

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Public Safety Partnership Group Meeting
February 4, 2011**

Meeting attendees:

- Skip Arms, Colorado Springs Police Department
- Bill Elder, Fountain Police Department
- Chief Todd Evans, Fountain Police Department
- Brian Grady, Colorado Springs Police Department
- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Sarah White, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Growth Plan Status/Update

Kate Hatten provided an update on the status of the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan. The PPACG Board of Directors approved the final Phase 2 Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan in July 2010 which is available on PPACG's website (<http://www.ppacg.org/military-impact/fort-carson-regional-growth-plan-intro/project-materials/growth-plan-documents>).

The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) approved funding for Phase 3 of the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan, for the continuation of demographic analysis of Fort Carson Soldiers and their families, information-sharing and communication, including the ongoing impacts of deployments, and implementation of the recommendations from Phases 1 and 2 of the Growth Plan.

PPACG continues to track deployments, update growth projections and analyze Fort Carson numbers and impacts including the impacts of "full nest" or no deployment scenarios. PPACG also released a survey for Soldiers and their families in order to quantify their needs and use of services.

The intent of the Public Safety Partnership Group during Phase 2 was to ensure continued communication and coordination regarding law enforcement and emergency service issues in the region as Fort Carson grows and continue to track and implement recommendations made in Phase 1 of the Growth Plan. Phase 2 focused more on impacts to behavioral health/social services (and other sectors) rather than public safety issues. The issues addressed in Phase 1 regarding public safety (i.e., gang violence increased traffic) are either being resolved by Fort Carson and/or community public safety entities or have not come into fruition to the extent originally predicted in Phase 1. The partnership and coordination between the installation and the community public safety officials through the Civilian/Military Law Enforcement Collaborative (the Collaborative) seem to be very effective and therefore may not need PPACG involvement or the continuation of the Public Safety Partnership Group.

Bill Grady agreed that the Collaborative and the courtesy patrols between community police departments and military police have been successful so far. He suggested PPACG attend the Collaborative meetings, which are held the 1st Thursday of every month, or be included on the

email distribution list for updates on meeting minutes. The April meeting will focus on behavioral health issues.

Key Issues and Trends

The group agreed that the lack of resources and emerging behavioral health issues among Soldiers are the biggest issues facing the community and military police. Chief Todd Evans stated that “crisis” situations among off-post Soldiers/Vets have increased significantly and pose the biggest challenges for the Fountain Police Department. He stated there are not a lot of resources available to the police departments for mental health professionals to handle immediate crisis situations and typically a person is able to leave a 72-hour hold without any continued help or monitoring to prevent another crisis mode.

The group discussed the need for more coordination between off-post organizations/service providers regarding veteran and active duty dynamics. An off-post military crisis team would be helpful in assisting police departments during crisis situations and provide resources.

One of the Phase 3 implementation efforts is the development of a comprehensive website/portal to facilitate coordination and information-sharing to assist active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. This effort is based off a recommendation made in the Phase 2 Growth Plan Behavioral Health & Social Services report for the development of a primary source of information for active-duty members, veterans and their families seeking behavioral health and social services in the community. PPACG is working with Trilogy Integrated Resources (Trilogy) to develop this website (called “Network of Care”).

Next Steps

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.