

Inside the MGTF

Volume 1, Issue 5

August 2010

Project Eastern Gain Kick-Off

Our Mission:

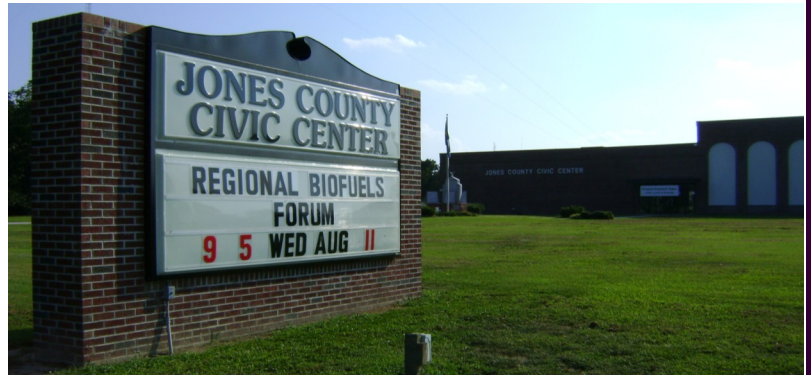
- To facilitate regional planning responses to growth challenges, exacerbated by the substantial increase in military personnel.

Inside this issue:

ECU Partners With MGTF	2
VIP Extended to June 2011	3
State Budget Includes Money for VIPER	3
Grant Central Station	4

The future of renewable energy is now, and its right here in eastern Carolina. The Military Growth Task Force, along with its partners, kicked off the creation of a biofuels industry in the region with a Regional Biofuels Forum August 11th at the Jones County Civic Center in Trenton. The event unveiled "Project Eastern Gain: Jobs, Land & Energy," an initiative to bring industry and agriculture together to satisfy regional military needs for renewable fuels, and which will eventually supply other public and private transportation needs as well.

The event brought more than 200 people to participate in the forum and to gain insight into biofuels from keynote and industry speakers. The crowd also learned the goals for "Project Eastern Gain": first, 1.5 million gallons of biodiesel being grown and produced locally and consumed by North Carolina's military by 2012; then, 25 million gallons of bio-jet fuel being grown and produced locally and consumed by North Carolina's military by 2015; and finally, 100 million gallons of bio-jet fuel being produced and grown locally and consumed by North Carolina's military by 2017. MGTF Executive Director Mark Sutherland kicked things off by welcoming everyone to the Civic Center, and then introduced Major General Carl Jensen, Commanding General of Marine Corps Installations EAST, who spoke to the military's mandate for reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy. "To meet this federal mandate, I need to reduce energy intensity by 30 percent by 2015. That's considerable," Jensen said. The US Marine Corps is interested in biofuels not only as a means of fueling its forces, but because it also sustains the military mission. A rural atmosphere



surrounding the base gates, including farms and working lands, allows the military to conduct training and maintenance missions and continue practice flights. Major General Jensen spoke to the need to balance rural landscape with development. "Quite frankly, I don't think any of us wants to see this area turn into a Miami Beach."

The Biofuels Center of North Carolina was created in 2007 and is tasked with developing a statewide biofuels industry to reduce the state's dependence on imported fuels. President and CEO Steven Burke was a keynote speaker at the Regional Biofuels Forum. "Meeting the goals of this project will be hard, challenging, and bold. It will be place changing and landscape changing. We will use our land in new ways. Not just for food, our land will change for fuel purposes." Burke said North Carolinians use 5.6 billion gallons of fuel, on average, each year. And that last year, our state only produced 2 million gallons of biofuel. "We have a lot of work to do," Burke said.

Two industry speakers gave perspective on biofuels creation and operation. Mark Thomson of IDEA Engineering spoke at the forum as a representative of Bioenergy Interna-

tional (BDI), an Austria-based supplier of solutions for industrial use of renewable energy resources. And, Daniel Burciaga, President and CEO of ThermoChem Recovery International, Inc. (TRI) in Durham, talked about what it's like to own and operate a bio-jet research and production facility.

The Regional Biofuels Forum also featured three breakout sessions where participants could attend question and answer discussions with expert panelists. "Biofuels 101: Git'R Dun" was geared toward farmers and landowners who might have an interest in growing biofuels feedstocks. Topics included planting, harvesting, costs & profits, feedstock, technology and meal market. "So You Want to Own a Biofuels Plant" was for business owners and potential investors and covered topics such as building a business model, incentives, end user, production and the technology necessary for building a biofuels plant. "What to Expect When a Biofuels Plant Comes to Town" was geared toward local government officials, economic and workforce developers and regulators. Discussion included fleet

Continued on Page 3...



ECU Partners with MGTF

One of the areas most impacted by military and civilian growth is the health care system. Doctor's offices, health clinics, emergency rooms, and hospitals are becoming overburdened trying to absorb rapid population growth.

