



# MISSION SUSTAINMENT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

*News You Can Use from the DoD Range Sustainment Initiative*  
**September 2007**

---

The Department of Defense Sustainable Ranges Initiative (SRI) ensures the long-term viability and continuity of military training and testing areas while providing good stewardship for the land. Through a framework of continuing cooperative and coordinated efforts within government, and partnerships with groups beyond installation boundaries, DoD's Sustainable Ranges Initiative is helping to safeguard America and sustain our lands and resources for years to come.

## CONTENTS

### 1. Feature Articles

Ranges and Readiness: Preserving Navy Training Capability – RADM Matt Moffit, Director, Fleet Readiness, OPNAV N43  
Interview with Lt. Col Joe Knott, 2007 Pace Award Recipient

### 2. 2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference Report

**Opening Luncheon** – Major General Michael Lehnert  
**Plenary Session** – Mr. Alex Beehler, Secretary Mike Sole, Lt Gov Jeff Kottkamp  
**Compatible Land Use and Encroachment Mitigation: Sustaining the Mission**

- Lobbying: Correcting the Myth, Joseph Willging

**Sustaining Military Readiness: Managing Regulatory Challenges to Readiness**

- Emerging Contaminants, Shannon Cunniff
- Sustainable Ranges Technology Team Update, Brooke Conway
- Managing Munitions and Range Related Debris, Brian Helmlinger
- Challenges of Depleted Uranium Use , Major Craig Refosco

### 3. From the Wires... Mission Sustainment in the National Press

No place to land (September 4, 2007); Bill Geroux, Richmond Times-Dispatch  
Safeguarding Laughlin AFB's future with the Joint Land Use Study Group (September 3, 2007); Bill Sontag, Southwest Texas LIVE!  
Meeting to reconsider base zoning restrictions (August 25, 2007); Chris Vaughn, Star Telegram  
City to take up Harts Lake sale (August 20, 2007); Nick Schirripa, The Enquirer  
Study will focus on encroachment around Fort Rucker (August 15, 2007); Lance Griffin, Dothan Eagle  
Allard, Salazar urge Air Force to deal with development at Buckley, Peterson AFB (August 1, 2007); Staff writers, Cherry Creek News

### 4. Contact the Sustainable Ranges Initiative

---

*All presentations from the 2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference are available on <http://www.sustainingmilitaryreadiness2007.com/Agenda/index.cfm>*

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### **Ranges and Readiness: Preserving Navy Training Capability. *Establishing the connection between range use and operational readiness***

**RADM Matt Moffit**

*Director Fleet Readiness, OPNAV N43*

The importance of sustaining DoD ranges can not be overstated. The well-aimed emphasis the range community has placed on range sustainment through outreach and stewardship of land, air, and sea space is essential if we are to maintain our training capabilities. Partnerships between DOD, NGOs, and the public are paying dividends to the ranges and to public interests. However, outreach to communities and environmental interests are not the only partnerships that support the Sustainable Ranges Initiative. Another important partnership is the one that exists between range complexes and the operational forces that use them to develop the readiness required by those forces. Our air, land, and naval forces depend on the availability of sustained range capability and range space to engage in readiness training. The Navy is leading the initiative to preserve this partnership by quantitatively determining the contribution of ranges to readiness.

In 2006, the Navy initiated a study to examine the linkages between

readiness obtained on ranges and the cost of developing, maintaining, and operating those range capabilities. The study's major conclusion was that Fleet use of the range complexes produce significant training readiness but databases and policy are not aligned to support analysis of direct readiness achieved versus range utilization and cost. As a result, in 2007 the Navy embarked on an effort to quantitatively determine range contribution to readiness, update policy to ensure better alignment of range and readiness reporting systems, and actively involve enterprise stakeholders in the process.

