

Military Growth Surpasses Projections

Our Mission:

- To facilitate regional planning responses to growth challenges, exacerbated by the substantial increase in military personnel.

Marine Corps Installations East has just released new military growth numbers for eastern Carolina, and the impact is bigger than originally thought. The USMC's "Grow The Force" initiative was expected to bring 11,477 new military members and civilian staff to our three installations. But today that number stands at 14,233, according to MCIEAST. And the Marine Corps says, "There's no end in sight."

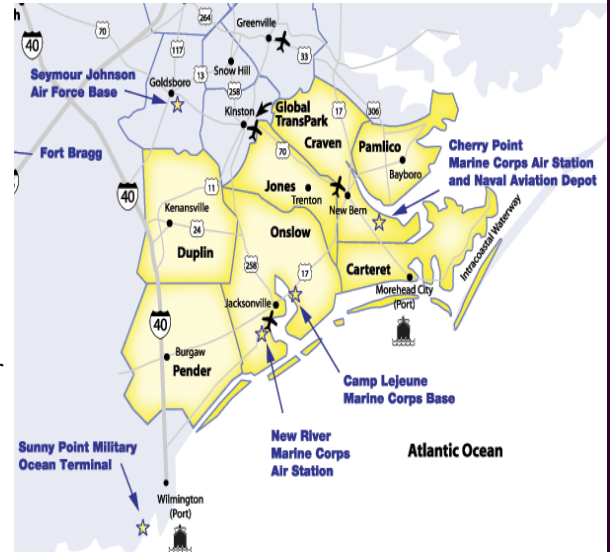
The footprint of these military installations extends across the seven county region, including Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Pamlico, and Pender counties. This is the region these Marines and Sailors call home. It is also the focus area of the Military Growth Task Force, where we are working to facilitate regional responses to this growth.

These servicemembers are expected to bring an additional 18,505 people to the area, including dependents and families. Induced growth (jobs and services expansion) is expected to bring another 20,713 people, and normal projected growth about 25,154 people. All told, we could see upwards of 80,000+ new people in eastern Carolina over a five year period. That's like plopping down a city the size of Greenville in our region by 2011! (The chart at right puts this growth in perspective.) And it's not over yet. According to MCIEAST, that number will likely increase by another

1,500 servicemembers once infrastructure is complete which will house the Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, and the Navy's Super Hornet squadrons based at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

According to Governor Beverly Perdue, these servicemembers make up the largest job creation event since World War II.

The MGTf is working to ease the growing pains for our seven counties while sustaining the military's mission footprint. Although largely rural, eastern Carolina has a unique makeup of communities, and as a whole, the area faces many growth challenges. The Military Growth Task Force is advocating for regional responses for accommodating this growth. The most heavily impacted areas that are directly attributable to this military growth include infrastruc-

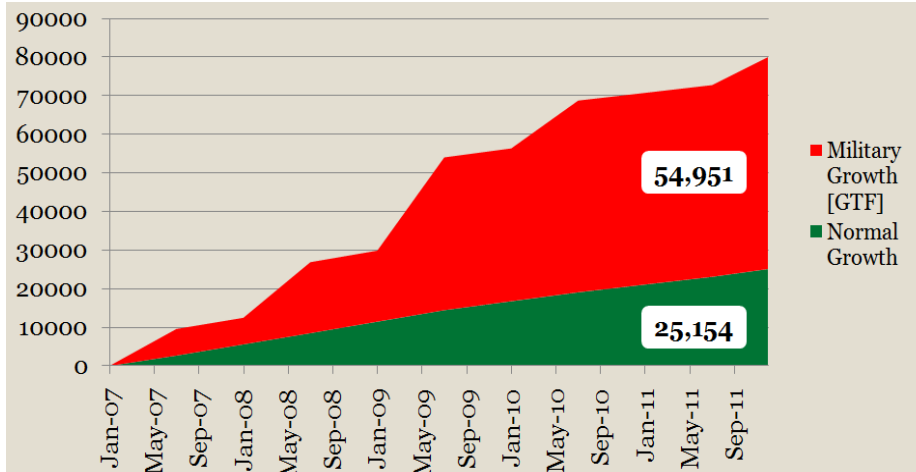


ture, education, workforce, transportation, quality of life, public safety and emergency services, and medical and healthcare. We've briefed the Governor's staff on specific needs in these areas, as well as Senator Richard Burr's and Senator Kay Hagan's staffs, and we continue to work towards executing the recommendations listed in our Regional Growth Management Plan. We've also made valuable contributions towards achieving an accurate census count for eastern Carolina, and securing a grant to help veterans and military spouses get money for education.

