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PROJECT ECONOMY

Groundbreaking Begins On BRAC Facilities

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ABERDEEN, Md. -- Federal, state, and local officials broke ground for two office buildings at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Monday in preparation for the Base Realignment and Closure program in Harford County.

About 1,400 military service personnel and 18 civilian defense contractors have arrived at Aberdeen Proving Ground for the BRAC program which, according to state officials, is all about creating jobs in Maryland.

By the fall of 2011, about 8,200 jobs will be created in Harford County. L-3 Services Group will start with the transfer of 400 employees from New Jersey.

"There's going to be an array of all kinds of jobs for this area," said Rick Kiernan of the L-3 Services Group.



The double groundbreaking of two commercial office buildings is the foundation for hundreds of those jobs, many of which will be high-paying.

"If you are talking about the managerial level, you are going to be dealing in the mid \$60,000's to mid

\$70,000's, and then you have your entry level positions, and you always want to grow your next force," Kiernan said.

Raytheon said it plans to move to Aberdeen next fall. Its workforce will start at 300.

"The ranges are going to be averaging about \$85,000 a year. Some are going to be considerably more, and some will be less. But these are high-paying, high-tech jobs -- the kinds of jobs that you don't outsource out of the country," Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown said.

"One of the main reasons we won the contest to bring these jobs here is that we have great learning institutions throughout our entire region," said Democratic Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger.

Ruppersberger said he convinced St. John Properties to build at Aberdeen. The company entered into a unique agreement known as enhanced lease use.

"We are building the buildings on a speculative basis. We are not waiting for

"BRAC is really the driver for all these jobs. We are very fortunate to be in this



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