**"The ability to quantify and merge combat readiness, range asset utilization, and cost data in an automated, sustainable, and repeatable process will greatly enhance budget decision making and ultimately preserve our training ranges."**

*-- RADM Matt Moffit*

*Director Fleet Readiness, OPNAV N43*

The Naval Aviation community, because of their extensive range use and relative maturity of existing databases, was targeted as an ideal starting point for initial modifications and improvements to readiness reporting and range use/cost data collection systems. Significant progress has been made as aircrews are now required to record range areas where readiness training occurred, as well as other

data entries that identify the phase of training. The utilization databases have been improved to document fleet training on nine Navy test ranges and are being linked to actual readiness generated from those events. Additionally, cost databases have been further aligned to allow linkage of operations, maintenance and engineering costs to each major system and subsystem on the training ranges. **By the fall of 2007, Navy will be able to roll the readiness, range use and cost data up in to a single data warehouse and as a result we will be able to show training readiness based on the range and major subsystem level with cost.**

The way ahead will examine databases currently in use with the surface and submarine forces to determine what modifications must be made to align them and comprehensively measure range contribution to total force readiness.

Efforts to date should allow Navy to assess validated aviation range resource requirements for the 2010 budget and beyond to a level of granularity that has never existed before. Presently, there is outstanding cooperation from all levels of command as the Navy processes initial collections of data that connect our range use to acquired readiness. Additionally this effort is gaining visibility with the other services as they look at potential ways to leverage this

initiative in linking their ranges to readiness.

The Ranges to Readiness effort ultimately preserves the partnership between the range provider and the operator by enabling the Navy to maintain training range capability through sound assessment of programmatic and budget decision's impact on the Fleet's combat readiness. Our air, land, and naval forces depend on the availability of sustained range capability and space to engage in training that enables services to prevail on the battlefield.

---

### **Interview with Lt. Col Joe Knott, 2007 Pace Award Recipient**

Upon first meeting, one notices that Lieutenant Colonel (Lt. Col) Joe Knott is a dynamic and passionate individual. Although he considers himself to be shy, he is easily brought out of his shell if you ask him about his experiences as the former program manager for the Army's Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program.

On July 27, 2007, Lt. Col Knott received the Pace Award from the Secretary of the Army for his commitment and leadership of the ACUB program. The first Army National Guard Soldier to receive the award, Lt. Col Knott said he was surprised by his nomination and consequent recognition, and that he couldn't have represented the Army

through ACUB without the support of his team. On a personal level, he is proud to be recognized for his commitment to protecting both our natural resources and soldiers. From a broader perspective, he believes the Army's recognition of the ACUB program through the Pace Award illustrates how the Service is changing to incorporate business cases that make sense for the protection of our soldiers and communities.

Formed through the 2003 Defense Authorization Act, ACUB developed as the Army's innovative buffer lands procurement program intended to conserve environmental resources and prevent encroachment upon military lands through the protection of buffer lands. These land purchases are accomplished with various non-traditional partners, e.g., environmental conservation agencies. Though no longer involved in the program, Lt. Colonel Knott recalls his time as rewarding, particularly in helping him to better understand how to build sustainable partnerships, even with those traditionally opposed to the Army.

Lt. Col Knott became the ACUB Project Manager in 2004, and he accepted the position knowing that the program was under-funded and had received a slow response in the year following its formation. To re-energize and provide a concrete direction to the buffer program, Lt Col Knott assembled a unique team

of biologists, range managers, environmental lawyers, and Installation Management Agency personnel, along with representatives from the Army testing community and the Army National Guard. This buffer program team, called the ACUB Core Group, was selected for their expertise and passion to fully educate both internal Army and external DoD stakeholders on the benefits of ACUB. Each team member's special skills contributed to a dynamic team that pushed the envelope in taking the ACUB program to a higher level of success and acceptance, making the ACUB program the premier buffer program in DoD.

