

Okaloosa County News Release 9/15/2011

Tri-County Small Area Study (SAS) Public Meetings

The Northwest Florida Military Sustainability Partnership announces a series of public meetings as part of their ongoing Small Area Study project. The SAS was one of the key recommendations in the Eglin Tri-County Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). The SAS focuses on a study area comprised mainly of the low-level flight corridors and cruise missile corridors to/from Eglin AFB plus a 1-mile buffer of the base's land boundary. These areas are identified in the JLUS as Military Influence Planning Area (MIPA) III in Okaloosa and Walton Counties, or Military Aircraft Zone (MAZ) in Santa Rosa County. Representatives of the consulting firm conducting the study, Matrix Design Group in partnership with the Haas Center at the University of West Florida, will be on hand at each of the public meetings to address residents' concerns.

The public meetings have been set for three different nights in September as follows:

- Monday, September 19 from 6-8 p.m. at the Woodlawn Community Center, 5520 US Hwy 331 South, DeFuniak Springs
- Tuesday, September 20 from 6-8 p.m. at the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton
- Wednesday, September 21 from 6-8 p.m. at Warrior's Hall, 2001 Stillwell Blvd, Crestview

Additional information is available on the project's website, www.smallareastudies.com.

The Northwest Florida Military Sustainability Partnership is a cooperative entity established by agreement between the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners and numerous local government partners. Those members include Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners, Walton County Board of County Commissioners, the cities of Crestview, Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Niceville, Mary Esther, DeFuniak Springs, and Freeport, plus Eglin Air Force Base by Memorandum of Agreement.

The Small Area Study is part of the Joint Land Use Study program which is a Department of Defense initiative providing assistance through the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) for state and local governments to participate with military installations in developing land use plans compatible with their mission. The program encourages cooperative land use planning between military installations and adjacent communities so future community growth and development are compatible with the training and operational missions of the installation. The Eglin JLUS was completed in the summer of 2009 and incorporated a variety of land use related strategies and policies for the tri-county area including the three counties and eleven incorporated cities/towns.

For more information, contact Jeff Fanto, Military Sustainability Partnership Manager, at jfanto@co.okaloosa.fl.us, or by phone at 850-609-3014.