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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **North Carolina's Eastern Region Names J. Mark Sutherland as Vice-President and Executive Director of the Military Growth Task Force**

**KINSTON, NC** –North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER) has hired J. Mark Sutherland as Vice-President and Executive Director of the Military Growth Task Force (MGTF) effective October 19, 2009. Mr. Sutherland replaces Thomas Gaskill who departed in June.

Mr. Sutherland will continue the work of 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 MGTF region. In addition to these responsibilities, he will also oversee the implementation phase of the recently released draft of the Regional Growth Management Plan.

The MGTF is currently involved with the planned increase of 11,477 Marines and 13,499 dependents by the end of 2011. John Chaffee, President and CEO of NCER stated, "We are very

pleased that Mr. Sutherland has accepted this important position as we prepare to move into the implementation phase of the Regional Growth Management Plan. This phase will address current and future growth-related impacts and needs as a result of the unprecedented growth in the region.”

Mr. Sutherland most recently served as Marstel-Day’s Program Director for Encroachment Control Planning. While at Marstel-Day, he oversaw the development of the Regional Growth Management Plan for the MGTF. He also served as Project Manager in a diverse portfolio of services that centered on improving the relationships between military installations and their surrounding communities through the implementation of Joint Action Plans.

In addition, Mr. Sutherland has extensive military and private sector experience in the fields of strategic planning, studies and analysis and real estate development. His business experience includes over twenty years as a Commercial General Contractor and Real Estate Developer. Concurrent with his civilian career, Mr. Sutherland’s military career has spanned over thirty years of both active and reserve service. He is currently a Colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. Mr. Sutherland holds a BS in Government from Florida State University and a MS in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

The MGTF is a special committee of North Carolina’s Eastern Region and is chaired by Mike Alford of Jacksonville. The task force consists of representatives from the seven counties where most of the military growth is occurring. NCER is a thirteen-county partnership established by the General Assembly to promote economic development. The region is comprised of the following counties: Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones,

Lenoir, Nash, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson and encompasses almost 7,000 square miles and approximately one million residents.

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