With the support of his team, Lt. Col Knott partnered with non-governmental organizations, state agencies, local communities and others to increase funding and resources that would secure buffer zones around Army installations and ranges. These buffers enabled the Army to preserve the environment, while sustaining its ability to train soldiers without compromising training realism or mission resources.

The road to success, however, was not met without resistance. Lt. Col Knott and his team encountered some opposed citizens and anti-military groups that had developed a mistrust of the Army over the years. As with any partnering program, ACUB could not reach its goals

**“ACUB provided new education for conservation as a tool for preserving Army training while continuing to protect our environment, and opened doors for more partnering opportunities between the Army and other stakeholders that will last a lifetime.”**

*--Lieutenant Colonel Joe Knott,  
2007 Pace Award Recipient,  
ACUB Program Manager 2004-2007*



without the support and investment of its stakeholders. Realizing this, Lt. Col Knott worked hard at building relationships with stakeholders; making late night phone calls to potential partners; coordinating site visits with installations; and briefing Army garrison commanders on the importance of securing buffer zones around Army properties. Over time, Lt. Col Knott became the trusted face and voice for the ACUB program, and he and his team continued to stress the importance of such

partnerships by reassuring all parties involved that they would make the program work *together*. The fruits of his leadership were realized as outside parties began to approach his team with their interest to partner through ACUB.

As ACUB prospered, the Department of Defense (DoD) took notice of the program’s success. During the initial phases of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), which

would further the concept of buffer zone partnering across the other Services, the ACUB program was used as prime justification for Congress to continue funding REPI. Both programs are now widely regarded as examples of how pooling resources can enhance partnerships whose stakeholders share the same needs and goals. Not only did ACUB support the implementation of REPI and uphold the values of protecting soldier training and testing, but it changed the culture and perceptions of the Army by establishing a program that protects natural resources and lands, and provides conservation education to the Army and the public.

When Lt. Col Knott began his ACUB Project Manager position in 2004, there were three ACUBs, two of which were Army National Guard. When he left the program in February 2007 there were 20 installations participating in the ACUB program. Now, just six months later, there are 22 installations with approved ACUBs, and ten others in various stages of proposal development, evidence of Lt Col Knott's thriving and continuing legacy and invaluable contribution.

Lt. Col Knott attributed much of ACUB's overall success to the assistance of DoD and particularly Mr. Alex Beehler, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment. Lt. Col Knott recalled Mr. Beehler's attendance at

ACUB buffer-signing ceremonies, speaking from his heart about the potential rewards that would rise from the two programs in the best interest of military personnel, civilian communities, and the environment. Mr. Beehler set the standards for the ACUB and REPI programs and in turn, said Lt. Col. Knott, "...multiplied the trust factors" between civilian communities and DoD.

In true Project Manager form, Lt. Col Knott offered this parting advice to individuals and organizations contemplating starting new programs: bring the process first; understand the needs of your stakeholders; educate your partners; build relationships for common causes built on trust and understanding of each others goals and values, and sooner rather than later, like ACUB, doors will open for new lasting and mutually rewarding relationships.

---

## 2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference Report

### Through Conservation, Compatible Land Use Planning and Encroachment Mitigation

*Results and summaries of the conference will be highlighted over the next several months in the Mission Sustainment Newsletter.*

*All presentations from the 2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference are available on*

*<http://www.sustainingmilitaryreadiness2007.com/Agenda/index.cfm>*

The Conference was convened in Orlando, Florida at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort from July 30 - August 3, with nearly 1,000 attendees. This event was unique in that it brought together for the first time in a conference setting all of the various organizations that support and sustain military readiness through protection of our ability to test and train on our military ranges. The purpose was to provide a collaborative and educational forum for DoD personnel, contract support staff and partners from federal agencies, state and local government and non-government organizations. The attendees were:

- 66% DoD civilian/military
- 12% Private sector
- 10% NGOs
- 9% State/County/Local Government
- 4% Other Federal Agencies (EPA, GAO, USFWS, DOI, DOE, USDA)

