

# Okaloosa County News Release

4/13/2012

Ken Little, Military Sustainability Partnership Coordinator  
850-609-3014, klittle@co.okaloosa.fl.us

## **Public Input meetings set for Military Sustainability**

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) gave the Eglin Reservation two significant new missions: relocation of the 7th Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the new Joint Strike Fighter Integrated Training Center. **The military presence in our area now generates \$5.2 billion each year, providing 59,000 jobs, and \$4 billion in sales** according to the Haas Center at the University of West Florida. The military is vital to our local economy.

The Eglin Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) done after the 2005 BRAC announcement identified encroachment caused by military and civilian uses. The Joint Land Use Study recommended more study of certain areas. This includes properties in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties, and the cities of Crestview, Laurel Hill, DeFuniak Springs, and Freeport. The Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment provided funding for the **Tri-County Small Area Studies** in April 2011.

The Small Area Studies planning process builds on the regional collaboration begun in the JLUS. The study includes noise, heights of structures, security, and things that affect pilot performance such as night light and glare. **It will produce recommendations for new comprehensive plans policies and zoning regulations for consideration by the governing bodies of each jurisdiction.** This effort should ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare; and recognize private property rights. Most importantly, it will promote military compatibility to maintain the viability of existing and future mission activities on the Eglin Reservation.

**Public participation is crucial.** Three upcoming public meetings are set to give attendees an opportunity to hear the issues and provide input:

**Okaloosa County** -- Monday, April 23, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., Crestview Community Center, 1446 Commerce Drive, Crestview, FL 32539

**Walton County** -- Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., Woodlawn Community Center, 5520 331 South, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435

**Santa Rosa County** -- Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 5:30 p.m., United Way of Santa Rosa Conference Room, 6479 Caroline Street, Milton, FL 32570

Please plan to attend the meeting in your county. The presentations will differ slightly for unique jurisdiction issues. **The agenda includes proposed comprehensive plan policies, new or revised regulations, and real estate disclosure procedures.**

For more information, please contact Ken Little, Military Sustainability Partnership Coordinator at (850) 609-3014, or e-mail at [klittle@co.okaloosa.fl.us](mailto:klittle@co.okaloosa.fl.us).

xxx