

Inside the MGTf

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Wayne County Joins MGTf

Our Mission:

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

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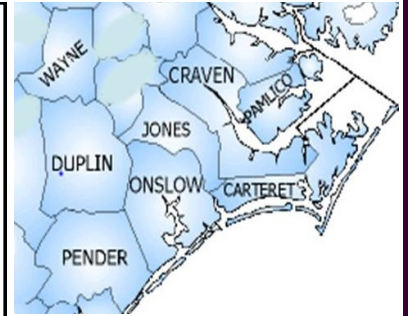
The Military Growth Task Force has another partner in regional sustainability. The Wayne County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously in November to join the MGTf, becoming the eighth county in eastern Carolina's military footprint to participate in the MGTf's planning for and response to substantial regional growth.

Wayne County is already familiar with growth challenges. First, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) Report from 2005 assigned 662 new military and civilian jobs to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. That growth hasn't happened yet, but is expected by Fall 2011. It will bring additional families and dependents, and induce an expansion in jobs and services. Second, while Goldsboro, Wayne County, and the region prepare for that growth, Seymour Johnson has, in the meantime, added another nearly 600 jobs through other reassignment decisions. Those people *are here*. And the County continues to work to accommodate them before the next big influx. Combining the two growth events means 1,223 additional military and civilian jobs at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, a 25% increase in overall base population. It also means the area will see an estimated 13% increase in families and dependents who rely on county services. While the total induced jobs necessary to accommodate the 2011 growth is not currently known, it is estimated at 800 more service sector positions.

Wayne County has a lot in common with the other MGTf member counties. With thousands more people coming here, the County is experiencing rapid lost capacity in

medical and healthcare services, education, transportation, and infrastructure. The County also shares a strategic highway transportation corridor in Highway 70 with many of our MGTf member counties, which when it's expanded will play a huge role in how the region assimilates growth in the future, from Raleigh all the way to the coast. Wayne County also shares a common watershed in the Neuse River, enjoys a large makeup of agriculture and farming like our other counties, and is host to a military installation. Additionally the County is seeing its number of farms shrinking as more and more working lands become developed, something the State is working to reverse. Finally, and perhaps most important, Wayne County shares a military training mission footprint with the other MGTf counties. That restricted airspace is becoming a scarce resource across eastern North Carolina. This confluence of growth issues led the County to join the MGTf.

"The primary benefit to having a seat at the table with the Military Growth Task Force is to have a partner to develop consensus solutions to growth challenges," said Mark Sutherland, Director of the MGTf. "Second, we are advocates for our counties in Raleigh and in Washington, D.C., particularly with the Department of Defense. There is money available for defense communities experiencing growth challenges that our counties have not traditionally been recipients of. We aim to change that." Sutherland's first meeting with Wayne County leaders after membership was in late November. Sutherland worked with those leaders to de-



velop a research plan that will provide a Wayne County addendum to the MGTf's Regional Growth Management Plan. The research will include studying growth impacts both short- and long-term, and grant opportunities that can provide solutions to those growing pains.

Wayne County's growth, as a percentage of their existing installation population, will be second only to Camp Lejeune in Onslow County. "It's significantly more than Cherry Point and many, many times more than Fort Bragg. That's a story that I don't think Wayne County was fully aware of, nor the folks at the Pentagon. We intend to tell that story until it's heard where it needs to be heard," said Sutherland.

Military mission and population growth create impacts that extend beyond county lines. Solutions to compatible growth assimilation in our region have an effect on military utility at all of our installations. Consensus solutions will require regional thinking and participation. Wayne County is an eager, new partner in regional sustainability and in preserving the landscape that is home to North Carolina's military.

Testing Canola

On a beautiful mid-November day, a lone tractor and drill planted a winter crop along U.S. Highway 17 in Jones County. The monotone sounds of the hydraulic power raising and lowering the drill, up and down, row after row at Banks Farm, signified a big day for the Military Growth Task Force and the region. It was the sound of canola being planted.

The MGTF is working with four farmers in Jones County and one in Craven County, who have graciously donated land, to plant test plots for canola. The intent being to grow a viable crop for producing biodiesel. The crop is planted in the Fall and harvested in the Spring. The 22 total acres have been planted in highly visible locations so that farmers, the military, economic development and environmental interests, and the public can get an up close look at canola. The test plots are accompanied by large signs to draw attention to the agricultural experiment.