The overload of patients actually started a few years ago with the closing of the Naval Hospital at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, a result of the Base Realignment and Closure process of 2005. That forced hundreds of military members and families into the civilian healthcare system. Add to that the Marine Corps' "Grow the Force" initiative, and that equals tens of thousands of people in eastern Carolina who all, at some point, require medical care. The Military Growth Task Force outlined this physician shortage in our Regional Growth Management Plan.

The MGTF recently met with Dr. David Cistola, Professor and Associate Dean of Research at East Carolina University. Dr. Cistola

has received grant funding for a program to help military service-members get the healthcare they need through increased availability of telehealth and telemedicine. ECU's project, "Operation Re-Entry North Carolina" (ORNC), is specifically geared toward helping combat veterans and their families with rehabilitation and behavioral health, such as with traumatic brain injury cases. According to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Study (July 2009), there has been a 33% increase in traumatic brain injury cases in troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan since 2008.

The MGTF believes there are partnership and expansion opportunities within this program as a way to increase throughput in our regional doctors' offices, hospitals, and clinics, many of which are backlogged with the recent influx

of military and civilian patients. The MGTF and its healthcare consultant team met with Dr. Cistola and Dr. Bonnie Benetato, ECU College of Nursing, to discuss this partnership. Drs. Cistola and Benetato are enthusiastic about the partnership and have discussed ideas for addressing the growth impacts on healthcare and medicine within the region. The meeting resulted in several ideas for short- and long-term solutions for accommodating growth and easing the burden on regional providers. One of those solutions involves additional opportunities for residency, clerkship, and intern programs in our medical facilities both on and off base. ECU has agreed to initiate placement of those medical students in new sites in our communities beginning in the Spring 2011 semester.

Now, the group will meet with community providers and our military installations to gauge interest in hosting medical students as part of the program, as well as develop partnerships for addressing needs. We will also pursue funding to implement new, upgraded technology in regional doctors' offices, clinics and hospitals for telehealth and telemedicine programs.



(Left to right) The MGTF and its healthcare consulting team from Health Planning Source meet with Dr. David Cistola and Dr. Bonnie Benetato to discuss partnering on "Operation Re-Entry North Carolina." (Middle) Dr. David Cistola, Professor and Associate Dean of Research, East Carolina University. (Right) The college's new Health Sciences Building which opened in 2006.

Hotel Groundbreaking

In response to growth, one of our communities will soon welcome a new hotel. The Hampton Inn and Suites is coming to Swansboro. Land clearing began in April with a groundbreaking ceremony shortly thereafter, and the project is expected to be complete in Spring 2011. The four-story hotel will feature 98 rooms, 31 of which will be suites.

The hotel not only brings a place to stay for visitors and families, it also brings jobs with a projected staff of 25-30 people. The hotel's owners are eager to first hire a General Manager for the facility and they hope to have that person in place this Fall.

Some of the hotel partners and the site development team met with the Military Growth Task Force when the project was still in the

idea stages. They knew from the MGTF's Regional Growth Management Plan that eastern Carolina was in the midst of a growth spurt with an influx of military and civilian staff moving into the region, and that there was a shortage of upscale lodging options. They wanted to make sure the project could accommodate visitors and transitioning families alike. They're hoping to ease the growing pains with the hotel's close proximity to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River as well as area beaches.

The project development team says if all goes well, the Hampton



The Hampton Inn & Suites will be located off Old Hammock Road in Swansboro near the intersection with NC Highway 24, and is expected to open in March 2011.

Inn and Suites should open in March 2011.

Project Eastern Gain Kick-Off (Continued)

management, economic impacts, agribusiness, military mission and preservation of working lands.

During lunch, the Honorable Steven Troxler, Commissioner of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services delivered an energetic speech to the crowd. "This is a wonderful opportunity we have here today," he said. "North Carolina is a little late getting into the green game, but we have the resources here to do it. We need to seize this opportunity and seize it quickly." Troxler went on to recognize how farming has impacted our economy for generations. "Farming is the bedrock of North Carolina's economy. You only need to take the scenic routes when you travel to see North Carolina's forestry and farming potential for biofuels."

Exhibitors from across the state set up in-

formational booths to provide additional biofuels materials and to answer questions. The Regional Biofuels Forum also featured the Craven County Ag Biofuels bus, a traditional school bus that's been converted into a mobile biodiesel plant. The bus was open for tours and allowed people to see biodiesel production up close. The Jones County Cooperative Extension brought bags of canola seeds to show people an example of a commonly used feedstock for biofuel. Other exhibitors ranged from the NC Military Business Center, the Biofuels Center of NC, the ADFP Trust Fund, Mount Olive College, Robeson Community College, Central Carolina Community College, Self-Help Credit Union, Triangle Clean Cities Coalition, and the Military Growth Task Force.

