

NORTH CAROLINA'S EASTERN REGION

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News Release

**NORTH CAROLINA'S EASTERN REGION HIRES
THOMAS GASKILL AS
VICE-PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE MILITARY GROWTH TASK FORCE**

KINSTON, NC, JUNE 5, 2008: The Military Growth Task Force, a special Committee of North Carolina's Eastern Region Board, has hired Thomas Gaskill as Vice-President and Executive Director effective July 7, 2008. Mr. Gaskill will be responsible for building, organizing and managing interactions among the counties, municipalities, military organizations and state and federal agencies affected by a military build-up in the seven-county Military Growth Task Force Region. The Military Growth Task Force is currently involved with the planned increase of 11,477 Marines by the end of 2010.

"We are very pleased that Mr. Gaskill has accepted this important position," said Al Delia, President and CEO of North Carolina's Eastern Region. "The Military Growth Task Force will manage the process of providing the infrastructure and services needed for the build-up. This growth is the catalyst that will not only help bring much needed resources to our area, but create a positive economic impact to our region in the billions of dollars. "

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Mr. Gaskill was most recently the Chief of Staff of the Second Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, so he is familiar with the region and many of the issues related to military growth. He was previously the Human Resources Director at the Wing and has also served as the Marine Forces Central Command Liaison to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain and was the Commanding Officer of the Headquarters Squadron at Cherry Point during a previous assignment. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications Arts and Sciences from the University of Southern California and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, as well as a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Mr. Gaskill will work directly with the seven technical teams that have already been established by the Military Growth Task Force: Communications and Government Affairs; Housing; Work Force; Transportation; Education; Infrastructure; and Local Government Managers and Planners. He will serve as the primary and, in most cases, the single point of contact between and among the military, the members and communities of the Military Growth Task Force region and state and federal agencies.