Inside this issue:

- Biofuels: The Next Step 2
- Pomp & Circumstance 2
- Speaker Series 2
- VIP Program Extended! 3
- Salute to Our Military 4

Normal + Military Growth = 80,105



Biofuels: The Next Step

Our April edition of "Inside the MGTF" brought you an introduction to biofuels in eastern Carolina, an idea by the MGTF that promotes regionalism by bringing businesses, industry, agriculture, military, state/local/federal government, developers and environmentalists together in the spirit of sustainability. A biodiesel operation in eastern Carolina would help solve many growth-related issues within our seven counties, sustain the struggling agriculture industry, fulfill the military's mandate to incorporate green energy, and maintain the mission footprint of our military installations. By preventing urban sprawl, a biodiesel refinery operation in the region would also sustain the quality of life eastern Carolina is known for. The MGTF is working on a two-year timeline to

develop the operation in the region. The Military Growth Task Force has named this mission "Fuel the Force" with the idea that biofuel would supply our military forces, as well as school, hospital, prison, commercial and small business fleets.

Here's what the MGTF has done since our April announcement to further the effort: MGTF Director Mark Sutherland, Deputy Director Jay Bender, and Senior Analyst Amber Kumor first had to identify a central location in the region for a biodiesel refinery, and then gauge interest from the farmers there. They facilitated an agricultural roundtable at the Jones County Cotton Gin. The discussion brought farmers, investors, planners, and representatives from the NC Cooperative Extension Office and the Biofuels Center of North Carolina. During the roundtable, we not only learned that several

Jones County farmers are interested, but that they're already storing valuable cottonseed as a by-product of cotton manufacturing. And since cottonseeds can be used to make biodiesel, the farmers already have a supply of biodiesel component sitting in a silo. The farmers are interested in the next step towards creating a biodiesel refinery — the investment required, who would build and operate it, and which crop yields the highest fuel volume and cost return on their investment. They agreed to continue biofuel talks with the MGTF, while engaging the Cotton Gin's Board of Directors on their ideas for the project. The MGTF has agreed to identify other financial resources and partners in the "Fuel the Force" mission. As part of the trip to the gin, located in Trenton, the farmers gave us a tour of the facility and the cotton manufacturing process. We've included some of the pictures below.



Pictures: (left) stored cottonseeds at the Jones County Cotton Gin, (middle) MGTF Director Mark Sutherland and Deputy Director Jay Bender talk about "Fuel the Force" with Jones County Planner Franky Howard and Cotton Gin Manager Thomas Waller, (right) cotton bales stacked high inside a storage facility at the Cotton Gin, to keep them dry and prepare them for shipping.



Pomp & Circumstance

School's out! MGTF Director Mark Sutherland graduated North Carolina's Rural Economic Development Institute Leadership Forum, a three month class devoted to developing new skills and leadership techniques to bring about positive change in today's economically-challenging environment. The class required participants to travel to the Rural Center in Raleigh for nine days over a three month period to develop leadership fundamentals and long-range strategic planning skills, as well as listen to guest speakers and regional leaders who shared their insight and experiences. Sutherland was joined by two leaders in the MGTF region—Jones County Manager Franky Howard, who received a scholarship from the Rural Center to attend the program, and Duplin County Planner Randall Tyndall.

