

Program Update: 2/2016



Gulf Regional Planning Commission (GRPC) has been awarded a grant from the US Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment, to undertake a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, MS. NCBC Gulfport hosts numerous tenant commands and provides both facilities and training sites on the main installation and at several Special Areas spread across Hancock and Harrison counties.

The purpose of the JLUS is to study the issues that commonly occur when military operations and training activities are in close proximity to civilian communities. As urban development encroaches on military areas there can be concerns related to safety and noise, as well as competition for water, land and air within a training area. The study will provide recommendations to mitigate or eliminate the compatibility issues that threaten the safety and welfare of civilians, while continuing to support the Navy's presence on the coast. The study will officially kickoff December 2015 and will finish by May 2017. The cities of Gulfport and Long Beach, Harrison and Hancock Counties as well as NCBC Gulfport, Mississippi Development Authority and other major stakeholders will be serving in an advisory and policy role on the study. Project deliverables will include a regional JLUS Final Report and Implementation Plan and a JLUS Project Overview for public distribution.

The City of Biloxi has been awarded a similar grant to undertake a JLUS for Keesler Air Force Base Biloxi, MS. GRPC will have the responsibility of co-managing the project with the city and supervising the development of the JLUS. The technical work of both projects will be performed by contractors that have experience and expertise in undertaking the JLUS planning process.