The test plots are part of Project Eastern Gain, an initiative of the Military Growth Task Force and its partners to create a biofuels industry in eastern Carolina. The MGTF kicked off Project Eastern Gain in August. This initiative comprises three goals for producing biofuels for regional use: first, 1.5 million gallons of biodiesel being grown and produced locally and used by our military by 2012 (called "Fuel the Force"); then, 25 million gallons of bio-jet fuel being grown and produced locally and used regionally by 2015; and finally, 100 million gallons of bio-jet fuel being produced and grown locally and consumed regionally by 2017.

The MGTF hired George Miller to oversee "Fuel the Force." As Project Manager, George brought together several regional partners who have an interest in biofuels. And 90 days after Project Eastern Gain's kickoff, the test plots have been identified and planted.

"It's always tough to introduce a new

crop to folks who've never grown it, so that was our main driver for wanting to do the test plots," said Franky Howard, Jones County Manager. Franky can almost see one of the test plots from his office. It's located at the Jones County Industrial Park off Highway 41 in Trenton. The County was not using the land for the winter season, and agreed to let the MGTF use it as a test plot. Jones County Cooperative Extension Field Crops Agent Jacob Morgan oversaw the planting and frequently checked the drill spacing to make sure the seed penetrated the soil. "When you're planting crops, depth is as important as anything else. You don't want the seed too deep or it might not germinate," he said. "If you put it too shallow, it might dry out and it won't take."

Our military is under federal mandate to reduce energy consumption and increase the use of renewable energy. Our local military installations are already using biodiesel, and federal mandates demonstrate the need to increase biodiesel usage. The State is also interested in biodiesel. Last year, the NC Department of Transportation used 11.5 million gallons of biodiesel, making it the largest purchaser of biodiesel in the country. Most of that biodiesel was purchased from midwestern states.

In the interest of growing the biofuels industry, NC State allowed the MGTF to use its equipment to plant the canola seed. John Garner, Superintendent of the Williamsdale Biofuels Field Lab in Duplin County, volunteered to plant all four of the test plots in Jones County. After a long day of planting more than 100 pounds of tiny seeds, there is a lot of excitement over the crop. "I'll be checking the test plots probably once a week, waiting for them to come up," said Jacob Morgan. "I'll also check the plants for bacteria, disease, and insects too. I'm very excited about it. There's no reason canola can't grow here."

Tiny canola leaves are already peeking



(Top) "Fuel the Force" Project Manager George Miller checks the seed tank with John Garner, of the Williamsdale Biofuels Field Lab; (middle) John Garner volunteered his time and equipment to plant canola for the MGTF; (bottom) fresh tracks show the first row of canola planted on a test plot in Jones County.

out from the soil, and eventually a bright yellow flower will bloom. Meherrin Ag & Chemical will fertilize the test plots for the MGTF. "We want to test which fertilizers work best for canola. It'll help the farmers," said Meherrin Manager Buster Andrews. "This is a win for eastern Carolina. We're glad to be a part of it."



See For Yourself!

Canola test plot locations:

- 6540 Highway 55 West, Cove City, Craven County
- 110 Industrial Park Drive, Trenton, Jones County
- 149 Roy Mallard Lane, Trenton, Jones County
- 509 Ravenwood Road, Pollocksville, Jones County
- 9462 Highway 17 South, Pollocksville, Jones County

Regional Planning Partnership Participants Selected

The MGTF is gearing up for orientation for dozens of candidates who've been selected to participate in the Regional Planning Partnership (RPP). Those candidates will make up the first "class" of the RPP, which will be called the Board of Advisors. The roster of folks was recommended by representatives of our five constituencies, vetted through the MGTF Board of Directors, and finally, recruited by MGTF Director Mark Sutherland and Deputy Director Jay Bender. Four people from each of the MGTF's eight counties, and four representatives from the military will comprise the group of 36.

Candidates began finding out in late November that they'd been selected for the RPP. Orientation is January 12-13 in New Bern, and more details will follow.

The Regional Planning Partnership is the legacy of the MGTF. It is a forum where existing and emerging growth issues can be deliberated by thinkers and planners to achieve regional consensus among often competing constituencies. Those consensus solutions will be communicated for potential implementation to our member elected councils, commissions, and the General Assembly as appropriate.

There is a confluence of growth issues affecting eastern Carolina that requires a regional approach to decision-making. This includes protection of our quality of life; prevention of sprawl while accommodating economic development; management of encroachment; preservation of working lands; planning for compatible land use; and protection of the environment.

The RPP is designed to enhance members' knowledge of the region. RPP members will be asked to participate in a quarterly one-day field trip or workshop, and member terms will last for two years.

College Student Designs MGTF Logo



The Military Growth Task Force created a logo design contest earlier this year and we're proud to announce our winner! Samantha Bruggema, an art student at Craven Community College has

designed the winning image that will represent the MGTF's Regional Planning Partnership (RPP).

