BRAC 1988 was started by the Secretary

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of Defense as a method to involve local communities affected by the decision to close bases. Since that time, the mission of BRAC has expanded to include communities that grow due to realignment, and now encompasses more agencies and communities.

[Back to top](#)

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**How do you plan for BRAC?** Prince William County is studying the impacts of BRAC to determine our ability to absorb the growth with our current infrastructure and plans. Most communities affected by growth due to BRAC do not have sufficient infrastructure or planning, and are forced to embark on major plans to handle a new population that sometimes doubles in just a few months. Prince William County continues to grow and plan for additional growth, and BRAC growth will be planned for as part of the natural growth we already experience. A possible increase of 10,000 new residents, though unlikely, would only be equivalent to half of the natural population growth of Prince William County between 2004 and 2005. Prince William County is better able to absorb an increase in population caused by this federal action than most communities, due to our natural growth rate and long-range planning efforts.

[Back to top](#)

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**Will BRAC put 20,000 new students in our schools?** Additional students are a product of families moving into the community. Many BRAC workers have children and spouses with jobs and relationships established in their own communities, and are unwilling to move along with the job. Those that do choose to relocate will be absorbed as part of the overall growth in Prince William County. The Prince William County school system plans for growth, and builds new schools according to projections. It is unlikely that there would be a severe overnight increase in population. Our schools will be planned to handle the growth that does occur.

[Back to top](#)

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**Can my business benefit from BRAC?** The contracting requirements of many of the agencies coming to Fort Belvoir and Quantico will create some opportunities for small businesses. Prince William County is ready to take advantage of all business growth opportunities. One resource for growing your business to respond to BRAC is our Economic Development department. The local Chambers of Commerce can also assist businesses interested in growing. Prince William County is a member of a business alliance aimed at capturing these BRAC opportunities. Check out their website by clicking here.

[Back to top](#)

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**How can I get a government contract?** Government contracts are handled through the General Services Accounting office (GSA). They have very strict requirement to apply for government contracts. Please visit their website for details.

[Back to top](#)

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**Can I get trained to better prepare myself to get a BRAC job?** Training opportunities for BRAC-related jobs are handled through the Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board. For more information on their SkillSource Centers, check out their website.

[Back to top](#)

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**Is BRAC causing the widening of Route 1?** Route 1 is being widened as a result of many years of effort, study, and planning. Portions of Route 1 in Fairfax County have already been widened as part of the same Route 1 Corridor study. More sections will be widened as funds become available. BRAC impacts are being taken into account for future road widenings, but Route 1 needs to be widened regardless of BRAC.

[Back to top](#)

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