The Rural Center Economic Development Institute (REDI)

offers a challenging and high quality curriculum. It covers all aspects of economic development in its approach to leadership: business, infrastructure, and workforce. The program explores cultural and socio-economic differences within communities and uses group problem-solving to mitigate obstacles. Students learn to identify priority issues within their communities. REDI organizers hope students walk away with a network of new professional relationships and friendships that will help sustain our communities through regional development programs. REDI realizes that motivated, skilled, and effective leaders are one of our state's most valuable resources, who will help prepare and transition North Carolina into the future, where sustainable communities foster a strong workforce and a support a meaningful quality of life.



MGTF Director Mark Sutherland

Most of the cost of the institute is paid for by public and private donations. Each participant, upon acceptance, pays a \$495 tuition. All classes are held at the Rural Center in Raleigh.

Speaker Series!

The Military Growth Task Force is launching a new Speaker Series throughout the region. This will include updates and briefs to state and local governments, boards, Chambers of Commerce, civic and community groups, businesses, leadership organizations, and other interested parties to keep eastern Carolina informed of the MGTF's work in the region. Learn about military and civilian growth impacts within our seven counties. Call or email Colleen Maloney, Director of Communications, (910)325-8112 or Maloney@nceast.org.

Veteran's Initiative Project Extended Through May 2011!

A program helping veterans and military spouses get money for school and on-the-job training, is celebrating huge success in eastern Carolina. So much success... it's giving prospective students more opportunity to take advantage of the program!

The Veteran's Initiative Project is available for vets and military spouses, and exiting military who desire to remain in eastern Carolina after their tour of service. Eligible students will receive assistance that can be applied to obtain a certificate, degree, or diploma. They can also receive on-the-job training in high growth, high demand job sectors. VIP is available in ten counties in the region: Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, and Wayne.

Initially, the nearly one-million dollar grant was set to expire in March 2011. The Military Growth Task Force, along with its partners on the VIP project, is

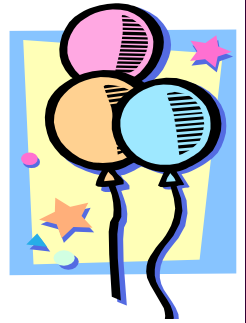
excited to announce that the program has been extended through May 2011! VIP provides up to \$4,000 per student for tuition, books, and fees. And there are no restrictions on which school eligible students attend.

The Spring 2010 semester was paid in full for dozens of people who took advantage of VIP when it debuted. Now, four months later, nearly 200 people are enrolled in local schools or receiving training through VIP, according to the latest numbers released by the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board (see chart at right). The program has been particularly successful in Craven and Onslow counties, where there is significant military and veteran population.

But in some of the more rural areas of eastern Carolina, there has been little to no participation. That's where the MGTF is focusing a new outreach project. Director of Communications,

Colleen Maloney, is reaching out to various community resources, groups, and the media in an effort to spread the word about the VIP and boost enrollment. That outreach project has already led a military vet in Pamlico County to apply for the program. He is awaiting acceptance.

The MGTF's partners on this endeavor are: the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board, NC Department of Commerce, US Department of Labor, Coastal Carolina Community College, and ESC/JobLink Centers.



County	Veteran	Military Spouse	# Served
Carteret	11	0	11
Craven	42	10	52
Duplin	1	0	1
Greene	0	0	0
Jones	2	1	3
Lenoir	5	1	6
Onslow	51	40	91
Pamlico	1	0	1
Pender	0	0	0
Wayne	24	4	28
TOTALS	137	56	193

Onslow Bight Conservation Forum

Accommodating military and civilian growth demands a regional perspective. As opportunities arise to expand our communities and develop new ones, careful consideration should be paid to conservation to sustain our environment, our coast, our region, and our quality of life. Several of the MGTF's implementation strategies rely on conservation as a key component to absorb growth. We were invited to participate in the Onslow Bight Conservation Forum at the Jones Island Environmental Education and Restoration Center in Onslow County. Jones Island is situated in the middle of the

by the Nature Conservancy and Camp Lejeune in response to encroachment issues at the military installation. The MGTF is also concerned with encroachment and incompatible land use surrounding our installations. The Forum gave attendees an opportunity to update conservation projects and see first hand the efforts to restore Jones Island, including an oyster reef created by volunteers, and replenished marsh grasses planted at the water's edge.