Sponsors of the conference were:

- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)
  - Conservation and Natural Resources Legacy Program
  - Cultural and Historic Preservation
  - Office of Economic Adjustment
  - SERDP/ESTCP

- Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Readiness)

Director, Operational Test and Evaluation

The conference schedule included one and ½ days of workshops, a half day plenary and two days of educational sessions, followed by individual service breakout meetings and relevant field trips on the final day. Each speaker was hand-selected to present best-practices from across the DoD and the private sector on sustaining test and training ranges. The opening luncheon featured Maj Gen Mike Lehnert, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations, West.

The Plenary featured OSD and Service leadership, as well as several outside speakers to include:

Hon Mark Rey, USDA Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment

John Nau, Chairman, White House Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Florida Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp

Florida Secretary of Environment Mike Sole

North Carolina Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources Bill Ross

The closing luncheon featured Brett Rohring, Director of Environmental Policy & Initiatives, The Walt Disney Company. OSD leadership also participated in a half day benchmarking session with Disney environment and natural resources staff.

---

### **Opening Luncheon**

**Major General Michael Lehnert**

*Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West*

July 31, 2007

The 2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference opened with the dynamic and inspiring words of Major General (MG) Michael Lehnert. MG Lehnert currently serves as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West and spoke at the conference as both a representative of the U.S. Marine Corps and as a partner hoping to preserve the environment.

Reflecting upon how far the Department of Defense and environmental groups have come, MG Lehnert reiterated the importance of the Readiness Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) Program. REPI provides the legislative authority for DoD to enter into partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), states and other federal agencies to create compatible land use areas that help preserve natural resources while sustaining the military mission.

MG Lehnert reminded attendees that urban sprawl and encroachment, and subsequently the movement of endangered species onto installations, is an increasing issue for the military. Partnerships between the DoD, states, NGOs and federal agencies are becoming more prevalent to combat some of these problems.

MG Lehnert believes the encroachment issues facing the Services are reversible, and offered the following strategies and proactive approaches:

- Identify operational requirements
- Quantify impacts to the mission
- Develop strategic partnerships
- Promote outreach campaigns
- Monitor and adapt to emerging issues

The USMC installation Twenty-nine Palms, working with the State of California and a host of NGOs, continues to work towards the preservation of the federally-listed desert tortoise. Additionally, the monitoring and captive breeding of the endangered Sonoran pronghorn antelope on the Barry M. Goldwater Range continues through the cooperative efforts between MCAS Yuma, Luke AFB, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.



**“A country worth defending is a country worth preserving.”**

*-- Major General Michael Lehnert  
2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference*

MG Lehnert concluded the program by encouraging DoD, other federal agencies and NGOs to continue to look for opportunities to work together to achieve common goals. Suggesting partnerships at the national/headquarters level, the regional level and the local level, he reminded attendees to keep “Ego-system Management” in mind. That is, by checking our egos at the door, we can work together to accomplish great things!

physical assets, 30 million acres of land, and 20,000 historic properties in the DoD inventory.

Florida, one of the first states to join with DoD in an effort to combine natural resource protection with national defense under the support of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), has helped to conserve 9,000 acres of land through the Northwest Florida Greenway project – a partnering effort with OSD, the Air Force, and many other partners.

---

### **Plenary Session**

**Host:** Mr. Alex Beehler, *Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment (ADUSD(I&E))*  
July 31, 2007

On Tuesday, July 31, 2007 representatives from the Department of Defense (DoD) and the State of Florida joined at the 2007 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference plenary session in Orlando to highlight the partnering successes of land conservation, environmental compliance, pollution prevention, heritage tourism, and historic preservation with military installations.

