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## Governor seeks business for N.C.

By Paul Woolverton  
Staff writer

North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue and Fayetteville Mayor Tony Chavonne went to Washington on Monday to invite military contractors to open for business in North Carolina.

Perdue and Chavonne said in interviews that they got several business leads from their visit but would reveal few details.

"I've learned pretty quickly as governor you can't give it away, because the governor of Alabama will be coming and hunting," Perdue said.

The elected leaders, plus state and local commerce officials, were attending the Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting and exposition.

The AUSA is a civilian organization which advocates on behalf of the Army. Its annual exposition draws tens of thousands of visitors, plus hundreds of military contractors who want to supply the Army, AUSA spokesman John Grady said.

The Fort Bragg area's BRAC Regional Task Force, which has been coordinating civilian efforts to prepare for Fort Bragg's impending expansion under the military's Base Realignment and Closure program, held a reception there Monday, Chavonne said.

Perdue said she met with seven companies.

"There are two that I've talked to today that have tremendous interest in Fayetteville and Fort Bragg around Forces Command," she said.

Forces Command, which runs Army operations in the continental United States, is in the process of moving its headquarters from Atlanta to Fort Bragg. The move is expected to attract many defense contractors to the Fayetteville area.

Perdue said another company, specializing in intellectual property, is interested in the Triangle, and one is interested in the Charlotte area.

Chavonne said contractors are aware of the Forces Command expansion at Fort Bragg and are looking for opportunities in the Fayetteville-Fort Bragg area. He said he talked to an equipment refurbishing company and with two consulting companies which hire retired soldiers to advise the military.

Perdue said she also met with Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, the nation's first female four-star general. Dunwoody is in charge of Material Command, the section which handles logistics and acquires equipment and new technology for the Army.

Perdue said she told Dunwoody that some of the skills and manufacturing technologies developed by North Carolina's motorsports industry and in the Research Triangle could be valuable to the Army.

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