

BRAC, Growth and The Little River Baptist Association

Three causes of growth at Ft. Bragg are:

- Base Realignment And Closure Commission (BRAC)
- Grow the Army Program
- Reorganization of the Army to Modular Forces

The expansion at Ft. Bragg will cause **major growth** in the region for the foreseeable future.

The provisions of the **2005 BRAC** will close Ft. McPherson in Atlanta, Ga., and move the Army Forces Command Headquarters (FORSCOM) and the Army Reserve Command Headquarters (USARC) from Ft. McPherson to Ft. Bragg. FORSCOM is a four-star command with an annual budget of over \$28 billion. There will be over \$2 billion in construction on base between 2006 and 2011.

The **BRAC Regional Task Force (BRAC-RTF)** is a partnership of the eleven counties around Ft. Bragg that will experience significant impact from the expansion at Ft. Bragg. The purpose of the BRAC-RTF is to help the region's counties and municipalities prepare for the coming growth. We recommend the BRAC-RTF website that has a great deal of information (www.bractrf.com).

The BRAC-RTF projects that **between 2006 and 2013** the region will grow by more than **102,000** people! Normal growth, which would occur anyway without any expansion at Ft. Bragg, will account for about 61,500 of that total. **40,800** additional people are projected to move into the region **by 2013** as a result of the expansion at Ft. Bragg.

How will this affect Harnett County?

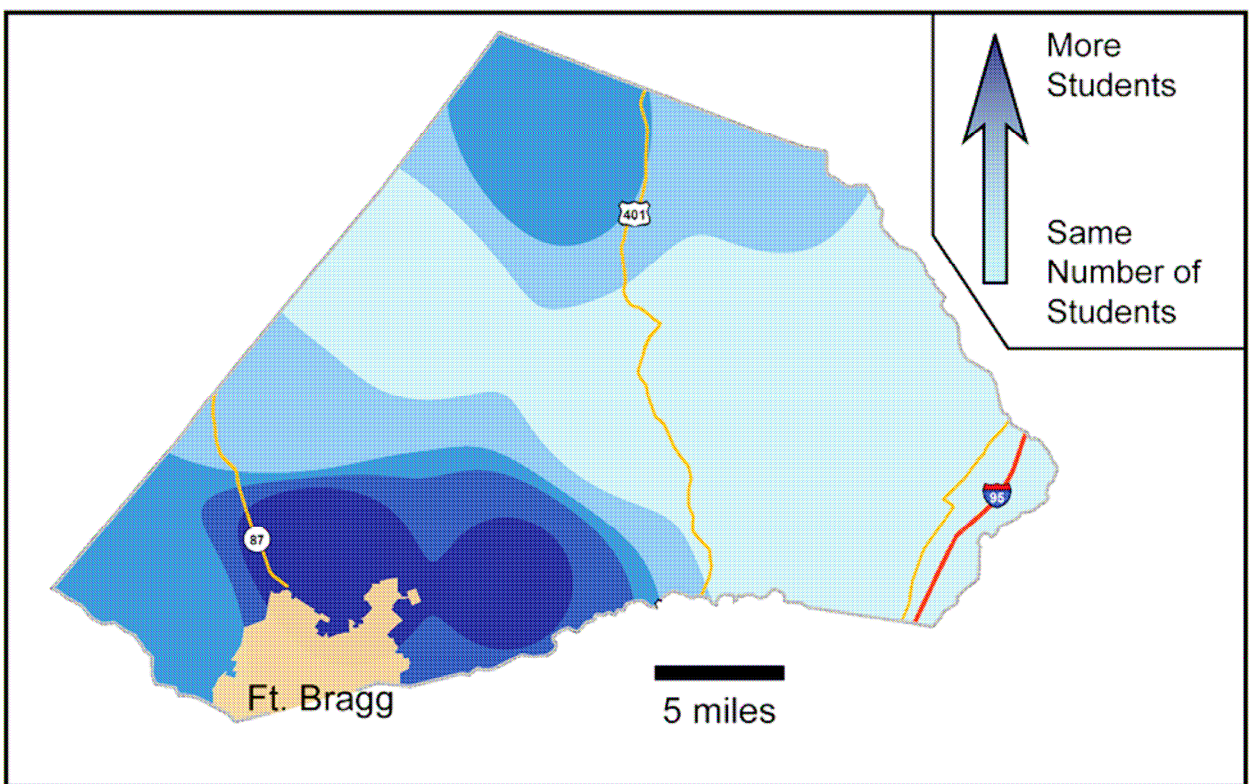
Growth: 2000 – 2007 – 2013

	Region	Harnett Co.
2000 Population	876,600	91,025
2007 Population	937,975	108,345
Projected Normal Growth* '07-'13	61,500	10,780
Projected Additional Growth** '07-'13	40,800	8,695
Total Growth '07-'13	102,300	19,475
2013 Population (projected)	1,040,275	127,825

*Normal Growth – projected growth that would occur with no expansion at Ft. Bragg.
**Additional Growth – projected growth due to expansion at Ft. Bragg (Direct and Indirect)

Please note the rapid growth in Harnett County since 2000 – an average of 2474 per year. The projected growth from 2007 to 2013 will be an average of **3247** per year.

