

February 1, 2016 – Progress Update

Kick Off of Two Joint Land Use Studies



GRPC has contracted with two consulting firms to develop joint land use studies (JLUS) for the two military installations on the MS Gulf Coast, Keesler Air Force Base (KAFB) and Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC). The firms were selected following a competitive solicitation process. Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. with BMA, will be developing the JLUS for NCBC and Matrix Design Group has been awarded the contract for the KAFB JLUS. The JLUS is funded in part by the Department of Defense and is intended to strengthen the relationship between the military installation and civilian community by discussing the active and planned military missions associated with the base and the growth and development of the community in proximity to these operations. The consulting firms have the expertise to identify potential areas of encroachment and facilitate discussions that leads to potential solutions that can reduce or mitigate the impact of incompatible military/civilian land uses.



The MS Gulf Coast has a long history of support for the military installations, and a strong commitment to maintaining their presence and expanding their missions. The coastal communities are proud to have both KAFB and NCBC call the MS Gulf Coast home and they are well aware of the regional economic impact of these installations. The cities and counties most directly impacted by the operations associated with the two installations have passed resolutions of support for undertaking the JLUS, committing their governing authority to participate in the studies and have agreed to consider implementation of the recommended solutions.

The timeframe for these studies is approximately 18 months. During that time there will be meetings with stakeholders and public workshops to encourage local participation in the planning process. A project website will make all the information and notifications for events available for public access.

Preliminary discussions with KAFB and the cities of Biloxi and D'Iberville indicate that height will be an important issue to be examined, that is, the height of structures as compared to the height hazard limits of the aircraft flight paths. Other issues may include noise, traffic, recreational aircrafts, and glare. The NCBC has several active operational locations, including Gulfport, Woolmarket and the Pearl River in Hancock County. Perimeter security, small arms security and noise and riverine training have been discussed as potential encroachment issues during the application process.



Please return to this site in late February 2016 for more information and activities to be posted.