As a national steward of cultural, historical and environmental assets, the Department oversees military installations with over 400,000

This success was best summarized by Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, who said “The Military partnership Florida currently enjoys is important to our economy, our environment, and our future. This unique partnership offers important long-term benefits that sustain our quality of life and our national security; here in Florida, in the country and around the world”

**Speaker:** Secretary Mike Sole, *Florida Department of Environmental Protection* and Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp

Secretary Mike Sole, who was recognized by Mr. Beehler for his acquisition, conservation and management of Florida’s public lands, introduced Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp. In his presentation to

conference attendees, Lt. Governor Kottkamp focused on land conservation and preservation at military installations through support of REPI. He noted that the Governor's office is mindful of its responsibility for the safety and security to citizens carried out by the military, and promotes partnerships and programs that sustain quality of life for the military in Florida.

Lt. Governor Kottkamp called attention to the Florida military installations that have conducted range management while producing environmental resource benefits, specifically citing Eglin, Tyndall, and Patrick Air Force Bases; and Naval Air Stations Pensacola, Whiting Field, Jacksonville, Mayport, and Key West. Lt. Governor Kottkamp also mentioned Florida's establishment of compliance agreements with military installations to meet environmental regulations to prevent pollution and to clean up historic sites, and he also expressed his confidence in Secretary Sole's ability to deliver on these agreements.

In his closing statements, the Lt. Governor thanked the military for protecting and defending the freedom of our country.

---

**Compatible Land Use and  
Encroachment Mitigation:  
Sustaining the Mission**  
August 1, 2007

## **LOBBYING: CORRECTING THE MYTH**

**Joseph Willging**, *Associate Deputy General Council (Civil Works and Environment), Office of the Army General Council*

Mr. Joseph Willging's discussion covered the legality of government agency interactions with members of Congress and state legislators. Mr. Willging explained that there is a lot of confusion surrounding the Anti-Lobbying Act and what activities it actually prohibits. The law states that agency funds cannot be spent to influence legislation. The law used to apply only to federal legislation, but it was broadened in 2002-2003 to apply to the state level as well.

The great myth is that the law prohibits you from talking to legislators at all. This is simply not true. As the rule has been interpreted by the Government Accountability Office, which has jurisdiction over the law, grassroots lobbying is prohibited. That is, government agencies cannot fund direct efforts to influence legislation by the "man on the street." However, agencies are allowed to share information with Congress or state legislators. It is perfectly legal to share information about an agency's official position on encroachment and sustaining the military's mission. Keep in mind that the information must be the official position of the agency. It is also legal to make public announcements about agency goals

and activities as long as it is done candidly and without propaganda.

Mr. Willging's biggest point was to "be truthful, be honest, be candid" and not to be overly wary of interacting with elected officials.

---

**Sustaining Military Readiness:  
Managing Regulatory Challenges to  
Readiness**

August 2, 2007

The theme of this session was a discussion of current and future methods DoD is using to address regulatory and community concerns with issues such as:

range debris and scrap management,  
emerging contaminants,  
air emissions and surface or ground water contamination,  
and  
depleted uranium.

The Session Chair and Presenters are at the forefront and champions of new DoD initiatives to improve environmental management on ranges and interactions with regulators and communities to ensure training activities on these properties can be sustained to meet the military mission.

**Session Chair:**

Ms. Deborah Morefield, *Range Sustainment and Technology Liaison, DASN(E)*

**EMERGING CONTAMINANTS**

**Shannon Cunniff**, *Director, Emerging Contaminants, (ODUSD(I&E))*

Ms. Cunniff began the session by providing an overview of DoD's Materials of Evolving Regulatory Interest Team (MERIT) activities. MERIT was established to provide DoD with an early warning system to identify emerging contaminants (ECs) that may have an impact to DoD. ECs are defined as materials that have a perceived or real threat to human health or the environment and that currently have no peer reviewed health standards or whose standards are evolving.