The following map shows the projected distribution of new students, grades K – 12, coming into the Harnett County Schools in the years 2006 – 2013. It gives a good indication of the areas in the county that will experience the largest growth. The county is also experiencing growth coming from the north.

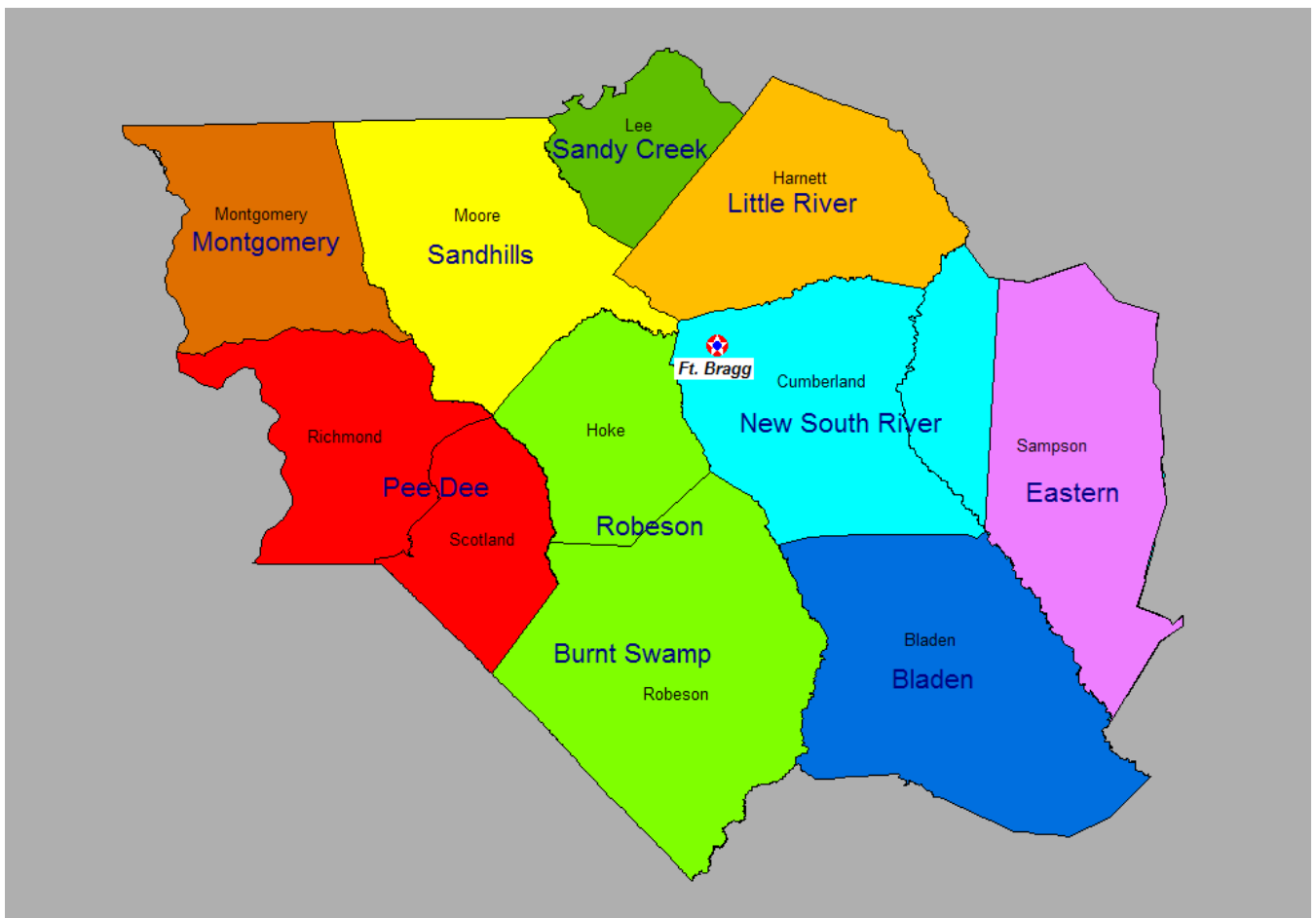


Retired Air Force Brigadier General Paul Dordal is the Executive Director of the BRAC RTF. He has said, “You are about to see the biggest change in this area you will see in your lifetime, and you need to be ready to accept it.”

