

# Press Release

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## Jeff Fanto Catching Up to Growth Management

Jeff Fanto of Niceville has been hired as the new Growth Project Coordinator, the primary point of contact on all matters concerning the Eglin Installation Growth Committee (EIGC) Growth Management Plan, and the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS), currently underway. He is responsible for all planning and coordination resulting from the anticipated growth at Eglin AFB, as well as resulting development in the tri-county areas of Okaloosa, Walton and Santa Rosa Counties, based on the results of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission study.

“We knew Jeff could hit the ground running, bringing his military credentials and experience at the EDC (Okaloosa County Economic Development Council), to the position, and we are very happy to see projects moving forward already,” stated Growth Management Director Bill Smith, Okaloosa County. Fanto most recently directed technology programs for the EDC, working on projects with Eglin AFB, as well as overall business and research development.

Jeff Fanto spent a third of his 21-year Air Force career in the public affairs arena, serving as Director of Public Affairs at Eglin from 2001-2004. He retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 2006. “I always wanted to come back to the Emerald Coast, and feel fortunate that my job skills and contacts blended with this opportunity to work on this worthwhile project. I am already working with planners, contractors, engineers and community groups on the JLUS planning effort,” said Fanto, adding “The Growth Management Planning effort will re-energize in the coming weeks.”

The Growth Project, all funded by grants at both the federal and state levels, is anticipated to take 18-24 months to complete. Persons interested in these programs can contact Fanto at 850.609.3014.

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