



**Department of Defense's Domestic Dependent Elementary & Secondary Schools
Beaufort County School District
Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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BEAUFORT, S.C. – The Department of Defense (DoD) Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS), Beaufort County School District, and Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort are proud to announce that Bolden Elementary School will now offer Tri-Command Communities' residents seventh and eighth grades beginning with the 2008-2009 academic school year.

The additional grades will offer military families, already saddled with the sometimes difficult transitions between duty stations, some relief of transitional stress.

“This will be a great benefit to our military families,” said Col. Robert W. Lanham, the former commanding officer of MCAS Beaufort, who was instrumental in this effort. “This was truly a total team effort from the folks in uniform at every level to Dr. Truesdale and the Beaufort County Schools. Our military families will be the big winners.”

Parents residing in Tri-Command Communities will be given the option of registering their children of seventh and eighth grades at either Robert Smalls Middle School or Bolden Elementary/Middle School for the upcoming school year.

“The two superintendents, DoD officials and the base commander have come together in a joint decision to do what's best for the children by offering this choice,” said Dr. Valerie Truesdale, superintendent of Beaufort County Schools

“Registration for seventh and eighth grade students is open now,” said Bolden Principal Dr. Jacque Taton-Saunders. “We’re looking forward to an exciting middle school program with advanced courses and a band.”

Taton-Saunders said registration may be done Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. If you’re unable to come during that time frame, please call 843-846-6112 for an appointment. Robert Smalls Middle School registration is currently ongoing. For additional information, contact the school at 843-322-2500. Robert Smalls Middle School operates on a year-round calendar and classes begin July 30 for all students.