



Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel

Macomb County Executive Media Release

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For immediate release

MACOMB COUNTY EXECUTIVE MARK A. HACKEL LAUNCHES JOINT DEFENSE TASK FORCE

Following a presentation this morning on a study conducted by a University of Michigan professor Elisabeth R. Gerber and graduate students, Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel today announced a new program to promote the Defense Industry in Macomb County. A new joint task force will be created in collaboration with the cities of Warren and Sterling Heights aimed at developing both strategies and tactics for defense related economic development initiatives. Hackel noted that the County Board of Commissioners had laid a solid base for supporting the Defense sector in the 2011 budget, and he will be taking that to the next level by shifting resources within his Planning and Economic Development Department in order to create a new Senior Economic Development Specialist who will focus full attention on the Defense Industry.

“This U of M study confirms what we have always believed, that is, Macomb County is the Defense Capitol of the Midwest,” Hackel said. “Nearly two-thirds of all defense contracts awarded in Michigan go to Macomb County firms. We plan to build on this successful foundation and use it as a core economic development strategy for the future. Macomb County can become the Defense Capital of the World,” added Hackel

“Working together we can encourage more defense contractors to invest in our community, create new jobs, and help the businesses already here to grow and prosper” said Warren Mayor James Fouts. “This collaboration can be Macomb County’s multi-billion dollar job creating defense industry,” added Sterling Heights Mayor Richard Notte.

The new program will help develop a defense supply chain to the larger firms already in the county doing business. The task force would also promote facilities provided at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base, like the new Homeland Security Center.

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