Recognizing that eastern Carolina is rife with talent, the MGTF initiated a logo design contest in the Fall. Flyers with instructions were sent to colleges and universities throughout the MGTF region, inviting students to participate. The students had about six weeks to design and create their logos.

In all, we received nine entries and the students

didn't make it easy for us! Our "Plan It East" theme encompasses mitigating and planning for regional growth changes and challenges across our landscape. It will bring together representatives from our counties and our constituencies: military, agriculture, developers, state and local governments, and environmental interests. The students brought this theme to life using colorful images representing our state, our region, and our coast.

Ultimately, it was Samantha's design featuring a global perspective of the east that won. "I was completely in shock when they called my name," Samantha said. As our winner, Samantha will be awarded \$800 and the opportunity to work with the MGTF to refine her logo for her professional portfolio. Her logo is featured at left.

Congratulations Samantha!



Logo design contest winner **Samantha Bruggema (center)** is joined by **Dr. Catherine Chew, President of Craven Community College,** and **Colleen Roberts, MGTF Director of Communications.**

Money Coming to Preserve Farmland

North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER) has received grant money that will help the Military Growth Task Force sustain agriculture in the region. NCER submitted a proposal to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA) for money to preserve working lands and family farms. The NCDA administers money for farmland preservation through the North Carolina Agricultural Development Farmland Protection Trust Fund.

The grant money will pay for development of Farmland Protection Plans (FPPs), Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinances (VADs) and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinances (EVADs) in the Eastern Region member counties who do not already have these plans in place. This includes Carteret, Lenoir, and Craven counties. Carteret and Craven are also MGTF member counties.

FPPs are adopted by county governments to maintain, enhance and protect viable agricultural communities. VADs and EVADs provide for the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Board to administer farmland protection programs. This Board reviews and decides on applications for qualifying farmlands to establish the agricultural district.

There are several benefits for farm owners who are accepted into the VAD program: they are given signs to post, identifying their farm as a member of a preservation district, give farmers protection from nuisance suits, and waive water and sewer assessments for farms that are not connected to a local system. EVADs include those benefits plus qualifying farms may receive up to 25% of their gross sales from non-farm products and still be exempt from certain zoning



regulations. EVAD lands are also eligible to receive a higher percentage of cost share funds under the Agriculture Cost Share Program.

NCER received a \$100,000 grant for development of the FPPs, VADs, and EVADs. These programs help communities preserve the industry our state is known for: farming. Farms provide a net gain to the local tax base. They contribute to wildlife habitats and clean air and water. Farming also preserves quality of life in North Carolina, and encourages consumers to buy local goods and produce. Find out more at ncadfp.org.

NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund

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NC's Military Friendliness on Display

Eastern North Carolina has a new look with the installation of new signs along our major highways. The signs notify motorists they're entering the nation's most military friendly state.

The North Carolina Bankers Association paid for the five signs. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is having them installed at the northern and southern borders of our state on Interstate 95, Interstate 85 and U.S. Highway 17.

The military plays a big part in North Carolina's economy. According to the State, more than 416,000 jobs in North Carolina are military-related, either at our military installations or in defense contracting. North Carolina is home to all branches of the military within installations Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (including the Naval Air Systems Command's Fleet Readiness Center East), Sey-

mour Johnson Air Force Base, Pope Air Force Base, Fort Bragg and Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (Army), US Coast Guard Base Fort Macon and several Coast Guard stations. North Carolina also hosts the NC National Guard and Army and Air Force Reserve.

These signs represent our state's support for the military men and women who serve our country every day.

MGTF Welcomes Haley Carwile



The Military Growth Task Force would like to welcome Mrs. Haley Carwile, who joins us as Executive Assistant.

Haley is from Indiana, and is a

proud 2010 graduate of Butler University in Indianapolis. Haley earned a bachelors degree in Marketing and Communications. She moved to North Carolina shortly after graduation. Haley is a member of the American Marketing Association, and has spent many hours volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and the Soil and Water Conservation District Earth Day events. Her husband is stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. When she is not working, Haley says she enjoys spending time with her newlywed husband, working out, and exploring North Carolina

and its beautiful beaches.

As Executive Assistant, Haley will assist Program Manager George Miller in creating a biofuels industry in eastern Carolina. She will also handle office administration duties as needed. So far, Haley has hit the ground running developing and designing biofuels presentation materials, and culminating valuable renewable energy contacts.

Haley joined us just before Thanksgiving, and attended her first board meeting before her first day on the job! Welcome Haley!



Happy Holidays from the Military Growth Task Force!