

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Public Safety Partnership Group Meeting
November 13, 2008**

Meeting attendees:

- Joe Breister, El Paso County Sherriff's Office
- Ron Gibson, Colorado Springs Police Department
- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Jake Jacob, Fort Carson Directorate of Emergency Services
- Tony Koren, Chair, Colorado Defense Mission Coalition
- Chief Richard Myers, Colorado Springs Police Department
- Richard Normandie, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Kurt Pillard, Colorado Springs Police Department
- Cathy Salmon-Wolff, Hanover Fire Department

Growth Plan Phase 2 Status/Update

Kate Hatten provided an update on the status of Phase 2 of the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan. Phase 1 was completed in July, and the Office of Economic Adjustment awarded PPACG an additional grant of \$1.7 million (for a total project of \$1.94 million) to continue with Phase 2 of the Growth Plan. Phase 1 provided some useful information, but it also revealed that much more – and more detailed – data are necessary in order to be able to give service providers key planning data and assist them in preparing for Fort Carson growth. Public Safety will continue to be addressed and monitored in Phase 2 by providing entities with more detailed growth data and more demographic information regarding soldiers and families.

The Phase 2 effort will continue to include assistance from subject matter experts and service providers through the partnership groups. Each group will also have representation on the Growth Plan's steering committee, the Colorado Defense Mission Coalition (CDMC), in order to ensure that information across all issue areas is shared throughout the process. The intent of the Public Safety Partnership Group is 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 RFP

PPACG is currently working to hire a consultant team to assist with research and data collection and analysis for Phase 2. The request for proposals (RFP) for the consultant work is due November 24, and it is anticipated that a contract will be in place by the end of the year. The Phase 2 timeline is July 2008-December 2009.

Key Issues and Trends

The group discussed key issues facing public safety agencies as Fort Carson grows. Chief Myers noted that police and fire agencies need more staff in order to maintain current levels of service. With less staff, agencies tend to be more reactive than proactive, and agencies need to be proactive. Jake Jacob, Fort Carson's Director of Emergency Services, indicated that enhancing interagency coordination is important, including tracking the number of military personnel in

contact with local law enforcement. Joe Breister echoed the need for more interagency cooperation, including the need for assistance when serving summonses, etc. It was noted that having a civilian DES director (Jake Jacob) has been very helpful with coordination efforts, and these efforts need to continue.

Suggestions to increase coordination and communication included Fort Carson CID and DES participation in CSPD's Metro VNI and gang units, as well as jail liaisons and increased coordination with patrol units. Coordinating or linking local law enforcement and Fort Carson databases was also suggested, as well as prevention programs that target military personnel. Mr. Jacob noted that there are certain times after deployments where soldiers may experience more difficulties, and he suggested further prevention programs for soldiers during these post-deployment cycles. It was noted that military-related law enforcement issues are a small component of the overall law enforcement needs of the region; however, some incidents are troubling and require a great deal of resources. Concerns were also raised that there may be more law enforcement needs as the number of deployments increases.

Other issues discussed included a proposed military court diversion program being proposed by Judge Crowder. It was suggested that additional training for emergency personnel to handle incidents involving soldiers with TBI and PTSD would be beneficial. Other suggestions included addressing the transient nature of the military population (similar to college campuses in some ways) and how to better engage soldiers in the community. Possibilities of upgrading Fort Carson gates to track people who need to be detained were also discussed.

It was also noted that data collection and metrics to identify the scale of military-related law enforcement issues are still being worked out. Being able to track information is challenging, particularly because soldiers may choose not to self-report their military status. Efforts to mine data and track information through databases and share information continue to be addressed by law enforcement agencies.

Next Steps

The group will meet quarterly/as needed as the Growth Plan progresses. Jake Jacob and Ron Gibson agreed to represent the group at CDMC meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.