The additional population will affect every aspect of community life, and every government service and type of business in the region. The BRAC RTF is working to help our counties prepare for the growth. We as Baptists

need to be even more serious about dealing with the population growth. In surveys of the personnel who are planning to move here from Ft. McPherson, their number one concern is quality of life. We as Christians have the number one quality-of-life issue – a personal relationship with God in Jesus Christ, and [God desires to work through us to share life in Christ with everyone in these eleven counties.](#)

This map shows the eleven counties and our ten Baptist Associations in the Ft. Bragg region. The question for us Baptists is: What are we going to do about all the people that will be in our region in just a very few years?



Dan Deaton, Director of Missions of the LRBA, and David Oyster, Demographics Researcher, believe that the associations in the Ft. Bragg region can more effectively respond to the growth by working together. Therefore, they have proposed a cooperative effort in the form of a [Baptist regional task force.](#)

This proposed Baptist task force would have three main work groups: [Church Renewal, Military Ministry, and Church Planting.](#)

Each main work group would have sub-groups, depending on work that is needed. For example, under Church Renewal possible sub-groups are:

Pastoral Ministry
Discipleship
Church Revisioning
Evangelism

Chaplains at Ft. Bragg could help us understand the needs of military families. Among others, possible sub-groups for Military Ministry could be:

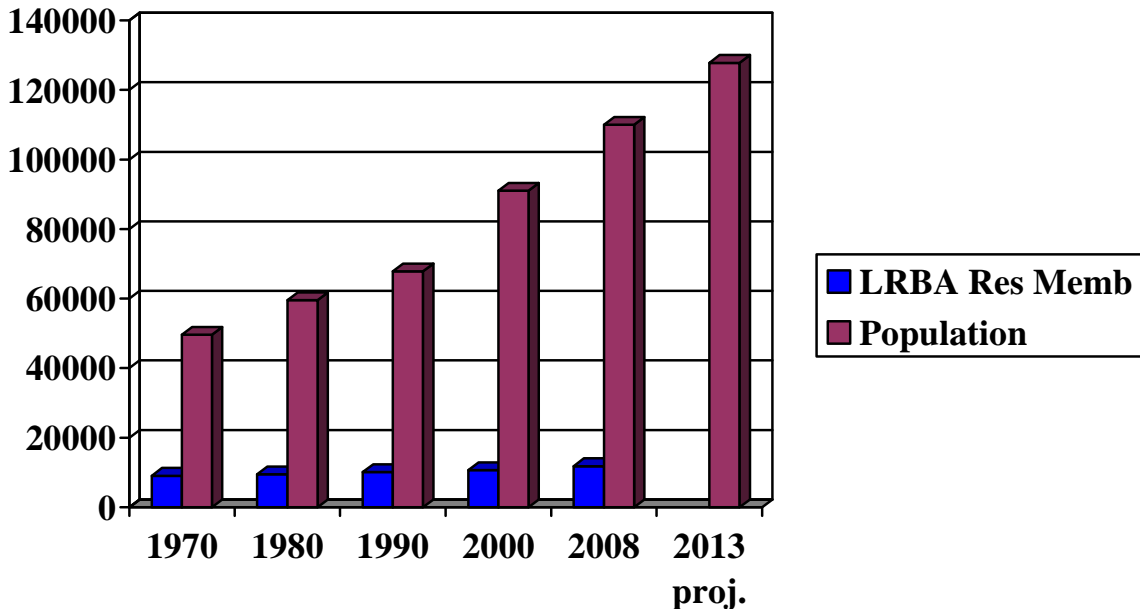
Ministry to families of deployed personnel
Ministry to those in the Wounded Warrior Program and their families.
Ministry to the reservists training at Ft. Bragg one weekend/month.

Under New Churches, possible sub-groups are:

Finding church planters;
Developing funding sources;
Finding new church locations and buying properties.

The Need for Church Renewal and New Churches in Harnett Co.

The following chart shows the [population of Harnett County](#) from 1970 to 2008 and the projected population in 2013, along with the [total resident membership of the Little River Baptist Association churches](#) to the present.



[If you believe God is calling you to work in this effort, please contact Dan Deaton.](#) If you have questions or suggestions, please contact David Oyster at the LRBA office.