This forum was designed to stimulate conversation in the community on the creation of a biofuels industry. Thank you to everyone who participated in and attended our kick-off for **Project Eastern Gain: Jobs, Land & Energy**.



"We're into biofuels anywhere we can get them so that I can meet these goals. And I need your help."

***~Major General Carl Jensen,
Commanding General, Marine
Corps Installations EAST***



VIP Extended to June 2011!

The Veterans Initiative Project is being extended again! This is the grant the MGTf received in collaboration with several partners, to help veterans and active duty spouses get money for college and/or on-the-job training. It provides up to \$4,000 per student to cover supplies and tuition for certificate and degree programs. The administrator of this grant, the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board (ECWDB), has just announced the program has been extended to June 15, 2011! So applicants have until then to complete and graduate their course programs.

Recently, the ECWDB updated the staff of the Military Growth Task Force on the success of the

program and its latest extension. Since our last update on enrollment, most of the ten participating counties have seen a boost in their VIP numbers. Craven is up more than 50% to 64 enrollees, as is Onslow with 73. Wayne went from 24 people enrolled in the VIP program in March to 40 people now. Pamlico County signed up two more people, Lenoir and Duplin each signed up one more. There are nearly 300 total people participating in VIP across Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, and Wayne counties.

(L-R) Wendy Walker-Fox, Veterans Initiative Project Coordinator with the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board and Debra Best and Antonio Lugo from the Wayne County Employment Security Commission, discuss the Veterans Initiative Project grant at the MGTf office in Swansboro.

State Budget Includes Money for VIPER

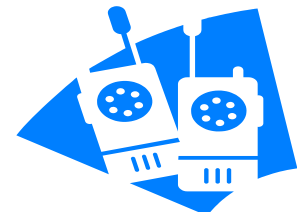
Governor Beverly Perdue has signed the budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 and it includes money to help North Carolina communities come into compliance with a federal mandate.

The Department of Homeland Security has mandated that public safety and emergency services departments implement a new communications system called VIPER, Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders. This system is a network of compatible radios that town, city, state, and federal emergency responders across the country can use to communicate in any type of emergency or natural disaster. The system alleviates the need to send messages through a communications center. The critical need for this type of

technology was realized during emergency response to the September 11, 2001 terror attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Virginia, as well as coordinated response to the plane crash in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

VIPER will require replacing the legacy VHF and UHF radios with digital ones. The cost for replacing those radios is left up to the counties and communities to fund—an estimated \$20 million dollar funding shortfall to implement the new technology and its necessary integration measures. According to North Carolina Crime Control, 240 VIPER sites are planned for statewide coverage. One-hundred forty-four sites are already constructed and on-the-air as of January 2010, including sites in Carteret, Craven,

Duplin, Onslow, Pender, and Pamlico Counties. Governor Beverly Perdue's budget includes \$4.7 million dollars to the North Carolina Highway Patrol as matching funds to the Public Safety Interoperability Communications grant from the US Department of Commerce, valued at \$13.2 million. The money will be used to further develop the VIPER network across the state.





~ Grant Central Station ~

We developed "Grant Central Station" as a way to keep our counties and communities informed of grants that can assist in accommodating growth. It's the newest addition to "Inside the MGTF," and we encourage you to take advantage of and apply for these funding opportunities where appropriate.

FY 2011 CMV-OST Grant: Commercial Motor Vehicle Operation Safety Training - provides training for current and future commercial motor vehicle drivers in the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles (CMV) to reduce the rate of large truck- and bus-related crashes and fatalities. For more information and to apply visit www.grants.gov and search Funding Opportunity Number FM-DTG-11-001. Closing date: 15 Oct 2010

FY 2011 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program - funding to develop information technology and management capabilities needed to support an EPA Exchange Network. This network will allow for sharing and reporting of regulatory and non-regulatory environmental data. Go to: www.epa.gov and search for EPA-OEI-11-01. Closing date: 5 Nov 2010

Renewable Energy Feasibility Grants - The Rural Energy for America Program will provide funds to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems. Go to www.grants.gov and search Funding Opportunity Number RDBCP-10-REAP-FEASIBILITY. Closing date: 5 Oct 2010

Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant Program - the purpose of this program is to expand access to, and improve the quality of essential health care services and enhance the delivery of health care, in rural areas. Go to www.grants.gov and search under Funding Opportunity Number HRSA-11-085. Closing date: 8 Oct 2010

Contact Us:

MGTF
656 W. Corbett Ave.
P.O. Box 814
Swansboro, NC 28584

Office: (910)325-8112
Fax: (910)325-8114
www.nceastmgtf.org

Project Eastern Gain: Jobs, Land & Energy

More pictures from the Regional Biofuels Forum August 11th in Jones County

