



## **Avon Park Air Force Range Joint Land Use Study**

Policy Committee Meeting

Avon Park Air Force Range

June 25, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **AGENDA ITEM I. – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Presented by: Lt. Col. Charles MacLaughlin, Commander, Avon Park Air Force Range and Helen Sears, JLUS Manager, Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Commander MacLaughlin began the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Ms. Sears welcomed everyone, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The following people attended the meeting:

#### **Policy Committee Members Present:**

*Ray Domer, Commissioner, Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners*

*Ed Smith, Commissioner, Polk County Board of County Commissioners*

*Barbara Stewart, Commission Chair, Highlands County Board of County Commissioners*

*Missie Barletto, SFWMD, Okeechobee*

*Lt. Col. Charles "Buck" MacLaughlin, Commander, Avon Park Air Force Range*

*Danny Kushmer, Community & Legislative Affairs, SWFWMD, Bartow*

*Dan Murphy, Highlands County Economic Development Commission*

#### **Guests Present:**

*Susie Bishop, Atlantic Blue, Highlands County*

*Ron Borchers, Senior Planner, Central Florida Regional Planning Council*

*Susan BuChans, Highlands County*

*Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Planning Director, Central Florida Regional Planning Council*

*Paul Ebersbach, United States Air Force, Environmental Compliance, Natural Resources*

*Garry Gontz, Office of Secretary of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment, Washington*

*Steven Josephson, Osceola County Planning & Zoning Staff*

*Chris Keller, Miller Legg*

*Amy Perez, FDOT, Systems Planning Section*

*Jim Polatty, Planning and Development Director, City of Sebring*

*Jessica Prescott, Highlands County*

*Ron Riedel, Avon Park Air Force Range*

*Tor Rothman, Member, Highlands County Natural Resources Advisory Commission*

*Helen Sears, Joint Land Use Study Project Manager, Central Florida Regional Planning Council*

*Jimmy Worth*

*Tommy Worth*

*Melissa Zerth, Senior Administrative Assistant, Central Florida Regional Planning Council*

### **AGENDA ITEM II. – JLUS PURPOSE AND PROGRESS**

Presented by: Helen Sears, JLUS Manager, Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Ms. Sears began the presentation by stating that a JLUS is a cooperative land use planning effort between a military installation and the surrounding communities promoting compatible community growth while supporting military training and operational missions. The two major areas addressed in this JLUS are to protect the health, safety and welfare of the local community with regard to military operations, and to address development that is threatening or may threaten the mission of the Range, an important military and national security training facility.

### **AGENDA ITEM III. – JLUS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Presented by: Helen Sears, JLUS Manager, Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Ron Borchers, Senior Planner, Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Ms. Sears provided an overview of the JLUS public involvement. The second round of public workshops throughout April and May were held in an open house style, and included display maps of the data and analysis. They also included an explanation of the purpose and process of the JLUS, and a PowerPoint presentation of the JLUS recommendations. Public comment was solicited, and there was much positive feedback. Approximately 60 citizens and officials attended these workshops.

### **AGENDA ITEM IV. – JLUS FINAL REPORT: DATA/ANALYSIS/PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS**

Presented by: Christopher Keller, JLUS Consultant, Miller Legg

Mr. Keller provided an explanation of the Military Influence Planning Areas (MIPAs).

- **MIPA-I:** The MIPA I is focused on addressing compatibility issues in a three mile buffer zone around the perimeter of the Range and those areas where a moderate risk of blast

noise complaints may occur. It also includes a portion of low level flight training areas and areas where night vision training is conducted. MIPA-I's are focused on limiting density, object height, and nighttime light encroachment. The designation of MIPA-I's are not recommended for all jurisdictions participating in this study.

- **MIPA-II:** The MIPA II addresses compatibility issues related to blast noise, low level flight training and areas where night vision training is conducted. MIPA-II's are focused on limiting density, object height, and nighttime light encroachment. MIPA-II designations are not recommended for all jurisdictions participating in this study.
- **MIPA-III:** The MIPA III relates to areas of low risk of blast noise complaints, the presence of civilian aircraft operations and this area's general proximity to MIPA's I and II. The distance beyond the Range boundary for MIPA-III's vary but the MIPA-III areas generally exist in the low level of blast noise risk areas outside MIPA's I and II.

