

## Sheerer returns

Marilyn Sheerer, dean of the college of education, recently



Contributed photo

**MARILYN SHEERER**, dean of the college of education at ECU, seated at center, meets Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, standing, and other officials recently during the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference in Washington, D.C.

returned from a week of high-level briefings and meetings with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and other defense officials during the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference in Washington, D.C.

Sheerer is the first-ever ECU participant and one of only 54 people chosen from around the country to attend the conference, designed to help civilian leaders better understand the defense industry.

During her stay, Sheerer also visited several military bases and received firsthand experience on some of the nation's military hardware.

According to Steve Duncan, ECU director of military programs, Sheerer was nominated because she has been at the forefront of efforts to provide educational opportunities to service members and their dependents on bases in North Carolina.

The education college currently supports offerings at Wayne Community College near Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. Sheerer established the program. ECU will also offer education programs for soldiers and dependents at Fort Bragg Army base through a recently-awarded contract that allows the university to open an office on the fort.