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## **Community Leaders Break Ground on Military Business Park An “All American Business Center”**

Today, the Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ceremony to break ground on the future site of the Military Business Park. This initiative has been a multi year public private partnership between the Broadwell family, federal and local government partners and the Chamber. Dohn Broadwell, developer and landowner of the park on Santa Fe Drive, was presented with a plaque for his visionary efforts to create the 250-acre park.

Speakers included Dan Dederick, Chairman of the Chamber; Congressman Bob Etheridge; Congressman Mike McIntyre; Congressman Robin Hayes; Dohn Broadwell, developer and landowner; Mayor Tony Chavonne, City of Fayetteville; Commissioner Breeden Blackwell, Cumberland County; Margaret Dickson, NC Representative; Paul Dordal of BRAC RTF; and Scott Perry of the Defense Security and Technology Accelerator. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Chorus serenaded attendees after the presentation.

"This is a better day for Fayetteville and the entire Southeast," said Congressman Bob Etheridge. "Twenty to thirty years from now people are going to look back on this event and see that it was as significant as the turning of spades for the Research Triangle Park (RTP) almost 60 years ago."

Congressman Mike McIntyre stated, "The Military Business Park will be another successful chapter in the history book of Fayetteville and Cumberland County, NC, because of the people, purpose, and partnership that have come together to utilize the existing strengths of today for the jobs of tomorrow."

"I am honored and proud to break ground for the much anticipated Fayetteville Military Business Park," said Congressman Hayes. "I believe that the defense industry holds tremendous promise for North Carolina in general and the Fayetteville area in particular. With the BRAC changes transforming the region, the potential for new jobs and opportunities has never been greater. This project will compliment these efforts and serve as a catalyst for recruiting this new industry."

In the past two years, the City and County have been awarded a series of grants totaling \$750,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The grants will be used on the business park's first phase of work such as water and sewer lines and streets. Some of that grant money will be used to extend a main sewer line to the site that will also benefit surrounding property.

“How appropriate it is that today we plant not only a shovel in the ground, but a flag as well,” said Mayor Tony Chavonne. “A flag for the world to see that this city is moving in a new direction, a direction that will result in an exciting new economy and a brighter future for all of our citizens.”

This park is one of the many steps the community is taking to prepare its infrastructure for the economic growth expected in the coming years. The site is projected to house the numerous firms that are projected to move to the area as a result of BRAC 2005. Construction will begin on the park in January of 2009 and firms are expected to begin moving in as early as spring of 2009.

"We've always heard two things are constant, death and taxes. I believe that three things are constant- death, taxes, and change," said Commissioner Breeden Blackwell. "Today's groundbreaking is a great example of how this community is embracing change and moving itself forward to put itself in the best possible position for the future."

"To be able to break ground with the community's public/private partnership as the very backdrop of the project says volumes about the area's perspective on welcoming new business," said Douglas Peters, President of the Chamber. "With today's groundbreaking, Fayetteville and Cumberland County move another step forward in establishing themselves as the preferred address for business in Southeastern North Carolina."

Many of the defense contractors that are expected to locate to the park will be working with a number of our specialized defense communities on the development of everything from technology to telecom. These companies will collaborate and partner with our major universities utilizing their research and development capabilities. They will also collaborate and partner with many companies in the RTP to create, enhance and ultimately produce, products for the defense industry.

#### **About the Chamber**

The Fayetteville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce strives to improve quality of life by creating wealth, jobs and investment in our community. With its partners, the City and County, the Chamber coordinates the community's economic development efforts as well as provides a number of opportunities to grow local businesses.

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