

# Avon Park Air Force Range Joint Land Use Study

## Protecting the Community, Preserving Our Freedom

### Avon Park Air Force Range Mission

Avon Park Air Force Range (APAFR) plays an important role in the training of the men and women that defend our nation. The largest bombing and gunnery range east of the Mississippi River, APAFR has approximately 400 square miles of restricted airspace and 1,000 square miles of military operating area. Located in central Florida in Polk and Highlands Counties, APAFR's 106,000 acres provide an important training facility for active duty, guard, and reserve military units from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard.

The Range hosts civilian public safety and homeland security unit training including the South Florida Community College Law Enforcement Academy's training activities. The Range is also home to other organizations, such as:

- The State of Florida Juvenile Academy
- The Florida National Guard
- The Avon Park Correctional Institution

Other programs that contribute to the economies of Highlands and Polk County include outdoor recreation, cattle grazing, forest management and timber sales. The Range's environmental stewardship program protects the unique plant and animal habitats and cooperates with The Nature Conservancy and Archbold Biological Station to study and protect the rare plants and endangered species inhabiting the Range.



APAFR Endangered Species  
Red Cockaded Woodpecker  
Florida Grasshopper Sparrow



### What is the Avon Park Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)?



The JLUS is studying the planned land uses in the areas that surround the Range, and the military training needs of the armed forces, to determine their compatibility. The study is designed to protect public health, safety and welfare while safeguarding the ability of the military services and homeland security agencies to provide needed training.

### Why is a JLUS study needed?

Military operations can present noise and other safety concerns for civilian communities. Conversely, urban development near the perimeter of military ranges can impact the viability of the installation and its mission. Development can be affected by low level flight patterns in military operating areas and required clear zones for airport runway approaches. The purpose of the JLUS is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the civilian communities relative to aircraft approach and departure routes, and discourage incompatible development in high noise areas and accident potential zones. The JLUS will also study how to protect the Range's ability to conduct effective training of homeland security, public safety and military personnel.

- Protect the health, safety and welfare of residents living or working near the APAFR
- Preserve long-term land use compatibility between the APAFR and the surrounding community
- Promote comprehensive community planning
- Encourage cooperation between the APAFR and local community officials
- Coordinate the local jurisdiction's comprehensive plans with APAFR's comprehensive plans

### Public Participation

The JLUS Study will include an active public outreach program to inform the public about the Study and the military training activities at the Range. The planned public outreach activities include workshops, meetings with stakeholders and local governments, brochures and media advisories. The website will provide up to date information on the progress of the JLUS Study and planned public meetings and workshops.

### Who do I contact for information?

Please visit the Website for information on the progress of the study. Comments and questions about the JLUS study can be addressed to the CFRPC:

JLUS Project Manager  
Avon Park Air Force Range JLUS

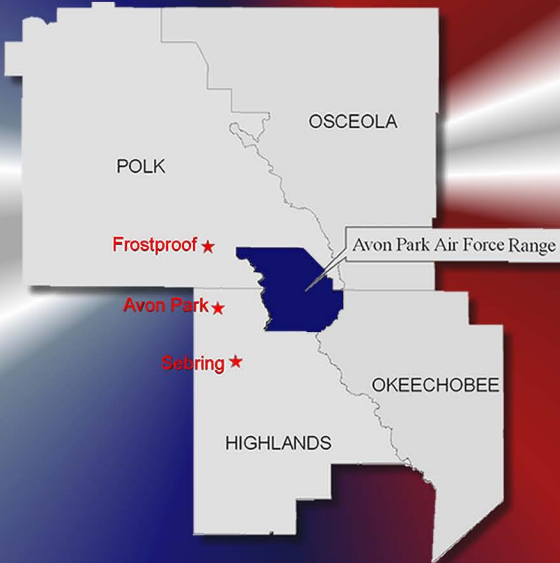
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## JLUS Study Area

The Study Area focuses on the land surface area and surrounding airspace which comprise Avon Park Air Force Range as well as the four counties and three cities that approve development that could impact or be impacted by military training activities (see map below). Compatible air and ground space is essential to separate military from civilian activities and to identify where certain military activities can be conducted.



## Study Sponsors

The Central Florida Regional Planning Council is the JLUS Study Sponsor and is responsible for leadership, coordination and management of all study activities. CFRPC will also provide public information and identify opportunities for effective coordination between the Range, affected local government and stakeholders. A Policy Committee of public officials and state agency representatives has been established to guide the study process and make recommendations for coordination between APAFR and local governments. A working group of planners and agencies from local jurisdictions and the military services will coordinate the land use planning information with the Study team. Funding for the JLUS has been provided by grants from the Department of Defense / Office of Economic Adjustment, and Enterprise Florida, Inc.

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