



**U. S. Army Human Resources Command
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40122**

Media contact:

Andrea Wales
Public Affairs
(502) 613-4416
HRCPAO@conus.army.mil

For Immediate Release:

Oct. 7, 2010

U.S. Army Human Resources Command leader offers insights to local media

FORT KNOX, KY. — The commander of the [U.S. Army Human Resources Command](#) here gave military insights to local reporters and answered their questions in a media round table Thursday.

Most of the information revolved around the base realignment and closure, or BRAC, process, and HRC's move to Fort Knox.

“Our top priority is to support the warfighter,” said Maj. Gen. Sean J. Byrne, who once served as the aide to President George Bush, America's 41st chief executive. Byrne knew that if the move to Fort Knox weren't done properly “the readiness of the Army would suffer.”

Supporting the warfighter

The way the Army puts “boots on the ground” has changed, and HRC has kept up with the times.

Years ago, the Army sent individual replacements to reception battalions. You might not know the Soldier on either side of you in the foxhole, Byrne said.

Today's warfighting increases unit cohesion (esprit de corps) and combat readiness.

“We send complete units over for up to a year. We make sure they have all the manpower. We'll identify well in advance what their needs are,” the general said. “They train with battle buddies. They deploy as a team. They return for final training. We reintegrate them back into family and community life. They'll be together for close to two years. There's unit integrity.”

When Soldiers return, they are assessed for health problems, such as post-traumatic stress (PTS) or traumatic brain injury (TBI).

The Adjutant General Directorate, what the general termed the “unsung hero of HRC,” administers programs like Combat Related Special Compensation and the Army Physical Disability Agency.

“HRC plays a part, but the unit has to be engaged, the post has to be engaged, and the medical community has to be engaged,” Byrne said.

Building for BRAC

A work force of more than 4,500 people will eventually work in the Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude Complex on post. The Maude Complex is the largest office building in Kentucky, a complex that spans 882,000 square feet of office space on spacious grounds with free parking. To “get the job done,” HRC worked with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Fort Knox garrison, a private construction company and the Army Corps of Engineers among others.

Reporters at the round table today wanted their readers, listeners and viewers to know about the new legacy of Fort Knox. As part of the base realignment and closure, or BRAC, process, the Armor School moves to Fort Benning, Ga., to join the existing Infantry School to be part of the new Army Maneuver Center. As part of this process, Fort Knox is becoming known for its Human Resource Center of Excellence: The U.S. Army Human Resources Command is one of several human-resources entities that are making Fort Knox their home. Currently, HRC and U.S. Army Accessions Command share the HRCoE. The U.S. Army Recruiting Command (one of USAAC’s subordinate commands) is located elsewhere on post.

“There will be a fond recollection of armor” on and off post, said Byrne, who completed basic training at Fort Knox 38 years ago. “That’s a legacy that will continue. I think it will be a relatively easy transition” because there are reminders, such as street names as well as tanks and other armor-related memorabilia, on Fort Knox and in neighboring communities.

“It’s a phenomenal time of change,” he said. “You’re going from a population of trainees to almost 5,000 Soldiers, civilians and contractors who need housing, medical care and the full support spectrum. You can see how it’s going to affect the economic/tax base.”

The HRC BRAC action is about 90 percent complete.

About 30 percent of employees from HRC’s three main sites (Alexandria, Va.; St. Louis and Indianapolis) have decided to make the move here, where they’ll have a good quality of life at a reasonable cost of living, he said.

“Everyone sees this as a very good opportunity for this community,” Byrne said.

Close to 1,700 new civilian employees are being hired, Byrne said, and he’s had a lot of success working with schools and job fairs.

Throughout the BRAC move, the focus of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command has remained the same: premier life-cycle human-resources management for 570,000 Soldiers worldwide.

After three-and-a-half years leading the way through the BRAC process, Byrne will pass the HRC flag to Maj. Gen. Gina Farrisee during a change-of-command ceremony at the Maude Complex on Fort Knox Thursday, Oct. 14. Farrisee was the director of military personnel management for Army G-1 (Administration/Personnel) at the Pentagon.

“I think she’s going to be good for the organization,” Byrne said.

For more information about U.S. Army Human Resources Command, visit: www.hrc.army.mil

###