The vision of MERIT is to predict which ECs are either used by DoD or might be used in the future; develop a consensus on the risks posed; develop strategies to lower those risks; and then measure the relative success of the effort. To accomplish this, MERIT is using a 'Scan-Watch-Action' approach, with each step representing increasing levels of activity. Currently, there are only 5 ECs on the 'Action' list - RDX, TCE, hexavalent chrome, perchlorate, and naphthalene.

Ms. Cunniff also presented some interesting information on sources of perchlorate - many sources are just now being recognized. These sources include commercial fireworks, fertilizers (primarily the type used in organic farming), road flares, and decomposition products from chlorine bleach.

More information on ECs, the MERIT initiative, or perchlorate, can be found at [www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/MERIT/merit.html](http://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/MERIT/merit.html).

## **SUSTAINABLE RANGES TECHNOLOGY TEAM UPDATE**

**Brooke Conway**, *Army Environmental Command* (contractor support to Ms. Kimberly Watts, Program Manager for the Sustainable Range/UXO Technology Team)

Ms. Brooke Conway presented information on the Army Environmental Command's (AEC) on-going efforts to transition emerging technologies to end-users such as range managers. The goals of this program are to:

- 1) reduce their environmental 'footprint' of range operations while still providing realistic training and testing, and
- 2) provide scientifically credible data to support and defend the on-going use of live-fire training.

AEC has divided up the effort into several categories, under each of which there are multiple projects. The categories are:

- Small Arms Ranges
- Emissions Management (primarily air emissions)
- Impact Areas
- Training Area

The projects under each of these categories tackle a wide variety of environmental issues associated with range operations, including:

- fate and transport of metals such as tungsten and lead
- non-hazardous alternative formulations for smokes and dyes
- nano-particulates
- environmentally friendly range design (e.g., erosion prevention at tank firing positions and low stream crossings)
- corrosion rates of unexploded ordnance, and
- air emissions characterization for munitions items.

AEC is playing a vital role in transitioning improved environmental technologies to the field, and studying the environmental effects of range operations to ensure that the Army remains a good steward of the lands it owns and uses to meet its mission.

## **MANAGING MUNITIONS AND RANGE RELATED DEBRIS**

**Brian Helmlinger**, *Army Environmental Command* (contractor support to Mr. Timothy Alexander, Training Support Division)

Mr. Brian Helmlinger provided an update on DoD's efforts to improve the way range debris is managed, both on the range and when shipped off site for recycling or disposal. The goal of this work is to provide

installations dealing with range debris with clear guidance on methods to conduct safe, compliant, and cost effective management, removal, and disposition of range debris.

To develop this guidance, DoD has assembled a workgroup with representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the military services, and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The workgroup's approach to the problem was to first increase the collective knowledge base by researching existing requirements, policies, and other drivers. For example, many items that are considered range debris still require extensive demilitarization (the process of removing their offensive or defensive military capability) in accordance with United States trade laws. One key factor identified was that most installation and range personnel were simply overwhelmed by the number and complexity of requirements, and were uncertain of the personal and professional liabilities involved.

Based on the findings in that first step, the workgroup set out to revise and update the appropriate requirements documents and develop a new disposition process flow chart to simplify communications of the various requirements. Finally, they identified a list of benefits aimed at installation/range personnel to improve overall participation in, and

implementation of, the revised program and guidance when it comes out.

Once these changes are in effect, DoD will have in place a vastly improved process for managing, recycling, and disposing of its range debris that meets all explosives safety and environmental requirements.

### **CHALLENGES OF DEPLETED URANIUM USE**

**Major Craig Refosco, BSC;**  
*Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight Commander; 99th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; Nellis AFB, NV*

Major Craig Refosco presented a briefing on efforts Nellis AFB is taking to ensure long term protection of the environment and safety, while supplying A-10 pilots with the training scenarios necessary to hone their skills to face situations in war zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Air Force was issued the permit to use depleted uranium (DU) at a given area within the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) in 1975. Since then, the area has been used for practicing strafing of armored vehicles (DU's mass and density make it particularly effective as an armor penetrating round to increase the lethality of strafing to enemy tanks and armored transports).

