



**For Immediate Release
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Moore County, NC

Moore County Leaves Positive Impression at BRAC Relocation Fair

Over 1,000 FORSCOM and USARC employees at Fort McPherson, Georgia recently got their first glimpse of the many amenities and wonderful lifestyle that await them in Moore County.

A Relocation Fair was held at Fort McPherson on September 13-14 for the military and civilian personnel employed at the U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) and U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) headquarters. Approximately 2,400 employees could be relocating from Fort McPherson to Fort Bragg as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) initiative within the next 2 to 5 years.

The Relocation Fair gave these individuals the opportunity to begin getting acquainted with Fort Bragg and the counties surrounding the base. In addition to Moore County, other counties at the Fair included Cumberland, Lee, Hoke, Scotland, Robeson, Harnett and Bladen.

Patrick Coughlin, President of the Moore County Chamber of Commerce, Ray Ogden, Executive Director of Partners in Progress, and Beverly Stewart, Sales Director for the Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, represented and promoted Moore County during the 2-day Fair and handed out over 800 packets of informational material to the attendees.

Those stopping by the Moore County booth could view a PowerPoint presentation with picturesque photos and important facts about the area. They could also register to win a 3-day, 2-night golf vacation.

“Some of the people had heard of Pinehurst or knew about this area of North Carolina”, said Coughlin. “So the Fair was an excellent opportunity to showcase Moore County and to give them concrete details about all that we have to offer here. We let everyone know that they can live in Moore County and still be conveniently close to Fort Bragg.”

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“Another important aspect of the Fair was letting the attendees know that they have choices when it comes to deciding where they want to live”, added Stewart. “Obviously Cumberland County will get its share of these folks, but Moore County will appeal to those wanting safe neighborhoods, recreational and cultural activities like those found in more metropolitan areas, and quality schools where they can send their children.”

“We think that the people who visited our booth went away with a positive impression of Moore County, and I have a feeling we’ll hear from many of them again as they get closer to making the move”, said Coughlin.

Two subsequent Relocation Fairs are in the planning stages: one focusing specifically on schools and education, scheduled for February 2007 at Fort McPherson, and the other for contractor companies that support FORSCOM and USARC. The dates for the latter event have not yet been set.

Ogden commented, “There are about 100 contractors embedded in Fort McPherson who provide services or products to FORSCOM and/or USARC. We know that many of these companies will have to relocate with FORSCOM and USARC when Fort McPherson closes. This trade show that will be held for these contractors is of the most significance from an economic development perspective because we want these companies to locate in Moore County.”

“Moore County will definitely have a presence at the contractors’ fair”, said Ogden.

Moore County is one of 11 member counties surrounding Fort Bragg that is participating in the BRAC Regional Task Force (RTF), a unified effort among the counties to plan and prepare for the changes and growth that will occur at Fort Bragg as a result of BRAC. Housing, schools, transportation, healthcare and the workforce are among the community services and infrastructure that will be significantly impacted.

Located at Fort Bragg, the BRAC RTF, under the leadership of Executive Director, Paul Dordal, is the organizational entity behind the Relocation Fairs. Dordal is a retired U.S. Air Force Brigadier General.

The Task Force has also created a website, www.bracrftf.com, as an informational portal for the military and civilian personnel and their families who are inbound to the Fort Bragg area. The 11 member counties each have a page on the site, and Moore County’s can be accessed at: http://www.bracrftf.com/county_pages/moore.html.

Moore County Partners in Progress is the economic development organization for the County. For more information, visit www.moorebusiness.org.

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