

THE MILITARY GROWTH TASK FORCE

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PRESS RELEASE

THE MILITARY GROWTH TASK FORCE HIRES JAMES V. BENDER, JR. AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JACKSONVILLE, NC, AUGUST 4th, 2008: The Military Growth Task Force has hired James (Jay) V. Bender, Jr., as Deputy Director, effective August 6, 2008. Mr. Bender will assist the Vice-President and Executive Director, Thomas Gaskill, with the functions and operations of the Military Growth Task Force.

The Military Growth Task Force is a special committee of North Carolina's Eastern Region. It was established to facilitate regional unity of effort in planning for the military and associated growth in Eastern North Carolina as a result of the increase of 11,477 Marines, Sailors and Department of Defense civilians by 2011 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and New River Air Station. As part of his responsibilities, Mr. Bender will interact with the counties, municipalities, military organizations and state and federal agencies in the seven-county Military Growth Task Force region to assist with the planning needed to accommodate this growth.

Most recently he co-managed Armstrong Grocery Co. in New Bern, NC. His work in the public sector includes his current service as Mayor of the Town of Pollocksville, an office which he has held for over 25 years. Among his various civic activities, Mr. Bender chairs the Civilian-Military Community Council, sits on the Highway 17 Association Board of Directors and is an active member of the Rotary Club of Pollocksville.

Mr. Bender is a graduate of St. Andrews Presbyterian College and received a Masters degree from the University of Maryland.