



**NORTH CAROLINA'S  
EASTERN REGION**

North Carolina's Eastern Region

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Appointment of Locals to Defense/Aerospace Advisory Committee**

**Kinston, NC** - North Carolina's Eastern Region (NCER) announces the formation of a Defense/Aerospace Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of 17 members including NCER Board members, industry representatives, academia, government officials, and other business associates with relevant interests in the development of the defense/aerospace cluster in Eastern North Carolina. (See listing of committee members at end of press release.)

The committee will serve as a think tank regarding needs, opportunities, strengths, and strategies for the development of this cluster in the region. It will address issues related to research, business creation, retention and attraction, as well as workforce development and education. It will also promote networks to encourage greater collaboration among industries, researchers, and universities to facilitate technology transfer and the commercialization process. Currently, the cluster consists of approximately a dozen or so companies employing more than 5,000 workers with expectations for growth of about 20% during the next five years.

John Chaffee, President and CEO of NCER explained, “The committee will bring together the region’s leaders to develop strategies that will most effectively strengthen our emerging defense/aerospace cluster. Ultimately, the region will benefit as a result of the committee’s work from increased investment by new and expanding defense/aerospace businesses.” Mr. Chaffee further explained that the committee will also be involved in promoting the region as an attractive location for the defense/aerospace industry.

While the region has benefitted from the presence of several significant defense and aerospace companies (Honeywell, Eaton, AAR for example), the creation of the committee is largely accredited to the decision by Spirit AeroSystems to locate at the Global TransPark (GTP) and the State of North Carolina’s emphasis on this developing cluster. With the anticipated June 2010 start-up of Spirit, the world’s largest supplier of commercial airplane assemblies and components, the GTP has a major tenant that has enhanced NCER’s ability to promote the cluster as a significant economic engine within the region.

With the goal of promoting the region as a defense/aerospace (or aviation) cluster, the committee will build consensus and effectively target opportunities to leverage the region’s current resources to compete in the global economy.

NCER is a 13-county partnership established by the General Assembly to promote economic development in Nash, Edgecombe, Wilson, Lenoir, Pitt, Wayne, Greene, Duplin, Pamlico , Jones, Onslow, Craven and Carteret Counties. The region encompasses almost 7,000 square miles and approximately one million residents.

For more information contact Len Kulik, Vice-President, at [kulik@nceast.org](mailto:kulik@nceast.org)

**NCER's Defense/Aerospace Advisory Committee**

Calvin C. Anderson, Chairman, NCER Board  
(Colonel, US Air Force, Ret.)

Andy Anderson, NCER Board  
(Colonel, US Air Force, Ret.)

Leigh Harvey McNairy, NCER Board  
(Former Special Assistant for Military Affairs,  
Office of the Lt. Governor)

Billy Wooten  
President, Kanban Logistics

The Honorable H. Martin Lancaster  
(Former US Congressman and President, Ret.,  
NC Community College System)  
Smith Anderson Law, L.L.P.

David Bauer  
Spirit AeroSystems Project Director  
Lenoir Community College

Paul Kauffmann, PhD, PE  
Chair and Professor, Department of Engineering  
East Carolina University

Ms. Darlene Waddell  
Executive Director  
North Carolina Global TransPark

Mike Alford, Chairman  
NCER Military Growth Task Force  
Owner, Marine Chevrolet Cadillac

Vince Misciagna  
Vice President & General Manager  
AAR Cargo Systems

Rick Davis  
North Carolina Site Operations Director  
Spirit AeroSystems, Inc.

Elias Barrios  
Site Leader, ISC Director  
Honeywell International  
Aerospace-AALS

Tommy L. Stockdale  
Plant Manager  
Eaton's Hydraulic Group

Thomas Braaten  
(Major General, USMC, Ret.)  
Airport Director,  
Coastal Carolina Reg. Airport

Mark Angolia  
Teaching Instructor  
East Carolina University

Mark Meno  
Air Vehicle Engineering Dept. Head  
In Service Support Center  
Fleet Readiness Center East

John D. Chaffee, NCER  
President and CEO

Len Kulik, NCER  
Vice President

**NCER's Defense/Aerospace Support Group**

Joanna Helms, President  
Wayne County Development Alliance

Jim Reichardt, Director  
Jacksonville-Onslow ED

James T. Davis, III, Executive Director  
Craven County EDC

Mark Pope, Executive Director  
Lenoir County EDC

Joe Ramirez  
Marine Corps Liaison for  
Government and External Affairs  
MCB Camp Lejeune

Rod Forsythe  
NC Dept of Commerce  
Aerospace Project Manager

Larry Moolenaar  
Executive Director  
Eastern Carolina COG

Kathy P. Howard, NCER  
Associate Vice President