

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT,
FLEET READINESS CENTER EAST, AND
THE F-35B JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER**

WHEREAS, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCAS Cherry Point) and the Navy's Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East) directly impact North Carolina's economy by contributing at least \$2,000,000,000 annually to the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, approximately 42,000 Craven County citizens are connected to MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East as active-duty personnel, civilian employees, retirees or family members; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Marine Corps desires to station eight squadrons of F-35B Joint Strike Fighters at MCAS Cherry Point to replace the AV-8B Harrier and EA-6B Prowler squadrons; and

WHEREAS, it is critically important for the North Carolina Congressional Delegation and the Department of Defense to be informed about the extent of community support for MCAS Cherry Point as the principal home base location for the F-35B Joint Strike Fighters; and

WHEREAS, FRC East is a key military depot; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense is evaluating its military strategy and budgets in preparation for budget cuts or a Congressional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of New Bern are intensely concerned about developments that impact the future of MCAS Cherry Point and FRC East.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that New Bern endorses MCAS Cherry Point as the principal home base location for at least eight F-35B Joint Strike Fighter squadrons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Bern urges the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to fully support the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter acquisition program and provide the Congressional appropriations and authorizations necessary to make stationing at MCAS Cherry Point possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Bern pledges to use all its available resources to assist the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in planning for and providing the necessary community infrastructure, facilities and services in support of the deployment of F-35B Joint Strike Fighter squadrons at MCAS Cherry Point.

ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF JANUARY, 2012.

Lee Wilson Bettis, Jr.
Mayor

Veronica Mattocks
City Clerk