A summary of the recommendations was presented as follows:

- A. Continue Ongoing Communication and Coordination with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regarding (MOA) Airspace Controls and Usage Including Coordination and Planning Efforts for All Airports and Airstrips Within Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) Military Operating Areas (*all 7 jurisdictions, APAFR*)
- B. Identify Low Level Aircraft Approach Zones and High Noise Zones on County Maps and Require Developers to Identify Same Information on All Proposed Projects (*Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee*)
- C. Implement Public Awareness Measures Such as Public Signage, Website Links, Educational Handouts, etc. (*all 7 jurisdictions, APAFR*)
- D. Implement Effective Disclosure Procedures Notifying Buyers and Lessees that Property is Near a Military Installation subject to High Aircraft Noise, Low Level Aircraft, Explosive Impulse Noises, and/or Other Military-Related Issues Identified (*all 7 jurisdictions*)
- E. Implement Lighting Ordinance to Avoid Glare and Reflection at Key Locations (*Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee*)
- F. Evaluate Opportunities to Manage Public Access to APAFR or Critical APAFR Areas (*Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee, APAFR*)
- G. Develop a Plan to Protect Critical Areas Supporting Environmental Conservation and/or Military Readiness (*all 7 jurisdictions, APAFR*)
- H. Continue Ongoing APAFR Environmental Stewardship Programs (*APAFR*)
- I. Support and/or Collaborate With Ongoing APAFR Environmental Stewardship Programs (*all 7 jurisdictions, APAFR*)
- J. Seek Funding for an Updated Comprehensive Noise Study (*all 7 jurisdictions, APAFR*)
- K. Perform Comprehensive Noise Study (*USAF*)
- L. Supplement JLUS Based on Findings of Noise Study (*all 7 jurisdictions, APAFR*)

- M. Develop and Distribute Bird/Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Educational Materials to Minimize Collisions Between Military Aircraft and Birds *(APAFR)*
- N. Develop Program Between APAFR, Local Jurisdictions, and Environmental Agencies to Explore Methods to Control Bird and Bird Attractors Near APAFR *(all 7 jurisdictions, APAFR)*
- O. Monitor Land Use at Intersections or Interchanges and Transportation Changes of New or Expanding Corridors *(all 7 jurisdictions)*
- P. Monitor Recertification of APAFR Runway and Seek Funding for the Preparation of an Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) Study or Range and Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (RAICUZ) for APAFR *(APAFR)*
- Q. Actively Participate and Promote the Public's Participation in an APAFR's R/AICUZ Study *(all 7 jurisdictions)*
- R. Update Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code to Include Language Meeting State Requirements Designed to Strengthen Uses Compatible to APAFR's Missions on Proposed Developments, Land Use Amendments and/or Other Related Change Requests *(all 7 jurisdictions)*
- S. Establish Military Influence Planning Area (MIPA) Overlay Districts Creating Designations I, II, or III Based on Identified Compatibility Issues *(all 7 jurisdictions)*
- T. Revise Land Use Regulations to be Compatible with MIPA I and II *(Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee)*
- U. Limit Object Heights in MIPAs I and II to Ensure Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) Measures Are Met and Mitigate Vertical Obstructions in Established MOAs *(Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee)*
- V. Implement Noise Attenuation Design & Construction Standards in MIPA I and II *(Polk, Osceola, Highlands, Okeechobee)*
- W. Formalize Policy to Include Military Participation and Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination in Development Review and Planning Process Including Implementing the JLUS Recommendations *(all 7 jurisdictions, APAFR)*
- X. Adopt Resolution Supporting JLUS Recommendations and Implementation *(all 7 jurisdictions)*
- Y. Continue Coordination with CFRPC as Facilitator of JLUS Implementation and Contact with OEA *(all 7 jurisdictions)*

**AGENDA ITEM V. –NEXT STEPS**

Presented by: Helen Sears, JLUS Manager, Central Florida Regional Planning Council  
Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Planning Director, Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Ms. Sears stated that once the Policy Committee has accepted the final JLUS Report, final edits will be made, and the final JLUS Report will be published and transmitted to the jurisdictions. The Report and recommendations will then be presented to the Commission/Council of each jurisdiction for action. Ms. Codo-Salisbury noted that the implementation phase will be carried out in cooperation with each jurisdiction. The CFRPC will work with staff and elected officials from each jurisdiction to implement these recommendations. Ms. Sears asked if the Policy Committee would like to continue to meet semi-annually, or as needed, to coordinate with the Range and other jurisdictions.

Discussion commenced. Ms. Sears requested that any recommended changes or corrections be forwarded to the CFRPC for inclusion in the final study.

The Policy Committee agreed to meet semi-annually, or as needed, to coordinate with the Range and other jurisdictions.

The Policy Committee agreed by consensus to complete and publish the Final Study results, to include written comments received as an appendix to the document, and transmit the report to the seven jurisdictions for consideration.

**AGENDA ITEM VI. – CLOSING COMMENTS**

Presented by: Lt. Col. Charles MacLaughlin, Commander, Avon Park Air Force Range

Commander MacLaughlin thanked everyone for their participation.

The meeting was adjourned.