The Onslow Bight Conservation Forum will be a strategic partner in the MGTF mission to facilitate regional responses to growth challenges. The MGTF is hoping to incorporate the Forum's expertise on coastal and conservation issues as the population in eastern Carolina continues to change.



White Oak River, just off the coast near Swansboro.

The Onslow Bight Conservation Forum is a regional collaboration across nine counties to conserve coastal ecosystems and protect endangered plant and animal species. It was started

What is the MGTF?

Interest in the Military Growth Task Force is growing since the announcement that even more military servicemembers and families are moving to eastern Carolina. Concerns about military growth led two community groups to the MGTF office. They wanted to know more about how this growth will affect our region.

The Military Growth Task Force was invited to speak at the Swansboro Area Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting and the New Bern Rotary Club. Deputy Director Jay Bender gave a breakfast brief to the chamber members, and a lunch brief to the Rotarians. Both briefs brought nearly full houses of mayors, town and county commissioners, small business owners, professionals, local leaders, and neighbors.

The presentations included the latest growth information and what the MGTF is doing to help our region accommodate an influx of military and families. Bender started by explaining how the MGTF was created, how it's funded, and that its chief responsibility is as a liaison between the military and our communities. Bender laid out the areas most affected by this influx in military growth: infrastructure, transportation, workforce, quality of life, public safety/emergency services, medical care, education, housing, and local government. Then, he discussed the MGTF's implementation phase—what we plan to do now that regional needs and growth impacts have been identified. Implementation phase involves consultant led tasks (outlined in "Contracts Approved!" on page 1) and regular updates to elected officials, collaboration with local organizations, creation of regional workshops, and participation on local boards and



MGTF Deputy Director Jay Bender shows anticipated growth in the region during a brief to chamber members.

committees. From several emails we received after the brief, the audience was enlightened to learn about the work of the MGTF.

Please join our staff &
Board of Directors in honoring our
military this Memorial Day.
We will never forget those who gave
their lives for freedom.
May they rest in peace.
And for the men and women who
proudly serve in our Armed Forces and
continue to protect us each day,
we salute you.

Board of Directors

Dick Casey, Newport Town Manager
Dave Inscoe, Carteret Co. Economic Development
Greg Lewis, Carteret Co. Commissioner
Ernie Richardson, Richardson & Richardson Attys.
Mayor Jimmy Sanders, City of Havelock
Lonnie Pridgen, Lonnie Pridgen Real Estate
Marwin Raines, Century 21 Zaytown Raines
Theron McCabe, Craven Co. Commissioner
Mayor Kenneth Smith, Town of Beulaville
Randall Syndall, Duplin Co. Planner
Franky Howard, Jones Co. Manager
Jessie Eubanks, Jones Co. Commissioner
John Chaffee, North Carolina's Eastern Region
Billy Sewell, Platinum Corral LLC

Dan Oliver, Progress Energy
Mike Alford (Chairman), Marine Chevrolet
Col. Peter Grimes (Ret.), Swansboro
Dr. Ronald Lingle, Coastal Carolina Comm. Coll.
Jayne Robb, Pamlico Co. Planner
Kenny Heath, Pamlico Co. Commissioner
Chris May, Cape Fear Council of Government
David Williams, Pender Co. Commissioner
Tony Worrell, Wayco Ham Company
Dave Plummer (Ex-Officio), MCJEAST
Capt. Jeff Voltz (Ex-Officio), US Navy
Paul Friday (Ex-Officio), MCJEAST
Scott Brewer (Ex-Officio), MCJEAST
W. Lee Smith (Ex-Officio), Wayne Co. Manager

Fair winds & following seas to Capt. Jeff Voltz and Carteret County Economic Development Director Dave Inscoe ~ farewell & thanks for your service to eastern Carolina and the MCJF Board of Directors!

MILITARY GROWTH TASK FORCE



656 W. Corbett Avenue
Swansboro, NC 28584
(910)325-8112
www.nceastmgf.org