Major Refosco reported on the latest efforts to increase environmental monitoring of the area and to

dispose of approximately 120 old target hulks that remain in the range area. With regard to environmental monitoring, air sampling units have been installed up and down wind to monitor for airborne contaminants related to DU use. In addition, sampling has occurred in the playas that runs through the area to determine if DU is migrating from the area. In both cases, results to date have shown that DU related contamination is not leaving the area.

Given the importance and relevance of the training conducted on this range, it must remain in operation, so Major Refosco and the Air Force will continue to undertake the necessary monitoring activities to ensure DU related contamination does not leave the area and potentially impact human or ecological receptors.

---

## **FROM THE WIRES... MISSION SUSTAINMENT IN THE NATIONAL PRESS**

### **TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS OPPOSITION IN THE NEWS: No place to land, Virginia communities don't want Navy's proposed practice field, jet noise**

Bill Geroux

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

September 4, 2007

SUSSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA – The Navy finds opposition in rural southeastern Virginia, rather than land to build a practice field for nighttime simulated aircraft carrier landings.

Five counties unanimously rejected Governor Timothy Kaine's identification of 10 sites for the Navy to build an outlying landing field that would bring a steady stream of F/A-18 Super Hornet jets from Virginia Beach's Oceana Naval Air Station (NAS) and Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station near Havelock, N.C. The topographic and population criteria of Sussex, Surry, Southampton, Greensville, and King and Queen counties are a perfect match for the conditions which mimic night conditions in the middle of the ocean.

Night landing is considered a dangerous and difficult job, which requires many hours of practice and is critical to pilot training. However, residents are outraged at the possibility of constant noise pollution from the jets, and identified Virginia Beach's encroachment on Oceana NAS as a main factor for the Navy's search for other available land and air space.

To read this entire article, watch video of a night aircraft carrier landing and view graphics illustrating the loudness of F/A-18 jets, please visit

<http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/se>

**JLUS IN THE NEWS: Safeguarding Laughlin AFB's future with the Joint Land Use Study**

Bill Sontag  
*Southwest Texas LIVE!*  
September 3, 2007

DEL RIO, TX – Last month, Laughlin Air Force Base (AFB) began preparations to protect the base from encroachment through a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). This month, civic leaders, Air Force representatives, and Washington officials met to expand the scope of the JLUS in an effort to design a more comprehensive report.

JLUS committee members reviewed 23 potential compatibility issues, as part of the data collection phase that could affect current and future base mission activities. Of those 23, five were reviewed as being adequately addressed, and were removed from the list. Those issues included:

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Public trespass
- Identification of cultural sites
- Identification of threatened or endangered species.

Three of six factors identified last month remain the most important issues for immediate resolution:

1. Land space/land use compatibility
2. Roadway development
3. Aircraft noise

As part of the committee goal to expand the scope of the study, the group also identified bird and aircraft collision to the list – or “BASH” (bird air strike hazard), which is a common issue discussed among Air Force officials. Other issues added to the scope of the JLUS included:

- Telecommunications towers
- Border patrol
- Construction and growth
- Groundwater conservation

The next JLUS planning meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, and all members of the public are welcome to join. To read this entire article and view map presentations from the August 30 meeting, please visit

<http://www.swtexaslive.com/node/4934>.

For last month's article, please visit <http://www.swtexaslive.com/node/4425>.

More information can be found on the JLUS Project Web site:

<http://www.westplanning.com/docs/delrio>.

---

**BASE ENCROACHMENT AND ZONING RESTRICTIONS IN THE NEWS: Meeting to consider base zoning restrictions**

Chris Vaughn  
*Star Telegram*  
August 25, 2007

FORT WORTH, TEXAS— The Fort Worth community faces the possibility of losing the Naval Air Station to encroachment if development continues at the growing rate.

A Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) committee will hold a meeting to discuss potential zoning changes and developmental restrictions that would limit residential growth. The recommendations would only apply to new development to limit noise complaints and safeguard the community against loss if there were an airplane crash. One of the recommendations to require stricter building codes for the use of materials that would block-out jet noise was approved in August.

The JLUS committee mailed tens of thousands of fliers hoping to attract attention and a large crowd at the next public hearing scheduled for late September. Committee members reported they would need consensus from six different municipalities to apply uniform zoning restrictions to the communities surrounding Fort Worth.

To read the entire article, please visit <http://www.startelegram.com/new>

[s/story/213499.html](http://www.startelegram.com/new/story/213499.html). To view the JLUS committee agenda and recommendations, please visit the North Central Texas Council of Governments Web site at <http://www.nctcog.org/trans/aviation/jlus/index.asp>.

---

**BUFFER ZONES IN THE NEWS: City to take up Harts Lake sale**

Nick Schirripa  
*The Enquirer*  
August 20, 2007

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN— The Army National Guard at Fort Custer Training Center (FCTC) will receive relief from encroachment threats through the purchase of 326 adjoining acres by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Army National Guard (ANG).

The purchase will save the base from future closing or realignment actions by limiting encroachment threats. The land will become open green space, and will be maintained by the Calhoun Conservation District as limited-use public space. The Michigan ANG will develop an environmental management plan for the purchase to maintain threatened and endangered species, and allow outdoor recreation for the public.

To read more about this community effort, please visit <http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=200708200310>.

---



**ENCROACHMENT IN THE NEWS: Study will focus on encroachment around Fort Rucker**

Lance Griffin  
*Dothan Eagle*  
August 15, 2007

FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA – A proactive Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) in the Wiregrass communities surrounding Fort Rucker will ensure continued growth for the community, and manage encroachment for the military.

Wiregrass, the seven county area surrounding Fort Rucker, has partnered with the Pentagon's Office of Economic Adjustment to develop a JLUS over the next 15 months that will offer recommendations for encroachment resolutions.

The Department of Defense listed encroachment as one of the factors for determining closure and/or realignment for military bases in 2005, a factor that is not dismissed by the Wiregrass. The communities recognize the economic importance of the Army base and hope both will be able to grow together without base-closing threats.

To read quotes from Wiregrass and Fort Rucker representatives on this study, please visit [http://www.dothaneagle.com/gulfcoasteast/dea/local\\_news.apx.-content-articles-DEA-2007-08-15-0024.html](http://www.dothaneagle.com/gulfcoasteast/dea/local_news.apx.-content-articles-DEA-2007-08-15-0024.html).

---

**REPI IN THE NEWS: Allard, Salazar urge Air Force to deal with development at Buckley, Peterson AFB**

Staff writers  
*Cherry Creek News*  
August 1, 2007

DENVER – The Air Force continues to expand its bases, but without support of the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) program and that is a problem according to Colorado Senators Allard and Salazar.

The REPI program, which has been instrumental in preventing encroachment at key military installations, has been in use by the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps to protect training and preparedness activities but has not been fully utilized by the Air Force.

Currently, Peterson, Schriever, and Buckley Air Force Bases are threatened by residential developments that could limit and interfere with operation activities.

Senators Allard and Salazar have requested justification from the Air Force if it does not intend to take advantage of the encroachment prevention resources offered by REPI for Fiscal Year 2008. To read background information on these three Colorado AFBs threatened by encroachment, please visit <http://www.thecherrycreeknews.com/content/view/1582/2/>

---

## CONTACT

Sustainable Ranges Initiative  
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Installations and  
Environment (ODUSD(I&E))  
1225 South Clark Street, Suite 1500  
Arlington, VA 22202

Tel. (703) 604-1795

Web: [www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable\\_ranges](http://www.denix.osd.mil/sustainable_ranges)